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TRANSLATION

OF

The Peking Gazette

FOR

1877.

REPRINTED FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA HERALD,"
APRIL 1878.

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THE PEKING GAZETTE

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SHANGHAI:

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

1878.

PREFACE.

THE Translations from the *Peking Gazette*, which are now issued as the sixth annual series of this publication, cover a period of grave interest in the affairs of China. Whilst the previous year's history was marked by the danger of foreign complications, and the various episodes of the enquiry into the Yünnan outrage and the consequent negotiations at Chefoo, the year 1877 has found the Chinese Government preoccupied with questions relating to a famine of almost unprecedented severity and magnitude, in view of which a pending campaign, undertaken for the reconquest of its lost territories in Central Asia, has been regarded as almost of secondary importance. On both these subjects the abstracts now published, and rendered accessible to reference by means of the Index which has constituted, for the last four years, a portion of the work undertaken, copious particulars will be found assembled in the present volume. A third topic which is known to have engaged the attention of the Chinese Government during the past year, to wit, the deprivation of a foreign power of its control of the supply of opium, is but incidentally referred to in the ensuing pages. The memorial on the opium question submitted by the envoy to Great Britain, Kuo Sung-tao, and the Imperial decree issued thereupon in reply, which have been allowed to gain publicity through the Press, have not appeared in the *Peking Gazette*; and the only indication of the movement in progress beneath the surface of affairs is given in the denunciation, published in December, of certain officials singled out for punishment by the Governor-General Shên.

It may be useful, in this connection, to offer here a correction of a misstatement respecting the practice of the Chinese Government in the matter of publicity, which a recent notice of these translations shews to prevail in even exceptionally enlightened quarters. Nothing could be farther from the truth than the assertion that the Chinese Government publishes every memorial or decree relating to its acts in the official *Gazette*. Government on such terms would, indeed, be practically impossible; and what the *Gazette* contains is a reproduction of such

PREFACE.

documents, only, as are judged necessary for the information of a certain number or all of the provincial governments. Even among these published documents, however, the European reader is continually startled by finding revelations of corruption and inefficiency, not only brought forward as charges by Censors whose business it is to find fault and who are exempt from the necessity of substantiating their averments, but actually admitted in Imperial decrees. In these, a degree of turpitude is constantly avowed, such as could not prevail in any other country without precipitating a revolution, or without carrying with the confession of their existence the death-warrant of a system producing such results. In China it is otherwise. Contentment with their own condition, the product partly of ignorance and partly of the training deliberately pursued for many centuries past, is the distinguishing feature of the Chinese people; and no thought of change or improvement is suggested by the history of administrative ineptitude and corruption which is periodically lamented, in well-worn phrases, by the Sovereign and his Ministers in chorus. Numerous instances of this description will be found, as usual, in the present volume, and its pages contain, in addition, a series of records, valuable for the light they throw upon the acts and motives of the Chinese Government and the daily life of the functionaries composing it. A conviction of the usefulness of such materials, to the future historian as well as to the student of the present day, has encouraged the translator to persevere in a task which has now been discharged during four consecutive years.

SHANGHAI, 1878.

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TO THE

PEKING GAZETTE

FOR

1877.

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

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Do. Hu Ping-che on neglect of duty	Aug. 13, 25.
Calamitous state of affairs,—advice called for	Oct. 19.
Censor's memorial on abuses in Board of Works	Oct. 24, 27, Nov. 9.
Inefficiency and corruption in high places	Nov. 7.
Decree censuring laxity of heads of departments	Dec. 7.
Censor Têng K'ing-lin on administrative reform	Dec. 11, 29.
Do. Hu Ping-che on corruption and rapacity.....	Aug. 13.
Do. Ho Show-tsze, recommends reform.....	Oct. 5, 22.
Secretary to Gov.-Gen. Li Hung-chang rewarded.....	June 30.
Nominees for Censorships	Oct. 8.
Malpractices in Imperial household	April 4.
Do. in Formosa ; punishment inflicted	May 8.
Do. of an official in Fêng-t'ien	May 14.
Do. in connection with remissions of taxation.	May 30.
Do. in bestowal of appointments	July 22.
Do. in famine relief measures	Aug. 13.
Do. do. do.	Oct. 6, 23.
Do. by officials in Nganhwei	Dec. 20.
Do. in Fêng-t'ien	May 16.
Do. in Kiangsu	May 24.
Do. of military commissary at Kalgan.....	June 5.
Do. of Magistrate in Nganhwei.....	Nov. 19.
Do. in Houan,—exactions from Salt traders ...	July 16, 28.
Defalcations of Magistrate in Shantung	April 5.
Do. do. in Shansi ..	July 14, 24.
Do. Sub-prefect in do.	Aug. 15.
Do. Opium-tax collector	Oct. 1.
Do. Prefect in Chehkiang	June 27, July 12.
Extortion—Magistrate sentenced to death	Oct. 26.
Condemned criminal at Peking—appeal in <i>extremis</i>	Oct. 12, Nov. 1.
Officials cashiered, etc., at Soochow.....	April 1.

Officials cashiered, &c., in Kiangsu	April 7.
Do. do. in Kweichow	April 11.
Do. do. in Kwangtung	April 14.
Do. do. in Kiangsu	June 22.
Do. do. in Kwangtung	Aug. 2.
Do. do. in Sze-ch'wan.....	Aug. 10, 20.
Do. do. in Hupeh ..	Sept. 13.
Do. do. in Chihli	Dec. 10.
Do. do. in do.	Oct. 28.
Do. do. in Shansi.....	Oct. 30.
Do. do. in Fuhkien	Dec. 20.
Do. do. in Yünnan	Nov. 7.
Do. do. in Hupeh	Nov. 10.
Titles conferred on Grand Secretaries	April 2.
Privilege of riding within Palace precincts	June 2.
Compulsory retirement of officials when in mourning ...	Dec. 21.
Block of promotion among Hanlin graduates	Dec. 27.
Official reinstated, on capture of prisoner	April 22.
Literary graduate of mean origin deprived of his status	April 9.
Sons of official underling deprived of rank	May 3, 18.
Rank obtained under false pretences	Sept. 5, 17.
Ex-official expelled from position as clerk	May 23.
Clerk in Shansi, enquiry into conduct	May 2.
Prefect of T'ai-yüan Fu degraded.....	Oct. 28.
Official prisoner arrived at place of banishment.....	June 7.
Coinage operations postponed.....	Nov. 3.
Poppy cultivation in Shansi	Oct. 13, Nov. 3.
New seal of office for Kobdo command	Sept. 6.
Exchange of office between sub-prefects	Sept. 26.
Do. do. Taotais	June 22, July 7.
Government lands farmed in Chihli	Aug. 15.
Mulets inflicted on high officials	Sept. 1.
Judicial arrears in Fuhkien	April 10.
Do. abuses in Fuhkien, proposed reform	April 14.
Do. arrears in Fêng-t'ien	May 15.
Renewed inquest to be held in Amur	June 7.
Libel case in Chehkiang	Oct. 17.
Suspicious death of a prisoner at Peking.....	Sept. 8, 21.
Yamên at Nan-chang Fu destroyed by fire.....	April 16.
Magazine at Kwei-yang Fu struck by lighting	June 19.

DROUGHT, FLOOD, AND FAMINE.

Famine refugees in Kiangsu	Jan. 11.
Abuses in bestowal of relief—Censor's memorial	Jan. 15.
Relief measures in Shansi— do. do.	Jan. 22, Feb. 4.
Do. do. Kiangsu	Jan. 22.
Do. do. Honan.....	Jan. 24.
Do. do. Hwai-ngan	April 3.
Do. do. Kiangsu	April 19.
Do. do. Nganhwei	May 5.
Do. do. Honan.....	May 5.
Do. do. Shansi.....	June 2, 30, July 14.

Relief measures in Kiangsu.....	July 7.
Do. do. Fukkien	July 13.
Do. do. Kwangtung	Oct. 29.
Officer sent to assist at Tientsin	Oct. 10.
State of affairs in north Kiangsu	July 7.
Floods in Fukkien—further subscription	July 10.
Do. at Kalgan—destruction caused by	Aug. 16.
Proposal to allot waste-lands among sufferers.....	Nov. 24.
Locusts, measures for their destruction	Oct. 17.
Do. do. do.	Nov. 18, 27.
Chihli—Tls. 214,344 subscribed.....	June 30.
Do. ,, 75,050 do.	Dec. 28.
Abuses in connection with famine relief	Aug. 13.
Do. do. do.	Oct. 6, 23.
Shantung—Report on relief of distress	Oct. 16.
Do. remission of revenue	Nov. 27.
Shansi—Report on state of affairs.....	June 2.
Do. Tls. 200,000 allotted	June 30.
Do. proposal to raise funds for relief	Aug. 12.
Do. do. do. do.	Aug. 14, 30.
Do. Yen King-ming as Commissioner	Oct. 13, Nov. 29.
Do. Distress, and prices of grain	Nov. 22.
Do. Arrangements for distributing relief	Nov. 30.
Do. High Commissioner's report	Dec. 20.
Do. Report on state of affairs	Nov. 12.
Do. Extent of famine—proposed sale of offices	Oct. 29, Nov. 14.
Shansi and Honan—Tls. 400,000 and 40,000 pcls. grain	Oct. 3.
Do. do. Additl. grant of 40,000 ,, do.	Oct. 7.
Do. do. do. 160,000 ,, do.	Oct. 15.
Do. do. Li Hung-chang's report.....	Nov. 13.
Honan—Tls. 147,900 granted for relief.....	Aug. 25, Sept. 3.
Do. Imperial commission of enquiry	Oct. 6, Dec. 6.
Do. Li Hoh-nien appointed Commissioner	Oct. 23.
Do. Relief agencies opened.....	Dec. 1.
Do. Wu Ta-Ch'eng and others sent to assist	Dec. 2.
Do. State of affairs ; number of distressed	Dec. 3.
Shansi—Revenue collection postponed.....	July 17, 28.
Do. Taels 50,000 granted	Nov. 26.
Do. Land-tax collection postponed	Nov. 11.
Do. Measures for supply of grain	Dec. 14.
Chihli—Li Hung-chang's report	Nov. 14.
Peking—Rise in cost of necessaries of life	Oct. 26.
Do. Censor's proposal for issue of rice.....	Nov. 9, 22.
Do. Provision for famine refugees	Nov. 22.
Do. Malpractices in purchases of rice	Nov. 22.
Do. Household registration proposed	Nov. 10.
Kwangtung—Funds for importations of rice	Nov. 17.
Do. Private importations of rice	Nov. 18.

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

Inspection of Yangtze naval forces.....	Jan. 12, Nov. 3.
Desertion of an instructor of foreign drill	Jan. 21.
Triennial inspections to be held	Mar. 24.

Military inspection in Chihli	Mar. 25, May 3.
Manchu garrison of Ch'êng-tu increased	April 17.
Mutiny of Manchu officers and men in Sungaria	May 4, 20.
Inefficiency and corruption in Formosa	May 8.
Arrears of pay wiped out in Kweichow	May 9.
Pay of field force in Kirin	May 14.
Alleged malversation by Colonel	May 15.
Tour of inspection by P'êng Yü-lin	May 30.
Compulsory retirement of superannuated officers	June 4.
General Wei Tso-pang retires in Kwangtung.....	June 8.
Embezzlement by Banner officials.....	June 18, July 4.
Review of troops of Yellow River brigade	June 19.
Military inspection in Kansuh postponed	July 7.
Eulogy on deceased Brigade-General Ma Fuh-chên	July 23.
Degradation of Colonel at Barkul	Aug. 18.
Officials of naval service cashiered in Hupeh	Sept. 13.
Artillery ponies for Chihli forces	Oct. 5.
Arms and Krupp guns for Manchuria	Oct. 19.
Mutiny of irregulars in Shensi	Nov. 22.
Donation of pay to troops at Peking	Nov. 23.
P'êng Yü, Brigade-General in Kwangtung	Jan. 22.
Yung Luh, Captain-General of Gendarmerie	Feb. 18.
Mu-t'u-shen, Lieut.-General at Tsing'chow	May 20.
K'ing Ch'un, Manchu General-in-chief at Foochow	May 19.
Hêng Hün, Military Governor of Uliasutai	Aug. 20.
Do. Manchu General-in-chief in Sze-ch'wan	Sept. 14.
Ch'un Fuh, Military Governor of Uliasutai	Sept. 14.
Mu-t'u-shen, Military Lieut.-Governor of Ch'ahar	Sept. 14.
Ying Han, Do. do. Urumts'i	Nov. 5.
Yang Yu-k'o, Brigade-General in Kwangtung	Oct. 13, Dec. 31.
Chang Têh-luh, do. Kweichow	Oct. 13.
Li Wei-shuh, do. Kwangsi.....	Oct. 13.
Wu Kwang-liang, do. Taiwan	Sept. 30.

[See also *Sungaria*.]

PRISON AFFAIRS.

House of detention for witnesses—in Kwangsi	Mar. 29.
Do. do. Honan	April 1.
Do. do. Kwangtung.....	Aug. 21.
Do. do. Shansi	Oct. 3.
Do. do. Kiangsi	Oct. 21.
Chihli—Escape of one prisoner in Chao Chow	Jan. 20.
Do. Trial ordered in consequence of escape	April 21.
Do. Murder and escape by four prisoners	May 10.
Shantung—Escape of one prisoner	Oct. 1, 16.
Shansi—Escape of prisoner under escort	Jan. 21, Feb. 28.
Kiangsi—Trial for escape of prisoner	Mar. 22.
Hupeh—Escape of one prisoner	Oct. 9, 25.
Sze-ch'wan—Escape of two prisoners	Aug. 10.
Kweichow— Do. of one prisoner	May 23.
Kwangsi—Trial for escape of prisoner	June 5.
Peking—Prisoner in Board of Punishments, suspicious death	Sept. 8, 21.

IV.—INSTRUCTION, WORSHIP, AND USAGES.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Provincial Examiners forbidden to travel by sea	Jan. 13.
Proposal for universal competition	Feb. 22.
Octogenarian candidates in Shantung	Jan. 13.
Do. do. in Kwangsi, etc.	Mar. 13.
Do. do. in Chehkiang	Mar. 16.
Do. do. in Kiangsi, etc.	April 16, 30.
Peking Examination—Candidates admitted	April 7, 8.
Do. do. Examiners named	April 17.
Do. do. Themes issued	April 23, 26.
Do. do. List of graduates	May 9.
Hanlin Graduates—Date of examination.....	May 12.
Manchu Examinations— do.	May 25.
Palace Examination—List of competitors	May 30.
Do. Date fixed	June 1.
Highest honours of 1877	June 6.
Manchu essay rejected,—examiners censured.....	June 4.
Appointments for Hanlin probationers.....	June 9.
Preceptors for do. do.	June 11.
Disorderly conduct of candidates	June 21, July 5.
Rank conferred upon <i>pa-kung</i> graduates, etc.....	Aug. 10.
Aborigines in Kwangsi admitted to degrees	Aug. 25.
Appointments bestowed on <i>tsin-she</i> graduates	Aug. 28.
College of practical instruction at Foochow	Sept. 25, Oct. 10.
Candidates in Kweichow punished for émeute	Sept. 29.
Examiners for military competition	Nov. 25.
Abuses in examination system in Kwangtung	Nov. 25, Dec. 6.

WORSHIP.

Prayers for rain at Peking	July 16.
Do. do. in provinces	Oct. 17.
Do. do. do.	Oct. 26.
Do. do. do.	Nov. 8.
Do. for snow at Peking	Dec. 26.

TEMPLES.

Memorial temple to Governor Ts'ien Ting-ming.....	Jan. 4, 15.
Do. do. General Ch'êng Hieh-k'i	Jan. 11.
Do. do. Wên Siang, etc. at Moukden	Jan. 29.
Do. do. Governor Tsiang Yih-li	Sept. 1.
Lantern masts for Temple of Heaven	Feb. 16, Mar. 7.
Restoration of <i>Chao Chung Sze</i> at Peking	Mar. 20.
Memorial boards for temples of Yellow River Gods	Mar. 18, April 3.
Do. do. do. God of War	May 9.
Do. do. do. River God in Sze-ch'wan	July 5, 17.
Do. do. do. God of Yellow River ...	Nov. 6.
Do. temple of Yünnan Fu	Sept. 14.

VIRTUOUS AND DISTINGUISHED FEMALES.

Filial conduct of a lady at Choh Chow.....	May 25.
Honours to a centenarian lady at Peking.....	June 15, July 3.
Meritorious conduct of two bereaved concubines	June 27.
Grand-mother of Vice-President Yi an Pao-héng	June 14, July 1.

SUPERSTITION.

<i>Fêng Shuë</i> superstition in Kiangsi.....	Jan. 1.
Presage from wind on New-Year's Day	Feb. 15.
Alleged witchcraft—executions in Kiangsu	Feb. 24.
Lama dignitary restored to privilege of transmigration	Mar. 31.
Protection vouchsafed by God of War at Kieh-yang ...	May 9, 31.
<i>Fêng Shuë</i> trees at Imperial mausolea	June 26.
Honours to River God in Sze-ch'wan	July 5, 17.
Interposition of God of the Sea in Kokonor	Sept. 26.
Do. Dragon God at Nanking	Oct. 14.
Do. deity in Fuhkien	Nov. 22.
Thanksgiving for safety of Grand Canal	Dec. 1.

METEOROLOGY.

Fall of snow at Peking	Jan. 2, 25.
Do. rain do.	Mar. 21, April 10.
Do. do. do.	April 25.
Drought at Peking—prayers for rain	July 16.
Fall of rain at Peking; and thanksgiving	July 25.
Do. do. do.	Aug. 6.
Famine, and propitiatory services.....	Oct. 8.
Fall of snow at Peking, and thanksgiving	Nov. 16.
[See <i>Worship</i> .]	

V.—EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

British Consul at Chefoo, and shipwrecked Liu-ch'iuans	Jan. 7, June 4.
Religious toleration—decree enjoining	Feb. 1.
Tientsin massacre—reference to at a trial	May 15.
German naval officer—visit at Nanking	May 8.
Foreign Consuls at Hankow—relations with	April 20.
European expedition looked for in Tibet.....	June 18.
Hongkong, Macao, and foreign trade in Kwangtung ...	June 26.
Russians, negotiations with concerning Ili in 1871	Oct. 9.
Krupp guns for Manchuria	Oct. 19.
Yamèn of Foreign Affairs—decree referring to	Nov. 7.
School of Languages—pupil graduated, &c.	Nov. 13.
Foreign affairs transacted by Gov.-Gen. Li Hung-chang	June 30.
Foreign loans, first mention of	Sept. 2.
Do. loan for famine relief, proposal vetoed	Nov. 13.
Do. do. proposal for in Yünnan	Sept. 29.
Do. do. bonds due in Hupeh	Nov. 24.
Foreign tariff, its effect on Native Customs	Nov. 24.
Foreign relations at I-chang	April 20.
Do. do. do.	May 20.
Do. do. Wénchow	June 1.
Do. do. Shanghai	June 12.
Do. do. Tientsin	June 16.
Do. do. Newchwang	July 26.
Do. do. Foochow..	Sept. 1.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Assistant envoy to Japan—audience	April 7.
Departure of mission to Japan	Aug. 29.

COREA, LIU-CH'IU, AND ANNAM.

Shipwrecked Coreans sent by mistake to Foochow	Jan. 12.
Frontier-guard on Corean-Chinese border	April 4.
Extradition of a Corean apprehended in Kirin	May 14.
Shipwrecked Chinese sent back from Corea	Sept. 18, 21.
Autumn patrol of Corean frontier	Dec. 30.
Liu-ch'iuans, eight shipwrecked persons at Chefoo	Jan. 7, June 4.
Do. twenty-five do. do. at Foochow.....	Jan. 23.
Do. twenty-three do. do. do.	April 15.
Do. fourteen do. do. do.	April 15.
Do. eight do. do. do.	Aug. 3.
Do. thirteen do. do. do.	Oct. 14.
Annamese tribute mission in Kwangsi.....	Jan. 11.
Do. do. in Honan.....	May 26.
Do. do. in Peking	May 25.

TIBET.

<i>Kalon</i> appointed at Lassa	Feb. 16.
Lama restored to privilege of transmigration	Mar. 31.
Return of tribute mission via Si-ning	May 30.
Expected advent of European mission	June 18.
Commissaries at Hlari, etc.....	June 18.
Tribute mission from Tibet.....	July 21.
Reëmbodiment of Nomên 'Han	July 25, Aug. 29.
Do. do. do.	Sept. 7.
Appointment of a Colonel	Aug. 23.
Deceased nephew of Dalai Lama	Sept. 4.

SUNGARIA (ILI) AND KASHGARIA.

Manas—failure of attack in February, 1876	Jan. 2, 11.
Do. capture of, in November, 1876 ..	Jan. 14, 25.
Hami—Urgent military needs	Mar. 28.
Do. disposal of Dungan prisoners.....	Aug. 23.
Do. Princess of the Mussulman tribe	Aug. 23.
Barkul—Safety of communications imperilled	Aug. 19.
Urumts'i—Poh Ch'ang appointed <i>t'i-tuh</i>	May 28.
Do. Ying Han appointed Mil. Lieut.-Governor...	Nov. 5.
Tarbagatai—proposal for garrison troops from Kansuh	June 14.
Do. irregularities among Turguts	Sept. 10.
Do. returns of grain harvested	Oct. 9.
Yung Ts'üan handed over seal of office	Nov. 26.
Campaign in Kashgaria—Lieut.-Governor of Shansi	
impeached.....	Aug. 23, Sept. 2.
Turfan—Recapture of ..	June 23.
Karashar— Do. and advance of army	Dec. 4, 28.
Wounded soldiery sent to their homes.....	Oct. 8.
Distinctions conferred for financial services.....	Oct. 12, 30.
Proposed suspension of remittances from Shansi	Dec. 5.
Officials sent to assist Tso Tsung-t'ang.....	Dec. 26.

ARSENALS AND STEAM-VESSELS.

Arsenal in Shantung—officials commended.....	Jan. 3, 7.
Do. Sze-ch'wan—to be founded	Jan. 7.
Sü Kien-yin, recommended by promotion	July 15.
Services of deceased Brigade-General Ma Fuh-chên	July 23.
Steam-launches for river patrols in Kwang-tung	Aug. 23.
Steam-gunboats in Chêhkiang	Sept. 1.
Steam-transport <i>Wan-Nien-Ts'ing</i>	Jan. 3, 7.
Directors of C. M. S. N. Company commended	Feb. 24.
Copper freights by C. M. S. N. Company's steamers.....	Sept. 1.

VI.—MANCHURIA, MONGOLIA, AND PROVINCES.

MANCHURIA.

Shên-king—Official impeached for misconduct	Jan. 27.
Do. Arrangements on Corean frontier	April 4.
Do. New districts on eastern border	April 5.
Do. Salt tax imposed.....	May 11.
Do. Proposed reform in judicial arrears	May 15.
Do. Inquests and illegal exactions	May 16.
Do. Increase of <i>lekin</i> on salt.....	July 11.
Do. Squatter lands on eastern border	Sept. 18, 22.
Do. Arms and Krupp guns obtained	Oct. 19.
Do. Recrimination between Manchu officials ...	Dec. 9.
Do. Arrangements for new Prefecture	Dec. 21.
Kirin—Gold hunters and squatter sovereign, Han	May 11, 28, 29.
Do. Corean apprehended among brigands	May 14.
Do. Pecuniary relief to field force	May 11.
Do. Commissary at Petuné cashiered	June 7.
Do. Murder of a woman and four children	June 7.
Do. Fraudulent reports of success against banditti...	July 13.
Do. Rewards for operations against gold hunters ...	Aug. 14.
Do. Ming Ngan takes office	Aug. 23.
Do. Officials degraded for cowardice, &c.	Sept. 2.
Do. Hurricane at San-sing	Nov. 16, 28.
Do. Successful operations against banditti	Dec. 8.
Do. Inquests and Customs' duties—abuses	Dec. 11, 29.
Heh-lung Kiang—Inspection of troops	Jan. 19.
Do. Brigands captured near Pa-yen Su-su	April 15.
Do. Official arrived at place of banishment	June 7.
Do. Mounted brigands at Pa-yen Su-su	Sept. 10, 23.
Do. Cattle-lifting raids	Sept. 30.
MONGOLIA.	
Jeh-ho—Inspection of hunting grounds ..	July 9.
Kalgan—Disaster through floods	Aug. 16, 30.
Urga—Munitions of war supplied.....	Jan. 13.
Do. Assistant Imperial Agent	Sept 29.
Uliasutai—Cost of repairing walls.....	May 24.
Ulan Ch'ap league—irregularities.....	Sept. 9, 21.
Kokonor—Durbar of nobles, &c.	Oct. 12.
Extortions by officer of Imperial guards	June 25, Sept. 10, 24.
Census of droves and herds in Imperial pasturages	Sept. 9.

THE PROVINCES.

Chihli—See <i>Drought, &c.</i>	
Shantung—Governor Wên Kêh arrived at Peking	Aug. 3.
Do. do. do. takes office	Oct. 19.
Do. Eulogy upon former acting-Governor	Oct. 11.
Honan—Commission of Enquiry	Oct. 6, Dec. 6.
Do. Yüan Pao-hêng sent as relief Commissioner ...	Dec. 12, 25.
Do. Governor and Lieut.-Governor dismissed	Dec. 14, 23.
Do. Report of commission of enquiry	Dec. 24-26.
Shansi—Lieut.-Governor denounced by Tso Tsung-t'ang	Aug. 23, Sept. 2.
Do. do. do. do.	Sept. 11, Nov. 19, Dec. 24.
Do. Censor's memorial on distress.....	Sept. 14, 23.
Do. Poppy cultivation	Oct. 13, Nov. 3.
Do. Suppression of brigandage	Dec. 16, 17.
Do. High Commissioner's report	Dec. 20.
Do. See <i>Drought, &c.</i>	
Shensi—Mutiny of irregulars	Nov. 22, Dec. 5.
Do. State of affairs—Governor's explanation	Nov. 26, Dec. 11, 17.
Do. Governor called to order.....	Dec. 17.
Kansuh—Repair of walls of Lan-chow Fu	May 20.
Do. Condition of province and mil. organization...	June 14.
Do. Tea-trade monopoly	July 20, 30.
Do. Coinage operations deferred.....	Nov. 3.
Nganhwei—Sub-perfects at Ta-t'ung	Sept. 26.
Do. Plague of locusts	Nov. 19.
Do. Malversation by District Magistrate	Dec. 20.
Do. Customs' buildings at Wuhu	Dec. 27.
Kiangsu—Grain-tax in Nanking districts remitted	Aug. 23, Sept. 3.
Chêhkiang—Governor Mei K'i-chao takes office	July 12.
Do. Endowment for charitable uses	Aug. 31.
Do. Relative of Governor retired	Aug. 31.
Do. Cantowese war-junks dismissed	Aug. 31.
Do. Libel case	Oct. 17.
Do. Sea-wall in Hangchow Bay	Oct. 29.
Fohkien—Wên Yih allowed to come to Peking.....	Jan. 12, 23.
Do. Attempt to bribe Governor	Jan. 15.
Do. Ting Jih-c'hang on judicial abuses.....	April 14.
Do. Famine relief measures.....	July 13.
Do. Disastrous flood at Foochow	July 5, 18.
Do. Right of summary execution	July 18.
Do. Duty on rice remitted	July 23, Aug. 3.
Do. Prefect of Foochow	Aug. 3.
Do. Governor Ting Jih-ch'ang—congé	Aug. 13, Oct. 24.
Do. Judicial Commissioner takes office.....	Sept. 1.
Do. College of practical instruction	Oct. 10.
Do. Taotai of Yen-Kien-Shao Intendancy	Nov. 25.
Do. Magistrate of Lo-yüan degraded	Dec. 20.
Formosa—Proposal to establish Governorship	Jan. 31, Feb. 24.
Do. Special allowance to Governor on visits	July 18.
Do. Reforms in administration	Aug. 2.
Do. Execution for neglect of duty and oppression	May 8.
Do. Miscellaneous taxes abolished.....	May 9.

Formosa—Ex-Colonel transported.....	June 13.
Do. State of affairs on East Coast	Aug. 3.
Do. Prefect of North Formosa	June 26, Sept. 30.
Kwangtung—Disastrous floods	July 16, 28.
Do. do. do.	Aug. 11, 21.
Do. House of detention for witnesses	Aug. 21.
Do. Steam cruisers employed.....	Aug. 23.
Do. Importations of rice	Oct. 29, Nov. 17, 18.
Do. Tour of inspection by Supt. of Customs ...	Dec. 26.
Kwangsi—General Fêng Tsze-ts'ai and state of affairs...	June 25.
Do. Aborigines admitted to degrees... ..	Aug. 25.
Yünnan—Outbreak among Lolos in Ta-li Fu	Jan. 14.
Do. Penalties on officials of T'êng-yüeh, etc.	Feb. 2, 24.
Do. General-in-chief takes office.....	Feb. 16, 18.
Do. Rebuilding of walls and public edifices needed	May 11.
Do. Supply of copper.....	May 11.
Do. Lieut.-Governor Tu Jui-lien arrived	June 16.
Do. Disturbances suppressed	July 8, 20.
Do. Appointment to prefecture of P'u-urh	July 18.
Do. Governor-General asks for two months' congé	July 22.
Do. do. asks permission to retire ...	Aug. 27.
Do. General Yang Yü-k'o changes his abode	Aug. 29.
Do. Ex-Governor Ts'sên prospectively mulcted ...	Sept. 1.
Do. General Yang Yü-k'o's benefactions	Sept. 1.
Do. Duties remitted in aid of copper freights	Sept. 2.
Do. Financial distress—proposed foreign loan.....	Sept. 29.
Do. Governor P'an Ting-sin recalled	Oct. 6.
Do. Copper supply for provincial mints	Nov. 3.
Do. Insurgents in Yun Chow captured.....	Nov. 8.
Do. Outbreaks suppressed	Nov. 24.
Do. Acting Governor, etc.....	Dec. 13.
Kweichow—Arrears of military pay.....	May 9.
Do. Sale of titles' office in Shantung	Sept. 21.
Do. Riot among literary candidates	Sept. 29.
Do. Abuses of <i>lekin</i> system	Oct. 11.
Sze-ch'wan—Tung-hiang outrages; report	Jan. 4.
Do. do. do. final report, &c.....	Nov. 23, Dec. 8.
Do. Lieut.-Gov. Tu Ju-lien's departure	Jan. 9.
Do. Land-tax receipts	Mar. 8.
Do. Gov.-Gen. Ting Pao-chêng's arrival	July 2.
Do. Officials denounced and degraded	Aug. 10, 20.
Do. Alleged murder of tribal chieftainness	Aug. 20.
Do. Mauchu Gen.-in-chief allowed to retire ..	Sept. 13.
Do. Salt monopoly—proposed new system ...	Oct. 11, Nov. 24.
Hupei—Declared impoverishment of exchequer	Nov. 24.
Do. District Magistrate cashiered.....	Nov. 25.
Do. Li Han-chang takes Governor's seal	Dec. 3.
Do. Grain-tax commutation	Dec. 12.
Hunan—Governor summoned to Peking	Nov. 23.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The phrase <i>min-kiao</i> in connection with converts	Feb. 1.
The Ministry of State in Tibet	Feb. 16.

The Sacred Edict	Feb. 22.
The squatter King, Han Pien Wai	May 11.
Ts'ien Yung-tsêng, Secy. to Gov.-Gen. Li Hung-chang...	June 30.
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ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

1877.

Jan. 1st.—(1) The high authorities of Kiangsu memorialize presenting a list, in obedience to commands received, of the officials who have distinguished themselves in the operations against the insurgent banditti known as the Fuh Fei 幅匪 or Turban Brigands. An outbreak of these lawless depredators took place in July last in the Hai-chow Prefecture in northern Kiangsu, which was speedily suppressed, and the names of the civil and military officials engaged in the operations which resulted in the capture of the ring-leaders and the apprehension or slaying 格殺 of a number their followers, are submitted to the Throne.

(2) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the two Kiang provinces, memorializes forwarding a representation on the increased cost of camphorwood timbers required for the construction of man-of-war junks at the two building yards of Nanking and Wu-ch'êng (in the Poyang Lake.) In reply to a previous statement to the same effect, the Board of Works had written declining to recognize any increase in the charge for material in excess of the rates sanctioned in 1869. The officials concerned have now once more represented that the supply of camphor-wood has fallen off of late years, and must needs be brought from increasingly greater distances. The population from among whom the timber is procured, moreover, is influenced to so great an extent by the *fêng shui* superstition, that large offers are necessary to induce them to come forward with supplies. Another reason which contributes to the enhancement of prices, especially at Nanking, is that the late Governor of Kiangsi, Liu Kw'ên-yih, obtained sanction to a proposal he made in 1872 that no exemptions from *likin* should be granted on any materials whatsoever when purchased on Government account for any of the provincial administrations. The cost which it is requested may be sanctioned for the purchase of timber on account of the Nanking build-

ing yard is Tls. 6.9.6.1.9 per *fang* (square *chang*?). The price estimated on behalf of the Wu-ch'êng establishment in 7600 *cash* for the same quantity.—Sanctioned by rescript.

(3) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the two Kiang provinces, memorializes reporting that the state of his health has compelled him to place the discharge of his duties as president of the Military Examinations in the hands of the lieutenant Governor (*Fan-t'ai*.) A detailed account of his symptoms, connected with a chronic ailment of the throat and chest, is submitted, and sanction to one month's *congé* is asked for.—Granted by rescript.

(4) The high authorities of Kwangtung report the apprehension of a certain person named Hwang Shih-ling Ta, and others, in the Kao-chow prefecture, for the offence of unlawfully constituting themselves into a secret fraternity. Eight prisoners have been arraigned in all, from whose confessions it appears that upwards of forty persons had associated themselves together, each contributing a sum of a few hundred or a thousand cash, which was placed in the hands of the leader to purchase the materials for a feast. At the gathering that ensued, they pledged themselves to each other as brothers, adopting such designations as the Society of the Three-in-one (Triad), the Poor-and-Needy Society, the Parent's Society, and the like. Hwang Shih-ling Ta was elected by common consent as the Great Elder Brother; and he proceeded to fabricate a doorway, by means of bamboos stuck into the ground with paper pasted over them, which he called the *Mu Yang Ch'êng* (the Wood-Willow City). He further built up a bridge with tables and chairs, and required each member of the fraternity to pass under it into the city. The objects of the brotherhood were declared to be mutual assistance in case of need, and common contribution towards the funeral expenses of any fellow-member. After all had eaten and drunk, the meeting broke up. It is observed hereupon, that the

object of this association was merely that of raising a certain amount of funds, and that the books which have been seized belonging to it, although full of foolish absurdities, contain nothing of a seditious type. Nevertheless, the tendency since the rebellion to organize secret societies of a dangerous character has been so great that any attempt in that direction must needs be severely punished; and the prisoners now in custody will be dealt with as the law directs, steps being at the same time taken for the arrest of their remaining confederates.

Jan. 2nd.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reported a fall of upwards of five inches of snow (on the 31st December.)

(1) A Decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang has reported to Us the result of his investigation into the circumstances of an attack rashly made by the troops upon the city of Manas, and their consequent defeat. It appears that in the first month of this year (February, 1876), Ngêh-rh-k'ing-êh, deputy lieutenant General of Liang-chow, and the Brigadier General Fêng Kwei-tsêng, made arrangements in concert with the divisional commander Sü Hio-kung to attack Manas. It was agreed in the first instance that an assault should be made on the 29th (February 23rd); but no precise hour was fixed upon. The forces commanded respectively by the two above-named officers advanced first to the attack, and were defeated; and when Sü Hio-kung came up at the head of his body of troops, the rest of the forces had already been beaten back out of the city, beyond the possibility of being rallied by supports. Ngêh-rh-k'ing-êh, who, in his eagerness to gain credit for himself, made this rash advance without taking counsel with Kin Shun (commanding in chief on the frontier), in order that plans might be maturely organised, has committed an offence which merits punishment. Let the proper Board pronounce upon the penalty to be awarded. As regards Fêng Kwei-tsêng, who, having been severely wounded, expired on the field of battle shouting imprecations against the enemy, We command the proper Board to report on the honours that should be awarded in his case. Let the rest be done as is proposed.

(2) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding an appeal lodged by one Yen Ling-shun, a native of T'êng Chow, in the province of Honan. He states that in January, 1876, a man named Yen Siao-tsi was one of the managers of the annual fair

held in his village in honour of the Bull God 牛王, and interfered to shut up a gambling table which had been set up by a man named Liu Hing, with the assistance of Liu Yü-tien and others. These men, enraged at being meddled with, got together a gang of between sixty and seventy persons, with whom they burst into the fair, armed with a large gingall. Liu-hing, acting under the command of one Liu-kiel, fired this weapon, and lodged a charge of shot in Yen Siao-tsi's shoulder. A pitched battle ensued, in the course of which a number of persons were wounded; and Yen Siao-tsi died a fortnight afterwards. An examination of his remains was made by order of the department magistrate, on complaint being lodged with him, and five gingal balls, as large as a man's thumb, were taken out from his shoulder. Liu Hing, upon this, terrified at the consequences of his act, got some thousands of Taels together, with which he bribed the whole staff of the magistracy, through the agency of one Liu Yü-shan, who had the run of the yamên. When the case came on for hearing, the Magistrate merely punished Liu Hing with a beating and locked him up, taking no notice of the other offenders. Appeals were hereupon made to the higher authorities, by whom the case was referred back to the Magistracy; but the report which was sent up by the Magistrate in reply represented that Liu Hing had been out shooting birds and had accidentally wounded Yen Siao-tsi in the chest, and that the deceased man had come by his death through an exposure of the surface of the wound to the cold air some days afterwards. The appellants, denied justice locally, has sought to obtain it by presenting himself at Peking.—Referred back in the usual manner.

Jan. 3rd.—Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Shantung, presents a list of the officials who have exerted themselves in connection with the Arsenal founded in the province, in conformity with Imperial sanction received to this effect. The services referred to are described as consisting in the inauguration of works of considerable magnitude, the transportation of foreign-made machinery, and the prompt navigation of the *Wan Nien Ts'ing* steam-transport, for all of which a certain degree of credit is due. The names of seven officials are submitted with a view to the bestowal of rewards.—Rescript: Let rewards be bestowed as proposed upon Kia Chên and the others named. Let the proper Board

take note. The list of names is transmitted herewith.

Jan. 4th.—(1) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, and Wu Yüan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, having jointly memorialized requesting that a title of canonization be conferred on the deceased Governor of Honan, Ts'ien Ting-ming, and that a special temple be erected in honour of his memory, a decree is issued acceding to this request, in addition to the honours heretofore conferred.

(2). Wên Kêh, acting Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, makes a report of circumstances additionally brought to light in connection with the proceedings of the military in the Tung-hiang district (see *Gazettes* of September, October and November, 1876.) He received on the 29th September a despatch from the Board of Punishments, communicating a copy of the Imperial decree issued on the 3rd of that month, in which a stringent enquiry was ordered into the circumstances alleged in the complaint of Yüan 'Ting-kiao. A special officer was deputed hereupon to proceed to the spot to make enquiry, and his report, received on his return to the provincial capital on the 19th November, is as follows:—Having changed his style of dress on his arrival at Tung-hiang, he made enquiries privately in all directions. He hands in a separate paper setting forth the points upon which he has elicited no authentic proof whatever. What has been discovered is this:—An infant, less than a year old, the child of a family named P'ang, was carried away by the soldiers of one of the battalions; and a man named Chao and several others of the Ts'ien-fêng stockaded village were wounded, though not mortally, by some of the soldiers. A number of houses were burnt, furthermore; but whether this was the act of the lawless inhabitants or of the soldiery is variously stated. Whilst on his journey toward Tung-hiang, the emissary happened to meet General Li Yeo-hêng himself at the city of Tung-chwan Fu, on his arrival there at the head of his force. The emissary observed a lady's chair being carried into the inn where the General lodged, and found that he had with him a concubine and three serving women. On the following day, the emissary encountered at the next stage the other incriminated official, Liu Tao-taung, who had with him two wives or concubines, four children, and two serving women. These were all stated to belong to Liu's family. On receipt of this

report, the acting Governor-General has been filled with amazement at the laxity of military discipline it betrays, not alone in respect of the toleration of outrages on the part of the soldiery, but also in the fact that officers in command of troops should have set at defiance the regulations which forbid them to be accompanied by their families when on active service. Pending farther enquiry, moreover, it is impossible to feel assured that the persons in question were actually what they are stated to have been. The facts are brought at once to the Imperial notice, with a confession on the memorialist's part of his own shortcoming in having failed to discover them earlier; and he requests that the two officers in question may be handed over to his successor to be tried and stripped of their rank as may be needful. (For Rescript, see *Gazette* of Dec. 26th.)

Jan. 5th.—(1) The Governor of Cheh-kiang memorializes reporting a further stage in the proceedings in connection with the alleged case of murder of a husband, which has been removed to Peking for investigation (see *Gazettes* of Nov. and Dec., 1875.) A decree was issued on the 2nd November, 1876, directing, at the instance of the Board of Punishments, the actual remains of the deceased man, Koh P'in-lien, to be forwarded to Peking for examination; and, in conformity with this injunction, the coffin containing the remains has been verified, sealed up, and forwarded to the capital. On arrival there, it is to be deposited at a temple outside the East Gate. The District Magistrate of Yü-hang, who has been suspended from his office, is likewise ordered to Peking.

(2) The President of the Board of Works, Kw'ei-ling, reports that, having held a survey, as commanded by a decree dated the 20th June last, of the Grand Tablet Pavilion forming part of the Mausoleum of the Emperor Shun-che (the first of the Manchu Sovereigns of China, A. D. 1644-1661), he has drawn up specifications of the dimensions and style of work required, upon which estimates have been prepared according to the rules of the Board, with the result that an amount of Tls. 401,713 is the sum required for the restoration of this building. Contractors of approved standing have been called in, to whom it was proposed, in conformity with precedent, to entrust the work on payment of one half of the estimated cost in cash (the remainder being taken in the value of the old materials); but in this

instance it has to be represented that the building is in so ruinous a condition that the materials count in reality for very little, and that the work is more nearly like an entire reconstruction than mere repairs. The contractors further shew that the transport of the blocks of stone required will necessitate the employment of sixteen-wheel heavy trucks, and also that the prices of all materials, wages, and necessaries have risen. The building in question, it is further observed, is the most glorious, as it is also the earliest, work of the Eastern Mausolea, and the task of restoration admits of no delay. It will be necessary to prepare the stone and other materials during the present winter, in order to begin work early in the year; and it is requested that eight-tenths of the whole amount estimated for be issued in cash—7/10 to be paid to the contractors, and 1/10, together with the difference on the whole amount between the government and commercial weights, to provide for the official expenses of superintendence, etc. It is further requested that a sum of Tls. 100,000 on account be provided immediately by the Board of Revenue. (A decree in reply, published on the 25th December last, gives sanction to the proposed arrangements).

Jan. 6th.—(1) Chang-shan, Manchu General-in-chief at Canton, memorializes requesting sanction to two months' congé which he has taken, having placed the lieutenant General Kwoh-lêh-miu in charge of affairs, for the benefit of his health. He represents that his constitution suffered in early life through excessive study, and that his health has been much affected by the climate of Canton, where he has held his present post since 1869. Although not yet 50 years of age, his hair is as white as snow. The report of his medical advisers, imperatively commanding rest for a time, has grievously disturbed him, profoundly conscious as he is of the importance of his duties, especially at a place such as Canton, where there are foreign inhabitants as well as Chinese, and where the preservation of order is a matter of the first importance; beside which he has to attend to the questions arising between the Banner-men and the ordinary population, the monthly filling-up of vacancies, and the drill, also monthly, of the corps armed respectively with foreign rifles and with gingalls.—The application is granted by rescript.

(2) The Governor-General of the two Kwang provinces reports that an expectant Magistrate named Kung Chên, who was

in charge of the opium-license *likin* station at Tamshui (in Hwei-chow Fu) had been discovered by his servants to have committed suicide by hanging himself from a beam, two days after his return to his post from Canton in November last. Life was extinct when the body was discovered. It is reported, farther, that a paper had been found in the deceased's handwriting, declaring that he had discovered abuses in course of being perpetrated by the staff of the *likin* office, and that intimidation had been brought to bear against him by the underlings. An investigation of the case has been ordered.

Jan. 7th.—(Court Circular). The Prince of Kung returned thanks for the gift of a sable-skin robe.

(1) A decree appointing Kw'ên-kang 崑岡 and K'ing-fuh 慶福 to the dignity of Sub-Chancellors of the Grand Secretariat, with rank as Vice-Presidents of the Board of Ceremonies annexed.

(2) Ting Pao-chêng, newly appointed Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, reports having received on the 9th December the decree in which he is permitted to visit Peking for audience before proceeding to his new post, and having accordingly handed over his seal of office as Governor of Shantung to the lieutenant Governor (*Fan-t'ai*) on the 11th of that month. He would set out on his way to Peking on the 30th December.

(3) Ting Pao-chêng likewise memorializes on the receipt of the following report from the Taotai at Chefoo:—On the 7th November the Taotai received a note from the British Consul, Cheh Mei-shên (Mr. Jamieson), stating that a British sailing vessel, while on her voyage from Swatow to Chefoo, had picked up at sea eight distressed Liuchians. The rescued persons had been provided with clothing by the crew of the vessel, and were now forwarded to the Taotai's care. It was added that all that the Liuchians had with them was 17,700 *cash* in Japanese (Kw'an Yung) currency, which amount was sent to the Taotai with the men themselves. On being examined by the Taotai it was found that none of these persons could speak Chinese, nor, on having paper and pencil given them, could any of them write. As the proper course to pursue was to forward them to Foochow, to be sent back to their own country, the Taotai proposed placing them on board the steam transport *Wan Nien Ts'ing*, which was about to proceed to

Foochow for repairs. The Governor had approved of this proceeding, (N.B. In the reference to the British Consul, contained in the foregoing memorial, the text as printed in the *Gazette* elevates the characters *Ying Kwoh*,—British,—to the head of the column. This, in a routine document, is an innovation in the direction of due official courtesy.)

(4) In a postscript Memorial, Ting Pao-ch'eng represents that the Arsenal established at the provincial capital of Shantung is under the control of the official named Sü Kien-yin 徐建寅, who may be depended upon to develop it with regular progress and to improve it continuously by his management. The memorialist, who is now about to proceed to Szech'wan, has learnt that the irregular troops in that province are all accustomed to the use of foreign firearms (rifles), but that all their supplies of such weapons are obtained from Shanghai. Not only is the prime cost of the weapons considerable, but, owing to the distance to be traversed, the cost of transport is extremely heavy. Beside this, there is reason to apprehend that trickery and imposition on the part of the foreign importers is not always to be avoided. It is stated, moreover, that the art of repairing the foreign firearms is unknown in Sze-ch'wan, and on the occurrence of the least defect, a weapon which may have cost ten or fifteen Taels is thrown aside as useless. The waste which is thus entailed, by the necessity of providing fresh supplies, is incalculable. The Governor consequently proposes to take with him to Szech'wan an officer named Ts'eng Chao-ki, to look about him, and to authorize this official to purchase machinery, with the object both of enabling old material to be put and kept in working order, and also to enable the implements of warfare to be manufactured on the spot, thus obviating the necessity of purchasing from abroad that which can be manufactured of as good quality at home.—Rescript: It is noted.

JAN. 8th.—Li Han-chang, lately transferred to the office of Governor-General of the two Hu provinces, reports his arrival at the provincial capital of Szech'wan, to which government he had previously been appointed. Having set out, in despite of illness, from Ngan-k'ing on the 24th August, he proceeded on his journey up the Yangtze, reaching I-ch'ang about the end of September. As the river was high in the gorges at the time, and the post-road under water, he changed the

course of his journey to the route by way of She-nan Fu (in Hupeh) and Shun-k'ing Fu (in Sze-ch'wan). The mountains crossed were deep in snow and the roads steep and circuitous. Some delay was also caused on the way by illness brought on by the inclemency of the weather, so that it was not until the 8th December that he reached Ch'eng-tu Fu. The acting Governor-General was unable to hand over charge to him at once, owing to his being engaged with the military examinations, and wrote informing him that he had received on the 25th November the decree by which the memorialist is transferred to the Governor-Generalship of the two Hu provinces. Li Han-chang, hereupon, with expressions of his own unworthiness, observes that during his former service in the post to which he is now transferred once more, he was incapable of discharging the slightest portion of his debt of loyalty, and that, in the execution of the mission to Yünnan to which he was appointed last year, he fell short even yet more grievously from the accomplishment of his duty. He can now but inadequately express his gratitude for his transfer back to Hupeh, where not alone will he enjoy the advantage of being in a familiar situation, but he will also be enabled to fulfil the longings of his filial affection (by resuming the care of his aged mother). In view of the non-arrival for some time to come of the newly-appointed Governor-General, Ting Pao-ch'eng, and the enquiry that is ordered to be held into the Tung-hiang outrages, he begs to be instructed whether or no he shall take over charge of the provincial government.—Rescript: Let Ting Pao-ch'eng investigate the Tung-hiang outrages. Let Li Han-chang proceed forthwith to take up his post in Hu Kwang.

JAN. 9th.—Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, &c., memorializes with reference to a despatch some time ago received from the Board of Revenue, to the effect that notwithstanding repeated reminders, not a syllable had been received from the provincial government of Kansuh by way of report upon the revenue derived from the *likin* tax. The Board desired that attention should be paid to the tenour of its memorial laid before the Throne in April last, and also of its present communication; and that within two months after the receipt of the despatch, returns of the collection, whether levied upon general merchandize, upon opium, or on salt, should be submitted in detail. The Governor-General represents, hereupon,

repeating a statement laid before him by the provincial *ikin* Board, that the accounts of the collectorate are so multifarious as to forbid the possibility of complying with the Board's instructions within the prescribed time. He begs for an extension of the period, accordingly.—Granted by rescript.

(2) The high authorities of Kiangsu present a statement of the difficulties encountered this year in the navigation of the Grand Canal, owing to lack of water, in exculpation of the Grain Comptroller of the Kiang-An Intendancy, who has been held responsible for the delay in the arrival of the grain junks at T'ung Chow. The grain fleet of the year was hauled over the locks at Ts'ing-kiang P'u on the 23rd March, but they underwent a detention of upwards of 40 days owing to the shutting-off of water while repairs were being effected in Shantung, and it was not until the 8th June that they passed on into that province. On the 18th July the whole fleet crossed the Yellow River. This was a month earlier than in 1870. The waters of the Yellow River were so low that great difficulty was experienced in entering the northern section of the Canal, and it was only on the 29th July that the first half of the squadron managed to make its way in and proceed on its way to T'ung Chow. The second half was prevented from going forward by absolute want of water, as the river Wei was so low that the authorities did not venture to open the sluices, and the cargoes were therefore transhipped into northern boats and carts. This operation was completed by October 10th, and the grain reached T'ung Chow by the 30th October, which was three weeks earlier than in 1870. It is besought that the Grain Comptroller be exempted from penalties.—Granted by rescript.

(3) Tu Jui-lien, lately appointed lieutenant-Governor (Fan-t'ai) of Yünan, reports having handed over the seal of office he has been holding in Szech'wan, on the 24th November, to his successor Ch'eng Yü, on the latter's arrival from Peking.

Jan. 10th.—A Decree. Let Sih Ta-ch'êng 席大成 succeed to the post of Brigadier-General of the Barkoul command, in Kansuh.

Jan. 11th. (1) A decree based upon a memorial from the ex-Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, P'eng Tsu-hien, with reference to the relief to be afforded to the sufferers by famine in the Kiang-peh region who have been driven into the prefectures of Soochow

and Ch'ang-chow, in Kiangsu. The provincial government is authorized to divert 10,000 piculs of the present season's grain collection to purposes of relief. The amount is to be made good, for shipment to Peking, out of the supplementary levy assessed at the same time with the autumn collection. Three-tenths of the reserve grain in store and of the amount accruing for sums lodged at interest, are also to be expended by the district authorities in conjunction with the local notables on measures of relief. Not a single subject is to be left in a state of destitution.

(2) A decree cashiering a number of district Magistrates in Chihli for corruption and inefficiency, at the instance of the Governor General Li Hung-chang.

(3) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Li Kwei-lin, who has represented that numerous abuses are entailed by the practice, on the part of Superintendents of Customs and of the Imperial Manufactories, of employing their personal dependents in positions of authority, contrary to regulation. It is now commanded that this practice be rigorously put a stop to for the future.

(4) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., reports the particulars ascertained with reference to the failure of the attack rashly undertaken upon the town of Manas by two of his subordinate commanders on the 23rd February last, as stated in his memorial dated the 6th May. (See decree published on the 2nd inst., for details.)

(5) The Governor of Kwangsi reports the arrival at the provincial capital of the tribute mission despatched, as lately reported, by the King of Annam. The mission, consisting of three superior envoys, eight other officials, and nine attendants, reached Kwei-lin Fu on the 2nd December; and orders had been given by the Governor to provide its members with hospitable entertainment during the period of their stay. As it had been reported to him, moreover, that they were insufficiently provided with clothing for the long journey before them, he had provided them, at his own expense, in accordance with an old regulation, with embroidered official robes, and with fur and wadded garments. The party was to set out on its onward journey on the 11th December, and should reach Peking after the middle of February.

(6) The Governor of Ngau-hwei memorializes on the completion of a temple at Ngau-k'ing in honour of General Ch'êng Hio-k'i 程學啟, who died of a

wound received by him at the taking of the city of Kia-hing from the rebels in March, 1864. It is now requested that his name may be enrolled upon the list for semi-annual sacrificial honours.—Granted by rescript. (N.B. The deceased officer was well-known as "General Ch'ing" during the campaigns of 1862-1864).

Jan. 12th.—(1) A Decree. We have received a memorial from Wên Yih (acting Governor-General at Foochow) requesting leave to come to Peking for audience. He is at liberty to do so when Ho-king shall arrive in Fuhkien. Let Ho-king assume charge of Wên-yih's office of Manchu General-in-chief, in addition to his own.

(2) Yang Yoh-pin, Inspector of the Yangtze naval forces, memorializes reporting the result of his inspection of the war junks and defences along the course of the river. Having visited Ch'ang-sha in Hunan in April last, and conferred with the Governor of Hunan on military matters, and subsequently visited and taken counsel with the high authorities of other provinces, he subsequently ascended the course of the river from its mouth, bearing carefully in mind the due discharge of his duty at such a time as the present, when the defence of the river is so urgent a necessity. He inspected the cruisers and forces of the Kwa-chow, Hu-k'ow, Han-yang, and Yoh-chow commands, and paid close attention to their performances in rowing and steering, as well as to their practice with artillery and firearms. A favourable report is given of the efficiency of the crews.

(3) The Governor of Kiangsu memorializes stating that a report was some time ago received by him from the Taotai at Shanghai to the effect that on the 14th September last a foreign vessel was seen by the inhabitants of a village in the bay of Hangchow to be in distress, whereupon the local fishing boats put off to her assistance, but she sank before they could reach her. Nine aliens composing her crew were rescued and brought ashore, and having been passed on through the hands of two district Magistrates in Chehkiang, they were finally sent to the District Magistrate of Shanghai. They were found to be provided with three Liuch'uan passports (or certificates), and three tickets to be worn on the person. They could neither speak nor understand Chinese, nor, when provided with pencil and paper, were they able to write. The names Kin Hing-fah &c., were however found inscribed on their certificates and tickets. The Taotai had provided the

party with food and clothing, and had caused them to be sent by steamer to Foochow for shipment to their native country. The Governor was in the act of making report on this subject to the Throne, when he received a despatch from the Governor of Fuhkien, to the effect that on receipt of the nine shipwrecked people, the official agent from Liu-ch'iu had discovered that they were not his countrymen. On referring to their papers and tickets it was found that the names of functionaries and localities set forth therein agreed with particulars given in the description of Corea, and there could be no doubt that the men themselves were Coreans. The Governor of Fuhkien had therefore sent them back by steamer to Shanghai, requesting that they might be forwarded by steamer to Tientsin and thence to Peking. The memorialist hereupon sent a petty official to Shanghai to take charge of the party, and as the Peiho is now closed by ice, he has caused them, on the application of the officer placed in charge of the party, to be provided with warm clothing and despatched them overland to Peking, in order that they may be sent thence to their native country.

Jan. 13th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor of Kwangtung, reporting that the Literary Examiners for that province had returned to Peking by the sea route. It is observed, hereupon, that according to regulation the Literary Examiners sent to the various provinces should travel by the post roads; but of late years the Examiners sent to Canton have made it a practice, when returning to Peking after fulfilling their mission, to allege illness as a reason for travelling by sea, in complete disregard of the standing regulations. As the chief and assistant Examiners in the present instance have already set out on their journey, no farther notice need be taken in their case; but for the future the practice is forbidden.

(2) The Governor of Shantung reports the number of octogenarian and nonagenarian candidates at the late provincial examinations, to whom honorary degrees have been awarded in conformity with regulation. These were as follows: Of the age of 90, four persons; 90 and upwards, four persons; of the age of 80, six persons.

(3) Chih-kang, Resident at Urga, and his military colleagues, report upon the supply of foreign gunpowder and ammunition required for the cavalry and field artillery force organized at that point.

Instead of being purchased through the local military chest, supplies are henceforward to be drawn from the Field Force Office of the province of Chilli.

(3) The Governor-General and Governor at Foochow report the despatch of remittances to Peking. Instructions had been received for the supply from the province of Fuhkien of the following amounts, viz: To be paid to the Imperial Household Treasury from the tea duty receipts, Tls. 100,000; to the general fund for Peking expenditure, from the *likin* on opium, Tls. 50,000, together with Tls. 5,000 per mensem from the same source toward the Peking reserve fund. In obedience to these commands, Tls. 30,000 from the tea duty receipts, Tls. 10,000 from the *likin* on opium, and Tls. 25,000 toward the Peking reserve fund, have already been sent forward. Owing to the floods that have taken place, the financial authorities now report the provincial exchequer is in great straits, and for this reason a loan of Tls. 50,000 has been obtained from the local bankers, of which Tls. 30,000 is reckoned as on tea duty account, and the remainder on account of *likin*. Mercantile draughts for these amounts have been remitted by the banks to the Board of Revenue and the Household Treasury. In addition to this, the provincial exchequer has provided a sum of Tls. 30,000 more, on account of the monthly payments to the reserve fund for the six months ending December 15th, and bank draughts for this sum are likewise forwarded. An apology is offered for the transmission of these sums in paper, with reference to the orders issued in 1875, at the instance of the Censor Liu Jui-k'i.—Rescript: Let the departments concerned take note. The character *tsou* has been omitted at the close of this memorial. Let the acting Governor-General and the Governor be reported upon by the Board.

Jan. 14th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Board of Ceremonies upon the ceremonial to be observed at the approaching New-Year's Day (Feb. 13th.) Upon this subject We have received the benignant mandate of Their Majesties the Empress Dowager and Empress Mother in the following terms:—On the first day of the 3rd year of Kwang Sü the enthronement in the Ts'ze Ning Kung and the State banquet are to be dispensed with. The insignia are not to be arrayed. The musicians are to assemble but not to perform. The Emperor will perform the obeisances in the Yang Sin Pavilion. The

princes, nobles, and ministers above the second rank will perform their obeisances outside the Yang Sin Tien. The officials below the third rank to do the same outside the great gateway of the Palace (Wu Mên.) Obeisances to be dispensed with on the part of the ladies of the Court, princesses imperial or consort, and ladies of rank. The enthronement of the Emperor to receive congratulations will be dispensed with. The stations at which the princes, nobles, and officials will perform their obeisances to be taken up in conformity with the proposals of the Board. For the rest, be it as proposed. (N.B.—The foregoing Decree has reference to the mourning still continued for the decease of the late Emperor.)

(2) A decree based upon a further report from the Governor-General, Tso Tsung-t'ang, giving detailed particulars of the operations which resulted in the capture of Manas. The southern city being obstinately defended by the (Dungani) rebels after the northern city had been taken, Kin Shun made determined attacks upon the place at intervals between the 7th and the 19th September, and effected a breach by means of his artillery fire. The place having been closely invested with trenches and attacked by means of mining operations, a sortie was at length made by a body of 2,000 or 3,000 of the rebels, who approached the trenches feigning an intention to surrender. The troops stood to their arms, and when the rebel leader Ho Luh gave the signal to his followers to rush forward, the assailants were cut to pieces, including the so-styled generalissimo Hehtsün. The action led to the immediate occupation of South Manas; and the flying rebels were pursued and slaughtered by the Hunan troops and cavalry of Kin Shun's force, together with the forces which had been contributed by the military Governor Yung-s'üan and other commanders. The successful strategy displayed by Tso Tsung-t'ang, and the skill with which his plans have been matured, are profoundly deserving of Our approbation. To Kin Shun, for the brilliant success achieved by his leadership of the forces in their brave attack, We decree, as a special mark of favour, the distinction of the double-eyed peacock feather, and we confer upon him, in addition, the hereditary rank of *Yün K'i Yü* (the 8th order of nobility.) The rank of *Yün K'i Yü* is likewise bestowed upon Generals Liu Hun-fah and Ma Yü-kw'én.—Fifteen pages of honours and rewards to

the officers of the attacking army here follow.

(3) The Governor-General of Yünnan etc. memorializes reporting the particulars of the outbreak on the part of the Lolo tribe of aborigines 猓夷 in the Têng-ch'wan department in the prefecture of Ta-li Fu, a preliminary report upon which was published some months ago. The irruption of the savage mountaineers into the departmental city, and the ultimate capture and execution of the ringleaders of the movements, are described.

Jan. 15th.—(Court Circular.) Ying Han, lately appointed to the post of Lieutenant-General of Urumsai, returned thanks for the gift of a purse embroidered with the character *Kuh* ("happiness.")

(1) The Censor Chang Tao-yüan memorializes urging measures of prevention against abuse of the Imperial bounty in connection with the remission of taxation granted to the districts afflicted by floods or drought. He represents that the statements sent forward by district officials are as a rule based merely upon the reports given in by clerks and underlings, and that the memorials laid before the Throne by provincial governors, themselves based upon the reports received from subordinate officials, are liable to be inflated in tenour, detracting from the actual proportions of the harvest, and exaggerating the amount of suffering caused by drought or floods. On the other hand, a variety of abuses are perpetrated to the detriment of the people themselves, by wanton delays in publishing the edicts announcing remissions of taxation, by the imposition of arbitrary levies, etc., etc. He prays that stringent commands be issued prohibiting under severe penalties all malpractices of the kind referred to.—Rescript in this sense already published.

(2) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fukien, states in a postscript Memorial that, whilst engaged in preparations for a visit to Formosa, he received a letter from an official named Kin Têh-hung, formerly attached to the Foochow Arsenal, to the effect that the expectant Prefect Tsiang Fêng-tsoa was desirous of contributing Taels 1,000 to the relief fund (for the sufferers by the recent floods), which sum was represented by two commercial draughts; but that, as he did not wish his name to appear as contributor, he had requested the writer of the letter to address the Governor confidentially, entreating him to take his humble aspirations into consideration, for which he would be

immeasurably grateful. Upon this the Governor observes that the receipt of the letter had filled him with astonishment. When the floods occurred, Tsiang Fêng-tsoa was on the spot; and, if he feels so compassionately disposed toward the sufferers, the wonder is that he did not come forward with his subscription at the time. Besides, he is one of the officials of the provincial administration, and any subscription he had to offer should have been forwarded at the time to the administrative Board. For what reason, it must be asked, has he waited six months and then forwarded the amount in a roundabout and confidential way to the Governor's hands? As, moreover, he declares that he does not wish to have the name of a charitable contributor, does he expect that the Governor is to take to himself these thousand pieces of money which are the property of another? Or does he, perhaps, desire that the Governor should pass the contribution off as his own? Again—he asks, in handing in these draughts, that his humble aspirations may be considered. Now, subscriptions for the relief of distress are a public and perfectly proper undertaking, and it is difficult to perceive why the draughts should be so secretly forwarded. In a matter intended to benefit the multitude, what necessity is there for calling attention to the giver's humble aspirations? The only explanation that can be attached to the affair is that it was the giver's intention to tempt the Governor with a surreptitious offer. Tsiang Fêng-tsoa has, indeed, no acts of misconduct on record against him in the past; but with behaviour so grossly reprehensible as this, it is too evident that his designs would not bear the test of scrutiny. Still, although Tsiang Fêng-tsoa may have acted a wicked part toward the Governor, the Governor has it not in him to act a wicked part toward Tsiang Fêng-tsoa. He has handed over Kin Têh-hung's letter and the draughts for the Tls. 1,000 to the Lieutenant-Governor (*Fan-t'ai*) and the Judicial Commissioner, whom he has desired to summon Tsiang Fêng-tsoa before them and to interrogate him minutely with reference to the various objections which the Governor has enumerated, and to impeach him rigorously as circumstances may direct, as a warning against corrupt manoeuvring. As for the fact that the conduct of the Governor himself, it is plain, is insufficient to command the confidence of his subordinates, and that he has himself entirely to blame for the insult that has befallen him,—he feels bound

to solicit a rescript from his Majesty, handing him over to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty, by way of warning to those who fail to conduct themselves as is due in the relations between superior and inferior.—Rescript: Let the authorities aforesaid summon Tsiang Fêng-tsoo before them, elicit the truth from him by interrogation, and impeach him rigorously as the circumstances may direct. We command the remission of the penalty to which the Governor has asked that he be subjected.

(3) The Governor-General and Governor of Kiangsu jointly memorialize asking sanction for the erection of a memorial temple at T'ai-ts'ang in honour of the late Governor of Honan, Ts'ien Ting-ming, a native of that place, to commemorate his public services during the rebellion. As one of the notables of Kiangsu at the time of the irruption of the Taipings into the neighbourhood of Shanghai, he was at the head of the provincial trainband organization, and he came forward in particular to urge the despatch of reinforcements toward the coast from the army of Tsêng Kwoh-fan. To secure this end he procured five European steamers to bring troops down from Ngan-k'ing; and he rendered most active and efficient service in the enrolment of auxiliary forces and the raising of funds, etc.—at this time.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 4th instant.

Jan. 16th.—(Court Circular.) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, paid his respects (on his arrival at Peking.) Ki-ho, Manchu Lieutenant-General of the Canton garrison, asked instructions (on his departure.) Têh-ch'ün, Vice-President of the Board of Works, asked instructions on his departure to the Ming Tombs.—At audience there were: the Grand Council; Ting Pao-chêng; Ki-ho.

No documents of importance.

Jan. 17th.—(1) The Court of Censorate memorializes forwarding a complaint lodged by a body of the inhabitants of the Hêng-shuei district in Chihli, who appeal against the unlawful exactions and arbitrary conduct of the taxing-clerks of the District Magistracy. They hold lands under rental from government, and should pay their annual assessments, according to regulation, in silver, whereas the tax clerks exact a commutation in copper currency to the amount of 6,000 or 7,000 small Peking *cash*, including the charges for meltae, etc. The exchange shops of the district, however, make a report of the rate of exchange every five days to the Magistracy,

and the rate for Government *sycee* is a trifle over 3,600 small Peking *cash* per Tael, so that an excess of upwards of 2,000 *cash* per Tael is levied upon complainants, after making all allowances for exchange margin. The amount of rental collected in the district is Taels 17,000 and odd, from which it follows that upwards of 36,000,000 *cash* are levied in excess of the proper demands. The distress from deficient harvests has made itself so severely felt that the petitioners have contested the question with the tax clerks, but the answer received has been that the collectors themselves have such a multitude of fees to pay in the magistracy, and in the Assistant-Magistrate's *yamên* as well, that they have no option but to levy additional imposts upon the people at large. Some dozen or more of the taxpayers addressed themselves hereupon to the Lieut.-Governor, but received no reply to their request for information as to the amount they should properly be required to pay. They next sought to obtain a statement on the subject from the Governor-General, but his Excellency was absent from his official residence at the time; and their next step was to apply direct to the Board of Revenue, from whence, in September last, an official reply was obtained. The tax clerks, however, conspired together and alleged that the Board of Revenue's despatch was a forgery, and caused a warrant to be issued against the complainants, with a view to intimidate them. Further applications to the Lieutenant-Governor led to orders being issued to the Magistrate to enquire into the case, and a special delegate was sent to look into the matter. The tax-clerks, nevertheless, suppressed a notice issued by this official, in which it was declared that payments should be made at the regulation rate, and have fraudulently asserted his orders to have been that the rate to be observed is 5,600 small Peking *cash*, threatening the terrors of the law against any recalcitrant parties. The present appeal is consequently lodged, with a prayer for investigation.—Referred in the usual manner.

(2) The Governor-General of Yunnan, etc., reports the appointment of Brigadier-Generals Ts'üan Tsu-k'ai 全祖凱 and Li Wei-shuh 李維述 to the acting charge of the Chao-t'ung and P'u-urh commands respectively.

(3) The Governor of Kiangsu memorializes reporting the trial and sentence of a son for causing the death of his father, by pushing him down in the course of

quarrel. The old man slipped and fell against a bean-curd press, receiving a wound on the back of his head, from the effects of which he died. His widow, ignorant of the fact that she was infringing the law, proceeded to inter the remains without reporting the case to the authorities; but the District Magistrate, having been informed of the affair, proceeded to hold an inquest; and the son was arrested and brought to trial. The law provides that "a son who strikes his father or his mother shall suffer death by decapitation;" and the guilty person has been sentenced with this penalty in the present case. His mother is acquitted from farther prosecution for her unintentional breach of the law.—Referred by rescript to the Board of Punishments for consideration and report.

JAN. 18th.—The Governor-General of Yunnan, &c., memorializes with reference to the appointment of a Taotai for the P'u-urh Intendancy, on the extreme southern border, in consequence of the receipt of a report announcing that Ch'ên T'ing-chên, the officer lately appointed to act in that capacity (as reported some months ago), has announced the fact of his being obliged to go into mourning retirement on the death of his mother. The names of two eligible officials are now submitted for selection at Peking. One is the Prefect of Yunnan Fu, Hiung Chao-king, and the other the Prefect of Liu-ngan Fu, Shih Tsün, the official history of each of whom is given with the usual minute detail.—Referred for the decision of the Board of Civil Office.

Jan. 19th.—(1) A Decree. Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, is accorded the privilege of riding within the precincts of the Palace.

(2) A Decree. Let Wên-ch'êng 文澂 succeed to the post of junior Assistant President of the Censorate.

(3) Fêng-shên, Military Governor of the Amur province, and his Lieutenant-General, memorialize reporting that, in conformity with standing regulation, the second memorialist had proceeded in the early part of November to a distance of some 200 li north of the provincial capital to exercise some of the troops in the pursuit of game, after which they were farther exercised in martial tactics. The newly enrolled *Si-tan*, or reserve troops, have likewise been inspected at their respective stations.

Jan. 20th.—(1) A Decree. Let Hu T'ing-kwei 許廷桂 succeed to the

vacant post of Supervising Censor of the department of the Board of Ceremonies.

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, &c., memorializes denouncing the department Magistrate and Assistant Magistrate of Chao Chow, in consequence of the escape from jail of a prisoner lying under sentence of death, awaiting only final confirmation from Peking without hope of commutation. The escape was effected at night, during the period when the Magistrate himself was shut up in the Examination Hall; but this circumstance cannot be allowed to diminish his responsibility. It is requested that his name be handed to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty; and that the Assistant Magistrate, as officer directly in charge of the jail, be stripped of his rank and put on trial.—Rescript assenting to these propositions already published.

Jan. 21st.—(1) A decree commanding the Board of Punishments to investigate a complaint lodged with the Censorate by a widow named Li Liu-she, belonging to Ch'ang-p'ing Chow, near Peking, who accuses certain persons of conspiring with a cart-driver in the service of a noble of the first degree, the *Kung Jui-hing*, to take possession of a certain burial plot, from which they have dug up and ejected the remains interred. Justice has been sought in vain for years past, according to complainant's statement.

(2) The acting Governor-General of Hu Kwang memorializes with reference to a petty civilian officer named Li Tao-hêng, who, having exerted himself during the rebellion in the enrolment of village militia, was given rank as a sub-director of education, from which he purchased advancement to the next step in the same class. Having been appointed to fill the office of director of education in the Pa-tung district, he had proceeded to I-ch'ang Fu on business connected with the examinations, and was returning to his post in February, 1875, carrying his seal of office with him, when his boat was capsized in the most dangerous part of the rapids above I-ch'ang, and he was drowned. His body was eventually recovered, but his seal of office was lost. In accordance with the regulation which provides for the case of officials who may be drowned whilst travelling on public business either at sea, or on the Yangtze, the Yellow River or the great Lakes, posthumous honours are now besought on behalf of the deceased, in satisfaction to the *manes* of a faithful servant.—Referred for the decision of the Boards concerned.

(3) The Governor of Shansi memorializes reporting the escape of a prisoner under sentence of death, whilst being conveyed back under guard from the provincial capital to the district to which he belonged. Managing to lull the suspicions of the men in charge of him, the prisoner seized an opportunity of breaking his fetters and escaping. The officials and guards responsible for his safe-keeping are denounced in the usual manner.

(4) The Governor of Kiangsu reports the disappearance of an expectant of appointment to the office of Captain, named Sun Sze-king, who, having risen from the position of "leader of irregulars" to the rank in question, joined the Governor's brigade in 1873, and was made instructor of foreign drill. Applications having been received from Fuhkien for the services of this man and two others to do duty there, the other two individuals were sent to that province, but Sun Sze-king was retained in his post of instructor at Soochow, where his services were needed. He went away, nevertheless, without leave of absence, on the 22nd October last, and has not since been heard of. It is observed that when the troops in garrison at Soochow were converted into a "drilled" force, and exercised in the use of foreign firearms, to which experimental practice with the Gatling 格林 gun was subsequently added, the officer in question was sent to Shanghai to study the theoretical part of his duty, after which he returned to Soochow to conduct the drill of the troops. His conduct, in now absenting himself without leave, at a time when the force is still far from proficiency, is flagrantly insubordinate. As it is thought that he may have betaken himself to Foochow, the authorities of that province have been requested to make search for him and to send him back to Soochow for punishment; and a decree is now solicited stripping the offender of his rank and excluding him for ever from re-employment.—Granted by rescript.

Jan. 22nd (Court Circular).—T'eh-ch'un paid his respects on his return from the Ming Tombs.—Chow Kia-mei paid his respects on his return from his mission as Literary Examiner to Sze-ch'wan.

(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Chang Kwan-chun, who has represented the urgent need of relief measures on behalf of the famine-stricken population of the T'ai-yüan and other prefectures in Shansi. Injunctions are laid upon the Governor of the province to report as to the exemptions from taxation

and State labour which it is proper to grant to the distressed districts.

(2) A Decree. Liu Kw'ên-yih, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, reports that a Brigadier-General has applied for leave to resign his office on the ground of ill-health. We command that Ting Sze-pin, Brigadier-General of the Kieh-shih (Kit-shek) command in Kwangtung, be allowed to vacate his office, and that P'êng Yü 彭玉 be appointed as his successor.

(3) A Decree. Let Kwang-lin 廣麟 go to be Superintendent of Customs at Hwai-ngan Fu.

(4) Memorial by P'êng Tsu-hien, ex-Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, on the relief measures which are called for on behalf of the famine-stricken refugees from the central provinces, who, to the number of upwards of 20,000 souls, he learns, have migrated to the neighbourhood of Soochow and Ch'angchow in search of the means of subsistence. The allowance issued to these people is at the rate of seven-tenths of a pint of rice (English measure) per diem to adults, and half this quantity for minors; and the 6,500 piculs of rice appropriated from the Peking rice tribute for the necessities of Kiangnan will barely suffice to meet this scale of issue for a period of a little more than 50 days. He begs that authority may be given for appropriating an allowance of 10,000 piculs of rice from the 680,000 piculs which are the quota yielded by the Soochow, Sungkiang, and adjacent prefectures in Kiangsu to the Peking tribute, for the purpose of supplying the wants of the distressed population. In a postscript memorial he proposes that additional supplies be drawn from the district granaries.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 11th inst.

Jan. 23rd.—(1) The high authorities at Foochow report the arrival there of a junk containing 25 distressed Liu-ch'üans, forwarded on from the province of Chehkiang. On being examined through an interpreter, these people have stated that they sailed from Napa, in Liu-ch'ü, on the 10th July last, on a coasting voyage, and, having been blown out to sea by a storm and disabled, their junk finally drifted ashore on the coast of the P'ing-hu district, in Chehkiang, on the 28th of the same month. Having been rescued from distress, and supplied with provisions and clothing, they were sent on to Foochow according to regulation. They are now supplied, as the regulations direct, with one pint of rice and six *cash* for the purchase of salt and vegetables per diem; and they will be

sent back to their native country in their own junk if she is found to be seaworthy.

(2) The Manchu General-in-chief and acting Governor-General at Foochow, Wên-yih, memorializes entreating leave to visit Peking for audience.—Granted by rescript on 12th inst.

(3) The Governor of Kweichow, Li Pei-king, memorializes in reply to a decree he has received, to the effect that no report had come to hand as to the degree of family connection between himself and the Taotai Liu Yoh-shu 劉嶽曙, and calling for a statement from him on this subject. He has to explain in reply that, although like himself Liu Yoh-shu is a native of the province of Hunan, the personal acquaintance between them had been of the slightest description. The official in question was sent to serve in Kweichow at the instance of the late Governor, and he then attracted the memorialist's notice by his activity in the operations against the rebels. In 1874-5 the memorialist's third son was betrothed to his second daughter, but as neither of the pair had reached the marriageable age, the union has not yet taken place; and as Liu Yoh-shu was employed in military service the memorialist, in conformity with regulation, had not yet reported the fact of this family connexion. He now does so in reply to the Imperial inquiry.—Rescript: It is noted. Let Liu Yoh-shu return to Szech'wan, as before ordered, to await appointment to office. (N.B.—From his name, it would appear that the official above referred to is a brother of Liu Yoh-chao, the Governor-General of Yunnan and Kweichow, who was dismissed from office the 3rd December, 1875.)

Jan. 24th.—The Governor of Honan memorializes reporting the measures instituted at the provincial capital for the relief of the distress caused by drought during the past summer. Four agencies have been opened, at which each destitute person is furnished with a bowl of congee per diem, and a wadded garment is given, so far as circumstances admit, to those who are insufficiently clothed. There are about 27,000 destitute persons at present receiving relief in this manner.

Jan. 25th.—(Court Circular.) The Prince of Tun and others returned thanks for donations of swallows' nest.—The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reported a fall of between one and two inches of snow at Peking.

Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, and Imperial

Commissioner for the campaign in Sungaria, etc.; and Kin Shun, Lieutenant-General of Urumtsi and assistant Commissioner, jointly memorialize reporting the particulars of the siege and capture of the south city of Manas. The memorial is based upon a report addressed by the latter to the former high officer, in which it is stated that Kin Shun arrived near Manas on the 2nd September, 1876, at the head of his force of cavalry and foot-soldiers, and proceeded to effect an investment of the place. On the 7th September he opened an artillery fire, with heavy breech-loading shell-guns, on the north-east angle, directing in person the bombardment which was conducted by Brigadier-General T'êng Tsêng and Captain Chang Yüh-lin. A breach of upwards of a *chang* (about 14 feet) in width having been effected in the bastion, a portion of the troops advanced under cover of this success to the foot of the wall; and a storming party was directed by Kin Shun himself and one of his principal lieutenants to advance up the breach. The defence was, however, so obstinate, and the rampart, when gained, so narrow, that the troops were unable to deploy after effecting a lodgment, and the attack consequently failed. In this engagement, upwards of 400 of the enemy were killed, and on the side of the army, the loss amounted to upwards of one hundred. On 13th Sept., General Ma Yüh-kw'ên arrived at the head of his force, and he was ordered to take up a position on the north-west of the town. He succeeded, on the 19th September, in taking the north-west bastion by surprise, killing some ten or more of the defenders; but a desperate rush being made on the part of the garrison, he was eventually obliged to fall back. On the following night another attempt was made to take the angle-tower by storm, and an assault was made in which great loss was inflicted upon the garrison; but the attacking party was thrown into confusion by the accidental explosion of a magazine, which brought down part of the building and crushed some ten or more of the attacking party, General Ma himself receiving a contusion. Another party had meanwhile seized the breach and erected three barriers upon the crown of the wall; but a strong southerly wind which sprang up about 4 a.m. blew the smoke forward in such dense clouds that the troops were compelled once more to retire. The loss of the enemy was estimated at upwards of 300, and that of the attacking party at upwards of 200 men. The garrison repaired the

breaches during the night, by means of barriers of earth secured between fascines. They maintained at the same time a brilliant light by bonfires of wood and straw steeped in oil, and were actively on their guard. The guard-houses along the walls were at the same time loopholed and preparations were made for the discharge of "oil-guns," with a manifest intention to offer resistance to the death. The besieging force meanwhile threw up strong stockades within the suburbs. Information having been obtained through spies on the 28th September that a sally was contemplated on the part of the enemy, the troops were put on the alert, and an advance was made beyond the line of the stockades, in the course of which some scores of the enemy were killed. General Liu Hung-fah had a finger shot off in this engagement. A farther attempt having been made to storm the wall, it was repulsed with a loss of upwards of 70 killed. In the course of the next few days, more than ten similar attempts were made, either with scaling ladders or by climbing up the walls, and great loss was inflicted on the garrison, but the attacks were invariably frustrated by the persistency of the defence. Two Brigadiers and several subordinate officers were killed; and the loss inflicted on the enemy is estimated at upwards of 700. The assailants lost upwards of 200 rank and file. Reinforcements of Hunan troops meanwhile arrived, and were disposed about the south and southwest of the town, where they threw up large batteries, and were employed with Kin Shun's own force in digging a long trench, which was completed by the 13th October, by which time Yung-ts'üan, the Military Governor and Commander-in-chief of the Ili region, had come up to assist in the operations. On the night of the 16th a mine was dug from the suburb, and at noon on the following day it was sprung, effecting a breach of upwards of two *chang* in width in the wall. An assault was immediately delivered, but the musketry fire of the defenders, supported by showers of bricks and stones from the wall, was so heavy that a lodgment could not be effected. After a bombardment of the interior of the town, throwing some scores of heavy shot into the place, the assault was given up. It was ascertained from certain refugees of the population that the so-styled General of the rebels, Han Hing-nung, had been killed in the bombardment. A combined assault was again made on the breach on the morning of the 18th by Kin Shun's division and

the Hunan troops, but the garrison had erected interior defences in the shape of barricades covered with wet felt rugs as a protection against the fire of the attacking party, and the assaulting column was once more obliged to retire, with a loss of nineteen killed and ninety-five wounded. Another mine was run up to the wall on the night of the 28th, and a breach having been effected an assault at once took place. A slaughter of the defenders in countless numbers ensued; but the whole atmosphere becoming obscured by clouds of smoke and dust, driven before a strong southerly wind, the troops were unable to see a yard before them, and in a fierce onslaught made by the defenders, under cover of this advantage, General Yang Pi-yao was killed, sword in hand, by a gunshot wound, and General K'ung Ts'ai was wounded. The loss of the assaulting party in this attack was 190 killed and wounded. On the 1st and 2nd November sorties were made by the garrison, who crossed the besiegers' trenches, but they were repulsed by the fire of the troops. A farther attempt in the same direction was, however, made; but the trenches were manned in silence, and the approaches were provided with ropes and iron hooks. On the expected attack being made, a large number of the enemy were laid low by the fire which was opened upon them; and three of the attacking party having fallen in the ditch, they were dragged up into the trench by the hooks attached to the ropes. These prisoners stated that they came from the country west of the Yellow River, belonging either to Si-ning or Ho Chow, and that, the provisions of the garrison being exhausted and no road open for flight, the leader, named Hai-yen, who had succeeded to command on the death of Han Hing-nung, had sent them out to ascertain how matters stood, with a view to seizing some occasion of getting away. On the examination being concluded, the prisoners were beheaded. At midnight on the 4th November Hai-yen came out to Sü Hio-kung's camp, and begged to be permitted to surrender. Kin Shun hereupon commanded him to deliver up the horses and arms of the garrison, and to hand over, in bonds, the leaders of the rebels, after which he was to draw up lists of the remainder of their number, who were thereupon to be called upon to answer to their names, and be severally dealt with according to circumstances. Hai-yen agreed to do this. At daybreak on the 6th November, a body of 2,000 or

3,000 of the garrison sallied out from the west gate, the centre of the column consisting in aged persons, women, and children, who were guarded on all sides by determined fighting men, with arms in their hands; and Kin Shun, knowing them to be treacherously disposed, caused his troops to stand to their arms. The Hunan troops on the north of the city were drawn up in battle array, as were also the divisions on the south front, whilst a separate cavalry division was posted at the commanding points, in order to prevent escape. Sü Hio-kung was at the same time ordered to go forward and call upon the advancing body to throw down their arms, whereupon their lives should still be spared; but the so-styled General of the rebels, Ho Luh by name, suddenly fired off a pistol and set his troops on to make a rush at the trenches. Sü Hio-kung instantly ordered his men to charge, and Ho Luh was taken and beheaded in front of the line of battle. The rebel leaders and the desperate fighting-men at their back, abandoning their women and children, made a bold rush forward, but they were enveloped by various divisions of the Hunan troops and the force under Kin Shun's own command, and the greater number of them were put to the sword. One of the so-styled Generals of the rebels, seeing that all hope was lost, shot himself with a pistol, and every man of the scattered host was captured and beheaded by one or other of the cavalry divisions. The infantry meanwhile had laid hands upon and executed all the rebels remaining within the city, sparing the women and children and aged persons, who were exempted from this act of retribution. Hai-yen and other leaders were captured alive, and after being examined before Kin Shun and his colleagues, were put to death with the extreme of torture. The corpses of Han Hing-nung, Hêh-tsün, and other leaders, together with the remains of the self-styled Prince of the Pure

[Religion], T'o-têh-lin 妥得磷, were searched out and exhumed, and cut to pieces, as a public example. Thus, on the 16th November, the south city of Manas was re-captured, the leaders of the insurgents destroyed, and their followers exterminated. In addition to the foregoing report from Kin Shun, the Taotai Liu Kin-t'ang, in chief command of the Hunan troops, has further reported to the same effect on the proceedings of his own forces. It has to be observed, in conclusion, that after the capture of Uruumtsi

and Tih-hwa Chow, Peh-yen Hu and the other leaders of the Shensi insurgents fled southwards, in concert with the insurgent bodies that had been in occupation of Ch'ang-ki, Hu-t'u-pih, and north Manas; whilst the rebels of south Manas, trusting to the small size and strong defences of the town, determined to hold this mountain fastness to the death. During the period of two months and upwards occupied by the siege, heavy losses were sustained by the flower of the army; but, thanks to the favouring might and good fortune of the Sovereign on the throne, the entire force was actuated by a single-minded resolve which has enabled them utterly to destroy the band of rebels who have maintained themselves in arms for so long a period of years. The bestowal of appropriate distinctions is consequently, with due submission, solicited. The two names put forward at the head of a long list of recommendations are those of Generals Liu Hung-fah and Ma Yü-kw'ên, followed by those of the Manchu General Sha-kh-tu-lin-cha-bu, and General K'ung Ts'ai, with which the present day's impression ends.

Jan. 26th.—The whole of to-day's *Gazette* is occupied with the continuation of the list of recommendations for honours in reward for the capture of Manas.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 14th inst.

Jan. 27th.—(1 and 2.) Decrees in reply to memorials from Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General of Shêngking, who has denounced a certain Secretary of a Board, named Ts'i Tsin-t'ang, and a captain named Chang Têh-kung, for abuse of official authority whilst executing a mission on public business to the province of Kirin. The offences charged against them are extortion by means of threats, and the illegal display of implements of torture. They are stripped of their rank and ordered to be placed on trial. A second decree orders some civilian officials, whose services Ch'ung How has applied for, to be sent to him from the province of Chihli.

(3) The Board of Ceremonies memorializes with reference to the ceremonial to be observed at Court at the Chinese New Year, with special reference to the mourning still in continuance for the decease of the late Emperor. (For rescript see *Gazette* of 14th inst.)

(4) The acting Governor of Shantung, Li Yüan-hwa, memorializes reporting the execution by the lingering process (*ling ch'e*) of a lunatic for the murder of his father. The usual particulars are given.

Jan. 28th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Manchu General-in-chief

of the province of Kansuh, requesting that the regulations heretofore in force with regard to the supply of remounts and fodder by means of a levy upon the population of the districts adjacent to Ning-hia may be revived. Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, &c., is commanded to examine and report upon this question.

(2) Wên Kêh, acting Governor-General of Szech'wan, memorializes forwarding a detailed report of an investigation held at the provincial capital into a case, appeal upon which had been lodged at Peking in December, 1874. The complainants, Liu Tao-shêng and others, had presented a statement accusing the district authorities of connivance at acts of oppression on the part of lawless characters. It has been proved on examination that the charge was maliciously trumped up, without a particle of foundation; and the two principal delinquents are sentenced, according to law, to suffer the penalty of three years' banishment and 100 blows. A minor offender is sentenced to suffer 80 blows.—Referred by rescript to the Board of Punishments for consideration.

Jan. 29th.—(1) A Decree. The Board of Punishments memorializes Us reporting the results which have been placed beyond doubt by a fresh inquest instituted in a capital case. In the matter of the decease of the man Koh P'in-lien, a denizen of the Yü-hang district in Chehkiang, it was declared on the inquest originally held by the District Magistrate that the death of Koh P'in-lien had been caused by the administration of poison. It has now been ascertained, on the renewed inquest instituted by the Board, that the death was positively due to natural causes and not to poison. We command that Liu Sih-tung, the Magistrate of the Yü-hang District, who has returned a false verdict at an inquest held by him, be forthwith stripped of his rank; and we at the same time command the Board of Punishments to summon before it the witnesses in this case, and to ascertain by process of trial whether the proceedings at the investigation held in the provincial court were wilfully misconducted—what was the nature of the complaint which caused the death of Koh P'in-lien,—and for what reasons the wife of the deceased, Koh Pi-she, and the other prisoners, have falsely confessed the commission of the crime with which they are charged; on which being done, the Board is to pronounce sentence and lay a report of its decision before Us.

(2) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Censorate, forwarding an appeal lodged by one Kwoh Tien-yüan as representative of a person named Chang Chêng-yüan, a native of Jeh-ho, who has been stripped of his rank as licentiate, complaining against the authorities for extortionate assessments upon the people, and for bringing grievous trouble upon individuals. From memorials heretofore presented by Jui-lien, the deputy Military Governor at Jeh-ho, it appears that the two men above named are rogues of the first water at the Hunting Grounds, where they have leagued themselves with officials in special employ and have contrived to lay hold of tracts of valuable land and to impose extortionate assessments upon the people. Their banishment had been proposed; and on the present complaint being lodged by them, the newly appointed deputy Military Governor, Yen Hü, is commanded to institute a searching investigation, and, should proof be elicited of false statements having been made by the complainants, to punish them in the most rigorous manner.

(3 and 4) Decrees appointing Hu T'u-li 瑚圖禮 to the post of chief Director of the Sacrificial Court, and Chow Kia-mei 周家楣 (Senior chief Secretary of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs) to the post of vice-Director of the Court of Judicature.

(5) K'i Yüan, acting Governor-General of Shêng-king, and his chief subordinates, memorialize representing that the notables of Moukden have requested sanction for the erection of a temple in honour of three devoted statesmen, recently deceased, whose virtues are gratefully remembered among the people at large. They are the late acting Governor-General, Ts'ung-shih, his predecessor Tu-hing-ah, and the Grand Secretary Wên-siang. Sanction is requested for enrolling their names on the list for periodical sacrifices.—Granted by rescript.

Jan. 30th.—(1) Li Ho-nien, Director General of the Yellow River, memorializes with reference to the annual supply of funds required for the purchase of materials used toward keeping the embankments in repair. According to the instructions heretofore issued by the Board of Works, with Imperial sanction, the sum of Tls. 85,000 should be provided yearly by the province of Honan for this purpose, but of late years the amount in question has been reduced to Tls. 65,000. It has to be observed that whilst dykes are constructed in order to confine the waters of the river,

abutments (or groynes 埝) are required to give protection to the dykes. The material principally used for revetting 壩 the surface of the abutments is millet stalks; and according to regulation, funds should be issued in September of each year, for the purchase of this material immediately after the harvest. Owing to financial difficulties, it was arranged some years ago that 4/10ths of the amount required should be issued before the end of each year, and the remainder in the following spring. Applications having now been received from the two Taotais in charge of the upper and lower divisions of the works, the provincial exchequer has been called upon to provide the amount of Tls. 40,000 for the one and Tls. 25,000 for the other, to be expended in the manner above described.

(2) The acting Governor of Shantung memorializes with reference to the requirements of the coming year on behalf of the Yellow River and Canal works. A despatch has been received from the Board of Revenue, stating that the quota of grain from Kiang-peh is to be brought up next year, as before, by the Canal; and directing that timely measures be taken for dredging the sections that have become silted up. The memorialist proceeds to represent the serious diminution in the available depth of water in the Canal, which is the result of the silt deposited by the waters of the Yellow River, and furthermore the insecurity of the new embankments, several hundreds of li in extent, on the south side of the Yellow River, which have to withstand the whole force of the current, and the maintenance of which in a state of due efficiency can only be secured by the exercise of constant watchfulness and energy on the part of the officials and labourers employed in the embankment services, and the command of sufficient materials for periodical repair. The memorialist proposes very shortly to make a thorough inspection of the works in person; and in order to meet the pressing requirements of the moment he has ordered the sum of Tls. 100,000 to be provided by the Grain Intendant of the province, from any available funds in reserve.

Jan. 31st.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the office of the Peking Field Force (*Shên-ki-ying*,) which has reported that the late Superintendent of Customs at Canton, Wên T'ien, has contributed a supply of arms at his own expense. By way of reward, he is placed on

the list of deputy Lieutenant-Generals for employment.

(2) A Decree. The Vice-President Yüan Pao-hêng has memorialized Us proposing to convert the Governorship of Fuhkien into the Governorship of Formosa, and to place the administration of the province of Fuhkien in the hands of the Governor-General alone. Let the departments concerned consider and report hereupon.

Feb. 1st.—(Court Circular.) The Minister Li Hung-tsoo returned thanks for the bestowal of a title of canonization on his grandfather.—Ying Han, Lieutenant-General of Urumtsi, had audience of leave.

A Decree. The overflowing abundance of the State's compassionate regard is diffused over every part of the Imperial dominion; and anxiety prevails by day and night in the earnest care that is bestowed upon the welfare of the people. No sooner are reports received from the high provincial authorities respecting visitations of flood or drought, than manifestations of bounty are at once vouchsafed, with the hope of alleviating the efforts of the masses. From the time when the provinces in general became afflicted by outbreaks of brigandage, the population has declined, the prosperity of former times has failed to re-establish itself in its integrity, and the people at large have been crippled in their means of livelihood. In the retirement of Our palace, constant has been the grief that has silently borne sway. During the course of the present year, provinces such as Chihli, Shantung, Honan, Kiangsu, and Ngan-hwei have been afflicted with drought, whilst others, such as Kiangsi, Fuhkien, and Chêhkiang have experienced disastrous floods. The sufferings of the famine-stricken population, overwhelmed with misery and driven to abandon their homes, are before all things deserving of commiseration. Eminently it is the duty of all authorities holding jurisdiction over the regions affected to exert every effort to afford relief, in reverent sympathy with the benevolent intention of their Sovereign; but, although officials who strive to adhere to a rule of righteous conduct and devote themselves thoroughly to the interests of the people are indeed not wanting, there are at the same time inevitably others, unworthy occupants of the office of district governors, who make their public duties a cloak for the pursuit of private ends, and who are callous to the embarrassments of the people. Nay, there are even those who

unjustly wrest the law to purposes of selfish gain, who, in defiance of regulation, demand excessive imposts, who in some cases refrain from making due report of natural calamities, whereby the sufferings of the people are kept from reaching the ears of those in authority, and who, in others, by concealing the actual facts, enforce the collection of taxes in despite of the remissions or postponements granted, thus causing the poor to be debarred from the bounty vouchsafed on their behalf. Practices such as these are deserving of the profoundest abhorrence. We lay Our injunctions hereby upon the Manchu Generals, Governors-General, and Governors of all the provinces, to set aside partiality or favouritism, and to institute active measures of supervision, denouncing to Us forthwith for punishment any instances of abuse such as those herein referred to, and holding it as an essential requirement that the masses of the people be reached by the bounteousness of Our grace, and be enabled to attend in comfort to the avocations of their livelihood, in this wise corresponding to the regard that is cherished for the people's welfare. Both the general popula-

tion and religious proselytes (民教) are equally the Sovereign's children, and no invidious distinctions were at the outset drawn between them. Let the provincial governments (as aforesaid) give orders to all subordinate authorities that in all disputes which may be brought forward for judicial settlement, it is incumbent upon them to deal with the question in an equitable manner, distinguishing only between right and wrong, and not distinguishing between the general population and the proselytes, but pronouncing their decisions with due promptitude. Let not the least approach to partiality be indulged in, or protracted delays be interposed, thus involving in inconvenience the parties on both sides. Let this Decree be promulgated for their information. (N.B.—The phrase *min kiao*, used in the foregoing memorial, is appropriated by conventional usage to distinguish the Chinese people in general and those among them who are professors of Christianity. The present Decree is remarkable as being the first spontaneous acknowledgment of the rights of persons belonging to the category.)

Feb. 2nd-3rd.—(N.B.—From this date until ten days after the Chinese New-Year, the *Gazette* will be published on alternate days only.)

(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Governor-General and Governor of Yünnan, who have reported the trial held and sentences pronounced upon the civil and military officials guilty of allowing the cities of T'êng-yüeh (Momein), etc., to be captured by rebels. After the city of T'êng-yüeh had been seized by the trainbands in league with certain lawless revolvers, which event was followed by the loss in succession of Shun-ning and Yüu Chow, and on the recovery of these places by the provincial forces, the civil and military officials concerned were brought to the provincial capital to be dealt with. Those whose offence in voluntarily submitting to the revolvers was of the graver class, to wit, Chêng K'ai-yüan, the officer already stripped of his rank as captain in the T'êng-yüeh command, and Hu Chang-gao, late acting captain in the Shun-ning command, have already suffered the extreme penalty of the law after due process of trial by Liu Ch'ang-yao and his colleague. Let the Board of Punishments take into consideration and report upon the sentences propounded in the case of the remaining officials.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang memorializes reporting that Mei K'i-chao, the Lieutenant-Governor (*Fan-tai*) at Nanking, who has served already two triennial periods in his present office, had handed over his post to the successor appointed to take temporary charge of his duties, and was about to leave for Peking to have audience, in fulfilment of an Imperial Decree permitting this.

Feb. 4th and 5th.—(1) A Decree, in answer to a memorial from the Board of Civil Office, requesting an expression of the Imperial pleasure in the case of the son of Hwang Choh, the lately appointed Provincial Literary Chancellor of Chêh-kiang, who is employed under the Government of the same province. It is decreed that Hwang Suh-ch'ang, the individual in question, be required to remove into another jurisdiction.

(2) The Censor Chang Kwan-chun memorializes calling attention to the distress prevailing in the province of Shansi in consequence of the drought of the past season, and exposing the impropriety of conduct which has in recent times become habitual with the district Magistrates, in concealing the fact of impending scarcity from their superiors. Whether from want of courage or want of will, this constantly takes place, the motive in general being a desire to put a false gloss on the state of affairs. The reports of travellers from

Shansi represent the state of the afflicted districts as worse than anything that has been known for ten or fifteen years, and the distress of the population is aggravated by their dread of the enforcement of taxation, to meet which they are driven to the necessity of selling their wives and children and mortgaging their landed property and houses. Unless measures be promptly taken to afford relief to the destitute, outbreaks of brigandage may be apprehended; and it is solicited that the Governor of Shansi be commanded to cause enquiry to be made respecting the population actually in distress, and to cause a distribution of food to be undertaken under the supervision of officials and respectable residents. (For rescript see *Gazette* of January 22nd.)

Feb. 6th-7th.—(Court Circular.) Ting Pao-ch'ung, Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, had audience of leave.

(1) A decree permitting Hi Yüan, Manchu General at Hang-chow, to come to Peking for audience. The Lieutenant-General, Tsi Luh, is appointed to act in his absence.

(2) The Governor of Shensi memorializes reporting the trial and sentence of a criminal guilty of the murder of two persons, a husband and wife. The prisoner, Chang Si-lin, was a native of the district of Ch'u, and had lived as neighbour to the daughter-in-law of the murdered persons, before her marriage with their son. It appears that a guilty connection had subsisted between the two before the marriage of the girl, and this had been continued at intervals after her marriage, on the occasions of her visits to her mother's house. Her mother-in-law remonstrated with her upon her conduct, and on one occasion struck her. A short time afterwards she met her paramour, to whom she complained of the treatment she had received, and Chang Si-lin hereupon resolved to carry her off by an elopement, in order to continue the gratification of his guilty attachment. He accordingly agreed with the woman that he should secretly await her that night behind her house; and at the appointed hour, leaving her husband asleep, she stole away at midnight with Chang Si-lin. The pair were pursued on discovery resulting the next morning, and they were tracked by the parents, a month later, to a temple in an adjacent district. The absconding wife was recovered, but her paramour escaped, notwithstanding the efforts of the Magistrate's police to apprehend him; but, fearing eventual arrest, and full of resentment

at the loss of his paramour, he determined to revenge himself by the murder of her husband's father, Tai Siang-lan. With this intent, he entered Tai Siang-lan's house at noon on the 9th June last, armed with a sword, and taking his victim at unawares, stabbed him in the abdomen. The wife of the wounded man was attracted to the spot by his cries, and she likewise was stabbed and hacked by Chang Si-lin, who dealt similar wounds to the daughter-in-law, his paramour, also, on her coming likewise to the rescue. The elder couple died of the injuries inflicted upon them, but their daughter-in-law has recovered; and the murderer, having been captured in the act, has been placed on trial, together with the daughter-in-law. The sentence passed upon Chang Si-lin, in conformity with the law, is decapitation without postponement for farther revision; and upon Tai Liang-she, his paramour, the penalty of death by strangulation, as the penalty prescribed by the statute in the case of murder of a parent in consequence of illicit sexual relations on the part of a son or daughter, is similarly pronounced.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report hereupon without delay.

Feb. 8th-9th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Censor Wang Hin, who has solicited the severe punishment of high officials guilty of arbitrary conduct and corrupt partiality in adjudicating a criminal case of a serious nature. The Censor has stated that, in the case concerning the decease of Koh P'in-lien, a native of the district of Yü-hang in Chên-kiang, the law has been set at nought from motives of corrupt partiality, and depositions have been fabricated by the Governor of the Province, Yang Ch'ang-sün, before whom the case was tried in the first instance, and by the Literary Chancellor Hu Jui-lan, who held a subsequent trial on appeal, and he entreats a rescript awarding severe punishment in their case.—In a matter so grave as a judicial inquiry affecting questions of life and death, there can be no more obvious duty on the part of judges, or of high officers specially appointed to investigate the case, than that of bringing the most earnest efforts to bear upon the process of trial, to the end that the objects of impartial justice may be secured. Cases such as that at present in question are exceedingly numerous throughout the Empire; and the elucidation of the actual facts must depend entirely upon the thoroughness with which the officials placed in the

position of judges devote themselves to the task of scrutiny. In no wise is it admissible that they should choose to palter with the truth and to trifle with a question of life and death. In the present case, a further inquest has already been held by the Board of Punishments, from which it has appeared that the depositions taken at the original trial were in great measure devoid of foundation. Let the Board of Punishments now institute a searching investigation, with a view to eliciting the reasons which led to the want of good faith in the conduct of the original trial, in order that the actual facts may be discovered without the slightest evasion or concealment. Our pleasure shall be further declared with reference to the penalties incurred by Yang Ch'ang-sün and Hu Jui-lan, when the case shall have been finally disposed of by the Board of Punishments.

(2) The Governor of Yünnan memorializes with reference to a case of bigamy that has lately been dealt with, affecting an official named K'ang Ts'ung-k'i, holding rank as probationer for appointment to the office of Prefect's Secretary. He is a native of Sze-ch'wan, who obtained his present rank by purchase in 1871, and was promoted to the 6th grade for services rendered at the capture of Yung-ch'ang in 1873. Having been complained against by a woman named Fêng Chow-she, he has been placed on trial, and the following facts have been elicited:—In 1872, the defendant sent a servant to his home in Sze-ch'wan, to bring his family to join him in Yünnan, but his wife, being in bad health, was unable to undertake the journey. K'ang Ts'ung-k'i hereupon, having no male offspring, bethought himself of assuming a secondary wife (concubine), and he applied to a neighbour named Hu P'u-shan and a woman named Chêng Chang-she to act as go-betweens. These persons were aware that the woman Fêng Chow-she had a daughter, Fêng-she, who had lost her husband and, being without means of support, was desirous of marrying again. They therefore applied to her; but Fêng Chow-she declined to allow her daughter to become a concubine. The go-betweens, having reported this to defendant, he falsely stated to them that his first wife was dead, and he agreed to take Fêng-she as his wife in second marriage. This was agreed to on the other side, and defendant then drew up a contract and marriage certificate, 合同婚書, which he sent to Fêng Chow-she. On the 29th December,

1872, Fêng-she entered his house as his wife; but on the 10th May, 1873, his first wife, who had recovered from her illness, arrived at Yünnan Fu. Upon this, K'ang Ts'ung-k'i, fearing that disagreements would ensue between the two, determined to send Fêng-she back to her mother, to marry again or not as she might choose; and having written out a bill of renunciation of marriage, he persuaded Fêng Chow-she to take back her daughter. Fêng-she was by this time already with child, and she gave birth to a boy on the 27th January, 1874. On the 8th June last, defendant went to Fêng Chow-she's house and carried off the child, against the consent of the woman; and the present suit was consequently lodged. The law is to the effect that "any one who, being already married to a wife (*ts'i*), shall marry another woman as wife, shall suffer the penalty of ninety blows, and the woman shall be separated from him." The defendant in the present case is adjudged to have incurred the penalty prescribed by law; but in virtue of his privilege as an official functionary, it becomes the duty of the provincial government to memorialize and request that a penalty be decided upon in his case by the Board of Civil office. The woman Fêng-she is by law required to be separated from him and returned to her family. This having already taken place, her case requires no farther consideration. The child is given to defendant to be brought up by him. The other parties to the case, including the mother, go-betweens, &c., are dismissed; and the decision arrived at is submitted for approval. Rescript: Let the Boards concerned consider and report to Us.

Feb. 10th-11th.—(Court Circular.)—The Board of Ceremonies reported on the 10th instant, that the Envoys from Corea have arrived at Peking. N.B.—This is the annual tribute mission.

(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Governor of Shansi, who has reported in detail the particulars relating to the districts afflicted by drought, requesting postponements of taxation on their behalf. Postponements of the levy of the amounts due for 1876 are accordingly granted, the collection to take place after the current year's harvest.

(2) The Governor of Chêlikiang memorializes reporting the result of a trial held with reference to a case of homicide caused by a military officer in unauthorizedly effecting the arrest of a criminal.

Feb. 12th-13th.—(Court Circular.) 12th. Chinese New-Year's Eve. The Prince of

Tun and others returned thanks for the gift of purses bestowed on them. His Majesty will go out to-morrow morning at 4 a.m. by the K'ien Ts'ing Gate and proceed by the King Yün Gate to the Fêng Sien Tien (the Hall of Worship of the Imperial ancestry) to perform the ceremonial of worship, and thence return by the same road into the Palace. At 7.30 a.m. His Majesty will proceed through the Hwa Yün and Shên Wu Gates to the Ta Kao Tien to offer worship, proceeding thence by the eastern side Gate to the West Gate of the King Shan park, to offer worship in the Show Hwang Tien. Thence, by the western path, His Majesty will leave the Park by the Peh Shang Gate and return into the Palace by the Shên Wu and Hwa Yün Gates.—13th, New-year's day. The Prince of Tun and others returned thanks for gifts of embroidered purses. The Imperial Board of Astronomers reported that the wind set from the Kên (N.E.) quarter, presaging a year of superior prosperity.

(1) A Decree. The Governor-General Shên Pao-chêng and the Governor of Kiangsu, Wu Yün-ping, memorialize stating that the Taotai [of Shanghai] asks leave to resign his office, and requesting that he be granted a period of leave instead of this. They state that Fêng Tsün-kwang, Intendant of the Su Sung Tai Circuit, has requested leave to resign his office in order that he may be enabled to proceed to lli to bring back the coffin containing the remains of his father, who died there while undergoing banishment. We ordain as a special act of grace that Fêng Tsün-kwang be not required to vacate his office, but be granted leave of absence for one year. Let the high authorities aforesaid select an officer to discharge the duties of his post. Let the proper Board take note.

(2) 14th-15th.—A Decree. Let King-lien do duty as a member of the Grand Council. (N.B.—King-lien, President of the Censorate and lately appointed a member of the Yamên of Foreign Affairs, was admitted to the Grand Council as a "probationer" 學習行走 by decree of the 9th April last. He now becomes a full member.)

(3) A decree ordaining that the late district Magistrate of T'oo-yün in Kiangsu be stripped of his rank and office on impeachment by the Governor-General Shên Pao-chêng. He is accused of having failed to report the actual facts in connection with the suicide of a widow named Chu Chow-she after suffering robbery. An

honorary distinction is to be conferred upon the deceased.

(4) A decree cashiering certain Manchu military officers of the province of Kirin, who are accused by a petition lodged with the Censorate of keeping a gambling house at the town of Ak'ch'uk'êh, and commanding that they be brought to trial.

Feb. 16th-17th.—(1) A Decree. Wên Kêh, acting Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, has reported to Us the despatch of timbers from the province in charge of a special officer, and solicits that orders be given to all officials on the line of his journey to afford whatever assistance may be needful. The memorial states that the timbers required for the lantern-masts of the Temple of Heaven having now been obtained, the Magistrate of the Wu-shan district, together with a special delegate named Chwang Sze-hêng, has been appointed to attend to the work of transportation. They set out on their journey on the 26th January last, from Kia-ting Fu in Sze-ch'wan, and would drop down the Yangtze to Shanghai, whence they are to embark for Tientsin. Orders are given to all provincial authorities to render such assistance as may be needful. (N.B.—In the *Gazette* for Oct. 9th, 1874, these lantern-masts were first referred to, a Magistrate having been drowned, after two years' unremitting labour, in conveying the timbers he had procured down a mountain torrent. See also *Gazette* of Dec. 28th, 1874, on the further quantity of timbers then required for the purpose of replacing losses.)

(2) A Decree. Sung Kwei, Resident at Lassa, memorializes Us requesting the appointment of an official he has selected to the post of *Kalun*. Let the *Taipêng* Cha-hi-ta-kieh 札喜達結 succeed to the vacant post of *Kalun*. Let the Yamên concerned take note. (N.B.—The *Kalun*, or *Kabun*, 噶布倫, are the chief Ministers of the native Government of Tibet. They are four in number. The *Taipêng*, 載臻, six in number, are the principal military officers of Tibet.)

(3) Yang Yü-k'o, bearer of a button of the first rank, on the list for promotion to the rank of provincial General, late acting General-in-chief of Yünnan, lately relieved of the appointment of Brigadier-General of the Yeo Kiang command in Kwangsi, memorializes reporting having given over the seal of office of the General-in-chief of Yünnan to Hu Chung-ho, the officer appointed to that post. He begins by referring to the acting appointment

conferred upon him on application made in April, 1875, by the late acting Governor-General Ts'ên Yü-ying. After taking the seal of office he proceeded in person to T'êng-yüeh (Momein), to instruct and organize the soldiery and to take measures, in obedience to the Imperial commands, for providing for the defence of the frontier. A short time afterwards, a revolt took place in T'êng-ch'wan, incited by lawless evildoers, and the memorialist proceeded with his force to quell this outbreak, which he happily succeeded in doing. Subsequently to this, he received the Imperial decree appointing him to the post of Brigadier-General of Yeo Kiang in Kwangsi. On hearing the command from Heaven, he was struck aghast with reverential awe; but as it happened at this time that an old wound broke out afresh, and he was fearful of occasioning a loss of time through the difficulty of his recovering sufficiently to proceed to his post, he wrote to request the Governor-General Liu Ch'ang-yeo to memorialize for permission to him to vacate this appointment, and for the bestowal of a period of congé for the benefit of his health. He likewise requested that an officer might be delegated to take over from him the seal of office as General-in-chief. A revolt having broken out, however, at T'êng-yüeh, Shun-ning, and the adjacent region, he was desired to proceed to the spot, as the newly-appointed General-in-chief had not yet arrived; and he accordingly hastened to the scene of action in despite of his illness, and succeeded in recovering the cities which had been seized by the revolvers. In the meanwhile he was permitted, by decree, to vacate his appointment to the command in Kwangsi. After the complete reestablishment of order on the frontier he proceeded on public business to Yünnan Fu in the middle of November, and as Hu Chung-ho, the newly-appointed General-in-chief, had by the same time arrived at the provincial capital, he handed over the seal of office to him on the 23rd of that month. He proceeds to recapitulate the nature of his services for the last twenty years in the military service in Yünnan, and concludes by stating that, so soon as his health shall be restored, he will proceed to Peking and prostrate himself in the dust before the palace portals to receive the sacred instructions and to solicit further employment.—Rescript: It is noted.

Feb. 18th-19th.—(1-7) Decrees conferring the following appointments:—

a.—Ying-kwei 英桂, from Assistant Grand Secretary, to become Grand Secretary (*Ta Hieh-She*); and to be relieved of his offices of Captain-General of the Gendarmerie and Comptroller of the Imperial Household.

b.—Tsai Ling 載齡, from President of the Board of Revenue to become President of the Board of Civil office and Assistant Grand Secretary (*Hieh-pan Ta Hieh-She*.)

c.—Kw'ei Ling 魁齡 to be transferred from the Presidentship of the Board of Works to that of the Board of Revenue; and to be succeeded by King Lien 景廉.

d.—Ts'üan K'ing 全慶 to become President of the Censorate (vice King Lien.)

e.—Ch'ang Sü to succeed Ts'üan King as Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies. K'ing Fuh to take his place as acting Vice-President of the Board of War.

f.—Yung Luh 榮祿 to succeed to the post of Captain-General of the Gendarmerie, and Ch'êng Lin to be advanced to the post of senior Lieutenant-General. The post of junior Lieutenant-General is conferred upon Wên Siu.

g.—Mow Lin 茂林 is appointed to the post of Comptroller of the Imperial Household.

(8) The Board of Punishments memorializes reporting the result of the farther trial and new inquest held in the case of Koh P'in-lien, alleged to have been poisoned by his wife Koh Pih-she. In obedience to the commands received in this case the Board had summoned before it the Magistrate of the Yü-hang district, Liu Sih-tung, who acknowledged that [at the first inquest held by him] owing to momentary negligence, he had not made use of the extract of *tsao kioh* (*Gleditschia*) and cleansed the silver probing-needle. The Board farther addressed a communication to the Governor-General of Chihli, requesting him to place at its disposal an experienced examiner of corpses; but to this request a reply was received stating that no specially qualified person of this class was to be found in the province. The Board consequently selected an experienced examiner from among those present at Peking, and proceeded on the 22nd January to hold an inquest on the remains of the deceased, in the Hai Hwei Temple outside the Eastern Gate of the city. In the presence of the

principal accused person, Koh Pi-she, the mother of the deceased, Shên Yü-she, the neighbours Wang and Yü, the Magistrate and examiner who had held the original inquest, and the police authorities of the suburbs, the coffin containing the remains of Koh P'in-lien was carried forth and deposited upon a clear and level space of ground, where it was opened. On examination, it was seen that the fleshy integument of the body had perished by decomposition, and orders were thereupon given to take out the bones and subject them to the tests prescribed by rule. The examiners Sün I and Lien Shun shouted forth, upon this, the following report:—"We find in the remains of Koh P'in-lien that there is no reddish exfoliation on the surface of the skull; that the upper and lower bones of the mouth, the teeth, jawbones, hands, feet, fingers, toes, nails, and joints, are all of a yellowish-white colour; it is only in the neighbourhood of the sternum that a darkish yellow is seen, which is due to infiltration of the blood; throughout the remainder of the body the bones, of all sizes, are of a yellowish white, shewing no signs of the effect of poison; and our verdict is that death in this case was caused by disease and not by poison." The Board has to observe hereupon that on reference to the records of this case, it appears that the District Magistrate of Yü-hang rendered it as his verdict at the first inquest that deceased came by his death from the effects of poison—a statement altogether at variance with the result of the present inquest. The examiners Sün I and Lien Shun declare that, had poison been present in the system, the jaws, breast bone, hands, and feet, should present a greenish-black appearance, whereas the colour now observed is yellowish white. This proves that the death was due to ordinary disease. Their declaration is in accordance with the statements of the *Si Yüan Luh* (Coroners' Manual.) The colour declared by the said examiners having been verified by close inspection on the part of the Board, together with the District Magistrate and the examiner employed at the original inquest, the official form of inquest-finding was drawn up on the spot, and written declarations taken from the examiners, witnesses, and police-officials present at the proceedings. The District Magistrate Liu Sih-tung farther made statement under his own hand to the following effect:—"At the inquest held by me in the first instance, the examination made of the remains was inaccurate, owing to decom-

position having set in; and the fact of blood issuing from the mouth and nostrils, and of greenish-black blisters being observed on the surface of the body, was taken as a proof that red arsenic had been taken. On the present examination being held, at which I have personally assisted, it has been proved that deceased came by his death not through poison but from the effects of disease. This I have ascertained by ocular demonstration, and I have nothing to say to the contrary." These proceedings having been completed, the Board caused the remains to be restored to the coffin, which, having been sealed up once more, was handed back to the custody of the police authorities. The Board has farther to request that the District Magistrate Liu Sih-tung, who is guilty of having returned an untruthful finding at an inquest, be stripped of his rank by decree; and a farther trial shall be proceeded with to ascertain whether any wilful malpractices were indulged in during the earlier stages of the judicial enquiry, as also to elicit the nature of the disease of which Koh P'in-lien in reality died, and for what reasons Koh Pi-she and the other prisoners have made false confessions of the commission of crime. This having been done, sentences will be submitted according to the law. The present memorial is in the meanwhile laid before the Throne.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 29th January.

(9) Hu Chung-ho, newly appointed General-in-chief of Yünnan, reports having taken over the seal of office from the acting incumbent, Yang Yü-ko, on the 23rd November last. In the customary reference to his own incapacity and the importance of his duties, he refers to the fact that the province borders, on the West, upon Burmah, which is in direct contact with the outer seas; as also to the causes of possible disturbance present among the numerous aboriginal tribes. On his arrangements being completed he will leave the provincial capital to take up his residence at his proper post at Ta-li Fu.

Feb. 20th-21st.—(1) The Censorate memorializes forwarding two appeals lodged by Chang Chên-yüan and Kwoh Tien-yüan, tenants of Government land in the Hunting Grounds near Jehho, complaining of oppressive exactions on the part of the authorities, against charges on whose part of illegal conduct against themselves they likewise protest. They state that in the Spring of 1874 an officer sent by the Military Lieutenant-Governor

at Jehho made his appearance in the Hunting Ground, and gave the cultivators and tenants settled on the land notice to remove within three days, failing which, they were warned, they would be burnt out. Upon this a thousand or more of the inhabitants came together in a state of alarm at the station where the official had taken up his abode, and remained there for three or four days. The official, dreading a possible disturbance, desired the two appellants to admonish the people, and this they did in obedience to the commands thus laid upon them. They appealed to the people's feelings, and assured them that the officer sent by the Government would provide them with allotments elsewhere in compensation for the lands from which they would be ousted. The assemblage dispersed in consequence of what appellants stated to them; and a protest is now entered against the misrepresentation by which this action on their part has been described as interference with a view to their own profit. After the occurrence described above had taken place, the official delegate proceeded into the Hunting Ground, and, without making any allotments to the dispossessed persons, brought in a detachment of drilled troops to drive them out by force. When allotments were subsequently undertaken to be distributed, this was done with so little regard to justice that a person who had influence would receive a *k'ing* (100 *mow*) of land and be registered only as the possessor of 80 *mow*, whereas to an applicant without influence 80 *mow* would be reckoned as a *k'ing*. Frauds of various descriptions were perpetrated in the issue of the land-warrants, to such an extent that the registry-clerk employed, Su T'eng-lung by name, obtained a sum of upwards of Tls. 2,000 in silver and Tls. 2,500 worth of opium, over and above the amounts placed in his hands as Government deposits by the cultivators. Other instances of rapacity and oppression are accounted; and appellants now seek redress against the misrepresentations of their conduct upon which they have been condemned to severe punishment and to forfeiture of their lands. The Censorate, in submitting this appeal, refers to a memorial from the late Military Lieutenant-Governor, who has described appellants as the most notorious pests of the Hunting Grounds, and has solicited their banishment to the extreme south-western frontier to undergo military servitude.—For receipt, rejecting the appeal, see *Gazette* of 29th January.

Feb. 22nd-23rd.—(Court Circular.) Mei K'i-chao, Lieutenant-Governor at Nanking, paid his respects on arrival at Peking, and had audience.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Pao T'ing, a Tutor of the State Academy of Learning, who has submitted with due respect his views on the following subjects. (1) He represents that of late years the diffusion of unholy teachings have become extremely rife in Kiangsu, Chêh-kiang, and other provinces, and he requests that commands be given for the public expounding of the Sacred Edict, in order that the teachings of true morality may be upheld. The preaching of the Homilies of the Sacred Edict is a duty the active performance of which is required in fulfilment of an illustrious ordinance, which, however, has come in too many instances of late to be regarded as a dead letter by the provincial authorities, whose compliance with it has been merely nominal. We hereby enjoin upon the Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, the Police-Censors of the capital, and the Governors-General, Governors, and Literary Chancellors of all the provinces that they do issue orders to the officials and notables within their respective jurisdictions to shew active obedience to the rule prevailing in this respect, without any approach to laxity. Let them also take such steps as they may find necessary with reference to the establishment of preaching stations and other matters relating thereto. On a former occasion We issued injunctions to the Commanders-in-chief of the forces throughout the empire, and to the high provincial authorities, directing them to recommend to Our notice any officials specially endowed with military talent, reporting the exact classification of their several gifts, the officials thus reported upon to be placed on lists for employment, with the object of providing a reserve of candidates for military trusts. The proposition which the Tutor now memorializing Us advances, to wit, that a special branch of the public examinations should be instituted, on the principle of that of the Universal Competitions (instituted under the earlier reigns of the present dynasty), and that civilian ranks should be bestowed upon the candidates examined in the military art, is in all respects impracticable, and We command that it receive no further notice. The former injunctions to the high officials aforesaid are now renewed. The memorialist's proposal that all recommendations laid before the Throne with reference to improvement in the adminis-

tration be made public, whether they be found admissible or not, is rejected, as by no means conducive to the encouragement of good advice; but the attention of all officials of the government is recalled to the Decree of the Empresses Regent, issued on the 27th January, 1875, in which they invite expressions of opinion on all subjects relating to the public service.—With regard to the observation contained in a postscript Memorial, in which the Tutor states that, according to general report, a great illumination is about to be held, for which purpose an immense number of lanterns have been manufactured, it has to be remarked that at the present moment, whilst the obsequies of his late Majesty and of the Empress his consort are still pending, and the country at large has suffered under repeated visitations of flood and drought, entailing distress and misery upon the people, it is out of the question that the Palace, troubled day and night with sorrow and anxiety, should abandon itself to frivolous amusements. Their Majesties the Empresses have heretofore already laid stringent injunctions upon Our personal attendants, and We decree it unlikely that they would venture to attempt a practice of this kind. What the Tutor has heard, it is evident, is an erroneous report. Let this be promulgated for the information of all, at the capital and in the provinces. (Note.—The Sacred Edict, it is well known, is a treatise on moral, political, and social obligations which was composed by the Emperor K'ang Hi, and expanded by order of his son the Emperor Yung Ch'eng. into eight homilies in familiar language, one of which should be read on the 1st and 15th of each month in every city of the Empire. Scarcely a year passes without a recommendation and injunctions appearing to this effect; but the faith of the local officials in the efficacy of the proceeding is usually too weak to ensure compliance with the order.—The rumour of intended illuminations in the Palace, on the occasion of the Feast of Lanterns, which has evoked the disapproval recorded above, was perhaps not unfounded.)

(2) Yang Yoh-pin, Inspector-General of the Military Forces on the Yangtze, reports that his son, Yang Ch'eng-i, an expectant Taotai on the staff of the province of Yünnan, whom he has been permitted to retain with him for duty for the last three years, is now about to proceed to Yünnan to await employment, as the regulations require.

Feb. 24th-25th.—(1) A decree. The coffin containing the remains of Ts'ung-shih, late President of the Board of Punishments and acting Military Governor of Sh'eng-king, having now arrived at Peking, We command the *beil'eh* Tsai Ch'eng to proceed at the head of ten officers of Our guards to offer a funeral libation in testimony of Our affectionate remembrance of a devoted servant.

(2) Prince Peh-yen-na-mó-hu, General-in-chief of the Peking field force, memorializes reporting that W'ên T'ien, the late Superintendent of Customs at Canton, has offered the following contribution of arms for the use of the force, viz:—360 repeating rifles 快槍; 440 rifles; 102,000 metallic cartridges; 40,000 bullets; 400 boxes percussion caps; 450 flasks gunpowder; and 360 cartouche-belts. These munitions, which the Superintendent purchased during his tenure of office at Canton, are now deposited with the China Merchants' Steamship Company at Tientsin; and the Superintendent requests that the Governor-General of Chihli be applied to for their delivery. The Prince recommends the public-spirited donor to the favourable notice of their Majesties. (For rescript see *Gazette* of Jan. 31st.)

(3) The Governor-General and Governor of Yünnan memorialize reporting the trial held and sentences pronounced in the case of the civil and military officials responsible for the capture by rebels of the cities of T'êng-yüeh, Shun-ning, and Yün Chow. The Taotai of the Western Circuit, Ch'ên Sih-chên, had sent up in custody the late acting sub-Prefect of T'êng-yüeh, Chow Wei-süan 周維巽, and the acting Jail Warden of the sub-Prefecture, Ch'eng Ting-ts'ai, whilst the acting General-in-chief Yang Yü-k'o had, on his part, sent forward 12 military officers, from the rank of lieutenant-colonel downward, and the civil and military officials of Shun-ning have likewise been sent to the provincial capital by their respective superiors. After preliminary hearings, the delinquents were arraigned on the 9th November before the Governor-General and the Governor, when the depositions previously taken were confirmed. On the same day, the standing Imperial death warrant was reverently put in force, and the most culpable of the officials concerned, namely, Ch'eng K'ai-yian, acting captain and adjutant of the left battalion of the T'êng-yüeh brigade; and Hu Chan-ngao, acting captain of the Shun-yün command, were taken out

to the public execution ground and subjected forthwith to the extreme penalty of the law. The sentences pronounced on the other officials, together with their respective depositions, are submitted herewith to the Imperial decision. It has farther to be stated that the late acting Brigadier-General of T'eng-yüeh, Twan Jui-mei, died in camp after the recapture of the city, having taken fever in consequence of his wounds. Three other military officers are named as having died natural deaths.

(4) Wu Yüan-ping, Governor of Kiang-su, memorializes reporting the further apprehension of criminals guilty of unholy practices, and their execution after due process of trial; together with the fact that enquiry now shews all parts of the province to be free from offenders of this class, and the population to be enjoying its accustomed tranquillity. He has to state that in the fourth and fifth months of last year alarming rumours were circulated among the people concerning the cutting-off of queues and imprinting of marks on the body by "paper men," and with regard to black monsters which played the part of incubi [on sleeping persons]. The Governor hereupon sent immediate orders to all subordinate authorities to take measures privately for the arrest [of the individuals implicated] and to inflict severe punishment upon them. There were apprehended in July at the provincial capital (Soochow)

the wizard 妖民 Fêng A-T'u and others, who, after being delivered by command into the hands of the Prefect for trial, and on report received thereafter, were ordered to suffer the extreme penalty of the law. In addition to this, arrests of criminals guilty of unholy practices (邪匪) were reported from divers districts in both northern and southern Kiangsu; and in all cases in which authentic confessions (or, depositions) were elicited, instructions were given to inflict summary punishment on the spot, in order to discourage the criminal mind and set the popular anxiety at rest. The steps taken in this respect have already been reported to the Throne. Since this was done, the Magistrate of the Ch'ang-chow district, acting in concert with the Magistrates of the Kin-kw'ei and other districts, has effected the arrest of Hü A-Pao and his wife Hü Sü-she, who were declared in the confession of Fêng A-T'u, the man already executed, to have imparted to him the words of the incantation used and to have supplied him with the "paper man." These

prisoners having been forwarded to Soochow, they were delivered to the Prefect for trial; but conscious of the gravity of their offence, the statements to which they deposed were most stubbornly evasive. Upon this, under the Governor's directions, the Prefect of Soochow, Li Ming-yüan, with the District Magistrates and other officers acting under his orders, subjected the prisoners to repeated interrogations, continued without intermission even by night, instituting rigorous and searching enquiry in an unprejudiced spirit; as a result of which the woman Hü Sü-she at length made the following confession. She acknowledged having met a man whose name she did not know, and whose manner of speech was that of a person from distant parts, who gave her some foreign money and taught her the words of an incantation and how to send off the "paper men" to go and crush people. She told this to her husband, Hü A-Pao; and he, animated by the desire of gain, having agreed to make use of the incantation and send off the "paper men," communicated the secret to their acquaintance Fêng A-T'u. They communicated it to no one else besides. On the woman being confronted with Hü A-Pao, he made full confession to the same effect; and after it had been established by thrice repeated interrogatories that the confessions were truthful and the prisoners identified beyond doubt, the Provincial Judge, Léh Fang-k'i, caused them to be brought before himself and verified the proceedings by personal examination. On receiving his report, accompanied by a copy of the evidence taken, the Governor arrived at the conclusion that, in having been so bold as to follow the advice of an adept in unholy arts, in practising incantations, sending forth the "paper-men" to act the part of incubi, and communicating the secret to others, the guilt of the two prisoners is such as death can barely expiate. Their public execution could not with propriety be for an instant delayed. He gave orders forthwith to the Provincial Judge, directing him to cause Hü A-Pao and the woman Hü Sü-she to be subjected together to the extreme penalty of the law, and to cause the head of Hü A-Pao to be exhibited on a pole as a salutary warning. It is now ascertained on enquiry that the entire province is free from practitioners of unholy arts of this description, and that the population is in the enjoyment of its accustomed tranquillity, whereby grounds are afforded for allaying the anxieties of the Imperial mind. Active measures for the preservation of order and the apprehension of

offenders have been enjoined upon the district authorities, and not the slightest relaxation of vigilance will be allowed. The present memorial is reverently presented by the Governor in conjunction with the Governor-General of the two Kiang, Shên Pao-chêng; and the Imperial commands are respectfully awaited.—Rescript: It is noted.

(5) The Governor of Hupeh and [the Governor of Kiangsi] represent, in a post-script memorial, the services rendered in the shipment of the tribute grain to Peking by the officials acting as managers of the *Chao Shang Kûih* (China Merchants' Steamship Co.), viz., the Taotais Chu K'i-ngang and Shêng Süan-hwai, who have had the general management of the operation, and who have been indefatigable in the discharge of their duties. Other officials on the Board, viz., the expectant Taotais Chu K'i-chao, Sü Jun, and Tang T'ing-chu (Tong King-sing), have similarly distinguished themselves by their efforts; and the Celestial favour is besought for the allotment of appropriate rewards on their behalf.—In reply, the Grand Council has received the verbal command: "Perused."

(6) Yuan Pao-hêng, a Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, refers in a post-script memorial to the fact that the island of Formosa, although remotely situated on the maritime border of the Empire, is nevertheless abundant in natural riches, whilst at the same time its mixed population of Chinese and aborigines renders the task of Government so difficult that it imperatively requires the presence of a high officer of the Crown and of a strong military force. The system of requiring the Governor of Fuhkien to spend half the year in the island entails the objection that the administration of the provincial government cannot be properly carried on with its chief removed to such a distance. A precedent for a different arrangement is, however, suggested by the provinces of Chihli, Sze-ch'wan, and Kansuh, all of which are administered by Governors-General alone; and he submits for consideration the question whether the Governorship of Fuhkien might not be exchanged for that of Formosa as a permanent appointment.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 31st Jan.

Feb. 26th-27th.—(1) A Decree. Let Shên P'ei-hien 余培軒 succeed to the post of Prefect of K'iangchow Fu in Kwangtung.

(2) Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu Kwang, memorializes acknowledging the receipt at Ch'êng-tu Fu, the capital of Sze-ch'wan, on the 15th January, of the rescript issued in reply to his memorial of

the 8th December, 1876, reporting his arrival at that place (See *Gazette* of 8th January.) In obedience to the injunctions laid upon him, he has at once made preparations for the journey to take up his official duties in Hu Kwang, and as the water has at this season fallen to a quiet stage in the gorges of the Yangtsze, travel by that route will be the most rapid and convenient; and he intended, consequently, to set out by boat on the 24th January, and to proceed by way of Kia-ting, Sü-chow, Ch'ung-k'ing, and Kw'ei-chow Fu to his seat of government at Wu-ch'ang.

Feb. 28th.—March 1st.—(Court Circular.) The Yamèn of Gendarmerie reported the apprehension of Hoh Lung-wu and eleven others concerned in the plunder of a money-shop, and requested authority to hand them over to the Board of Punishments.—The Prince of Ch'un had audience on returning from the Western Mausolea. Kw'ei Ling, President of the Board of Revenue, and his colleagues, requested instructions on their departure to take their turn of residence at the Eastern Mausolea.—Shên P'ei-hien returned thanks for his appointment as Prefect of K'iangchow Fu.

(1) A Decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, &c., reports that the Provincial Judge requests leave to resign his office on the ground of ill-health. We command that Ch'êng Ting-k'ang be permitted to resign his office, and that She Nien-tsu 史念祖 be appointed to the post of Provincial Judge of Kansuh.

(2) A decree appointing Kw'ei Pin 奎斌 to the post of Taotai of the An-Suh Intendancy in Kansuh.

(3) A decree appointing Ling Kwei to act as President of the Board of Revenue, in addition to his own duties, during the absence of Kw'ei Ling at the Mausolea.

(4) The Governor of Shansi reports the escape of a prisoner under sentence of death, whilst being conveyed from one district to another. The excessive cold had prostrated the two head police-runners who were in charge of the party with illness, compelling them to put up for the night at an inn; and the prisoner seized an opportunity during this detention to break his fetters and escape. The usual enquiry is ordered.

March 2nd-3rd.—Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes recommending for honours and rewards the officers engaged under his direction last year, in superintending the construction of new embankment works on a portion of the course of the Yellow River. The portion

in question is on the south bank of the river, in the Tung-ning district, where the work previously accomplished by means of the labour of the country-people was a mere outline of what was necessary, and requiring reconstruction on a larger and more substantial scale, the earth needing to be rammed down into a solid condition, before it could assume a proper and durable form. The undertaking being one of such magnitude, whilst the people could not be required a second time to devote themselves to the work, and no funds being available for the purpose in the public treasury, the only alternative was to make use of the services of the soldiery. The Governor-General, accordingly, in February, 1876, appointed General Liu Shêng-hiu, at the head of fourteen *yîng* (of about 500 men each) of Southern troops; and three Brigadiers of the provincial forces, with six *yîng* under their command, to proceed to the spot where the works were required, and to set about the construction of the embankment. The site of the works is a river-flat, formerly overflowed, the soil of which is loose sand, and in certain parts of which water was still lying. The energy displayed by the troops overcame, however, all obstacles, the men working with the utmost zeal under the indefatigable superintendence of their officers, so that by the middle of May, the undertaking was complete. The embankment was upwards of sixty *li* in length, 30 *chang* (say 50 feet) wide at the top, and 100 *chang* at bottom, with a height of one *chang* four *ch'ih*. At every 10 *chang* distance a hillock of earth 土牛 (for use in effecting repairs on emergency) was placed, these hillocks numbering 1,091 in all. After the completion of the embankment, the necessary vigilance was employed by the proper officials in watching over its safety; and on successive occasions during the summer and autumn, viz., on the 6th and 22nd August, the 9th and 29th Sept., and the 15th and 18th October, the river rose with great violence, spreading its waters beyond the ordinary channel, and reaching a height of from five to eight *ch'ih* alongside the embankment. The scour caused by the rush of waters was so great, that numbers of the protecting groynes were swept away, and the embankment itself was placed in imminent danger. The exertions of the officials, soldiery, and labourers in charge of the works alone averted a catastrophe. During a violent storm, indeed, on 19th Oct., the whole force of the current, lashed into violent waves, was directed against the embankment, and forty or fifty *chang* of the face of the

works were swept away. Thanks to active exertions on the part of the persons in charge, however, labouring day and night, the damage was repaired. Lists of the officials and notables on whose behalf rewards are solicited for the services rendered in this connection are enclosed.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned consider and report to Us. The lists are forwarded to them herewith.

March 4th.—No documents of importance.

March 5th.—(Abstracts of Memorials.) Yang Ch'ang-sün, Governor of Chehkiang, memorializes reporting the receipts from the *likin* tax.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note; the return is forwarded herewith. Also;—reporting the expenditure on the sea wall on the west side (of Hangchow Bay).—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned take note.—The acting Governor of Shangtung, Li Yüan-hwa, memorializes reporting the expenditure on the Yellow River and Grand Canal works.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned consider and report; the return is forwarded herewith. In the memorial the name of an officer is most improperly written as “Colonel Chang”—*Chang Fu-tsiang* (instead of “the Colonel, Chang, with the addition of his cognomen.”) Let the name of Li Yüan-hwa be handed to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty.

(1) A Decree. Let Süeh Yün-shêng 薛允升 succeed to the post of Taotai of the Ch'êng-Mien-Lung-Mow Intendency in Szech'wan.

(2) The Governor-General Shên Pao-chêng and the Governor of Kiangsu jointly memorialize on receipt of an application from the Taotai at Shanghai, Fêng Tsün-kwang, who states as follows:—His father, Fêng Yü-hêng by name, an expectant District Magistrate, having been sentenced in consequence of certain proceedings to banishment in Sungaria, the Taotai, with his younger brother, Fêng Yü-kwang, accompanied his father in 1858 to Li, the place of his banishment. After arriving there, he was commanded by his father to return to Peking to compete at the triennial examination; and in 1859 he volunteered for service with the army, when the late Grand Secretary Tsêng Kwoh-fan appointed him to do duty in his office. In 1861 he received letters informing him of the death of his father while undergoing banishment, upon which he at once made official report of his being placed in mourning, and of his being about to go

beyond the Great Wall to take charge of his parent's remains. The regular roads being, however, impeded, he went by sea to Tientsin, and thence by way of Chihli and Shansi into Mongolia, via Kwei-hwa Ch'eng. Having reached the neighbourhood of Ku-ch'eng by the month of August, he found the roads blocked owing to the Mahomedan outbreak, and in view of the impossibility of obtaining means of subsistence on the steppe and in the desert of Gobi, he was obliged to turn back without effecting his purpose. After being appointed by H.E. Li Hung-chang to the post of Superintendent of the Arsenal at Shanghai, he was named in 1874 to fill the office of Taotai at Shanghai. The thought that his father's remains still lie at Ili, and that nothing is known as to the fate of his stepmother and his younger brother, has continued to oppress him by day and night; and his filial emotions have prompted him, on learning by the *Gazette* that Urumtsi and Manas have been recaptured, to beg that leave be obtained for him to resign his office in order that he may proceed to Ili to recover and bring back the remains of his deceased father. The high authorities, in forwarding this application, commend the Taotai for the satisfactory discharge of his duty in his responsible post, and request that in lieu of vacating his appointment, he may receive one year's leave of absence.—Granted by rescript, see *Gazette* of 12th February.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang provinces, Shên Pao-cheng, memorializes with reference to P'an Wei, late Lieutenant-Governor (*Fan-t'ai*) of Fuhkien, who was allowed to retire from his office on the ground of ill-health in 1874. This officer has now reported that, his recovery being complete, and feeling himself to be in the prime of life, he dare not seek refuge in selfish ease. He therefore proposes to set out for Peking to prostrate himself in the dust at the Palace portals, soliciting re-employment. He intended to commence his journey on the 21st February. The Governor-General adds a commendation of P'an Wei's upright and public spirited character, from his knowledge of him at Foochow.

March 6th.—The Military Lieutenant-Governor of Jeh-ho memorializes reporting the execution by *ling-ch'e* (the lingering process) of a criminal named Wang Lien-siang, who had caused the death of his father by striking him with a billet of wood in a quarrel.

March 7th.—The acting Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan memorializes stating particulars with reference to the timbers for the

lantern-masts of the Temple of Heaven at Peking, the shipment of which has already been reported. The supply of these timbers was called for so far back as the 19th Jan., 1866, on which date a despatch was received from the Board of Works to the effect that the existing lantern-masts in the Temple showed signs of decay, and communicating copy of an Imperial rescript of assent to the Board's proposal that fresh timbers should be called for from Sze-ch'wan or Hukwang. The dimensions of the timbers required were given as follows:—Six lengths, viz., three for use and three as duplicates, of a length of ten *chang* (140 feet) or upwards, and tapering from two *ch'ih* seven *ts'un*, to one *ch'ih* two *ts'un* in diameter. Beside this, there were required eighteen balks of timber for supports, or struts

鐵木, to be upwards of six *chang* in length. The first lot of timbers that were procured in the mountains of Sze-ch'wan was destroyed in the manner heretofore reported, whilst being floated down a series of rapids, only eleven of the smaller balks being recovered in a condition for use. The supply subsequently procured has now been sent forward as already reported.—(See *Gazette* of Feb. 16th.)

March 8th.—(1) A decree commanding the acting-Governor of Shantung to forward to Jeh-ho for trial an individual named Sun Ngên-k'ing, heretofore stripped of his rank as a titular Secretary of the Board of Punishments, who is involved in the case under investigation in which complaint has been made by Chang Chên-yüan and another, respecting extortions on the part of certain officials. The delivery of Sun Ngên-k'ing for trial has been applied for by the Military Lieutenant Governor, Yen Hú.

(2) Wên Kêh, acting Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, memorializes with reference to the extra taxation legalized in that province since the period of the Taiping rebellion. It was arranged at that time, with Imperial sanction, that the land-tax should be doubled to meet the exigencies of the public service, that is to say, for every tael of statutory land-tax, an additional tael was assessed under the head of *tsin-tieh* **津貼** or auxiliary allowance. The late Governor-General Wu Tang represented in November, 1874, the impossibility of dispensing with this extra assessment, in view of the heavy demands upon the provincial exchequer which were authorized by the Board of Revenue; and the present memorialist has now to state that, according to a report handed in by the Lieutenant Governor, the receipts from the *tsin-tieh*

impost, from the commencement of the collection for 1876 down to the middle of December (end of the tenth moon), amounted to Tls. 406,369.5.3.6., in addition to which arrears due on account of preceding years were collected to the amount of Tls. 174,675.8.6.9., making a total collection of Tls. 581,045.4.0.5. From this sum, remittances have been made as follows: To

Peking, toward the *king hiang* 京餉 or pay of the garrison and officials of the capital, Tls. 250,000; extra allowance (*tsin t'ieh*) supplementary to the pay of the Banner and Chinese regular troops of the province, Tls. 120,000; the same to the province of Kweichow, Tls. 80,000:—making in all a sum of Tls. 450,000. The remaining Tls. 130,000 and odd have been remitted, in obedience to the appropriations made by the Board of Revenue, on account of various public works and in aid of the military chest of different commands on offensive or defensive service. The amount of revenue derived from *likin* and the sales of titles is remitted as fast as it comes in, in obedience to the appropriations of the Board, to Chihli, Yünnan and Kweichow, Shensi and Kansuh, and the armies on the northern frontier. For the coming year, the extra impost will continue to be levied on the same system as heretofore, and notices to this effect will be distributed throughout the province, exemptions to some extent being granted in districts where personal service in the way of porterage and the supply of animals for government use is required by regulation along the principal lines of traffic. It is noted that, in the report presented to the Throne in 1875 by Kwang Show, the President of the Board of War, (when sent on a mission of enquiry to Szech'wan), the statement is made that no illicit practices, in the shape of devices for extortion under the name of *tsin t'ieh* imposts, prevail in the province. Orders will now be repeated, in obedience to the Imperial commands issued at that time, warning the district authorities against any indulgence in practices of this kind.

(3) Liu Ch'ang-yao, Governor-General of Yünnan, &c., memorializes observing that of late years the receipts from the *likin* collectorate in Yünnan have been daily declining; and although this is ascribable, no doubt, to the depopulated condition of the province and the slackness of trade, misconduct on the part of the *likin* officials is also to be considered as a cause. An enquiry which he has instituted since his accession to office has led to the discovery

of certain irregularities, although the number of instances in which the tax-certificates produced from the various barriers and the amounts of money involved shew a discrepancy are not considerable. Two or three minor officials, against whom irregularities are alleged, are denounced, and they are directed, by rescript, to be stripped of their rank and placed on trial as requested.

March 9th.—(1) A decree handing over to the Board of Punishments for trial, a sergeant of police belonging to the guard of the South Gate of Peking, who is accused of making a wrongful arrest and inflicting blows without authority, in a case in which an individual named Ts'ui Urh had met his death by drowning.

(2) Pao Ting, an Imperial clansman, Libationer of the Imperial Academy of Learning, presents a humble expression of his views on certain public questions, which he introduces by observing that a householder keeps a dog in order that he may have the use of the animal's barking. A good dog will give voice at sight of a shadow. This may well cause annoyance to be felt; but the intention with which the watchdog utters it is no other than that of guarding his master's interest. Although the dog may not be always in the right, yet, by sounding the note of alarm, he serves to provide a defence against harm. It would not be well, therefore, to restrain the dog from barking in consequence of the frequency and groundlessness of his alarms. The memorialist himself has offered many representations to the Throne; and conscious as he is of his own foolishness and lack of insight, he nevertheless cannot restrain himself, overwhelmed as he has been with the Imperial bounty, from giving utterance to his views on four subjects, entreating the pardon of the Celestial grace for his offence in obtruding his opinions. (The four recommendations which ensue were fully summarized in the rescript issued in reply; see *Gazette* of Feb. 22nd.)

In a postscript memorial, Pao Ting refers to the prohibition issued by proclamation of the office of Gendarmerie against illuminations at the Lantern Feast on the 15th of the 1st moon, which the public are bound scrupulously to obey. Notwithstanding this a rumour is spread abroad to the effect that a great illumination is about to be held within the Palace, and that a vast number of lanterns have been manufactured for the purpose. At such a time as the present, when the exchequer is in straits, when their Majesties the Empresses set a personal example of frugality, and

when his Majesty the Emperor, still of tender age, is diligently applying himself to study, it is inconceivable that an enormous outlay should be indulged in, for the construction of mere idle playthings. The vague rumours of the wells and market-places are, it is true, in no wise to be relied upon; but a public report usually has some kind of foundation, and it is to be apprehended that some of the Imperial attendants may have devised an exhibition of this nature with a view to advance themselves in favour. The memorialist earnestly deprecates the possibility of such an occurrence, and ventures to recall to mind the historical episode in which the emperor Shên Tsung, of the Sung dynasty, when about to purchase lanterns from Chehkiang, desisted at the remonstrance of Su She from this undertaking. Widely inferior as the memorialist knows himself to be in comparison with Su She, their Majesties the Empresses, on the other hand, far excel in their sacred wisdom the examples of former ages; and he trusts, therefore, that his humble representations may receive a gracious hearing. For rescript see *Gazette* of 22nd Feb.

March 10th.—A Decree. Let the Board of Revenue take into consideration and report to us upon the memorial presented by the Supervising Censor Kwoh T'sung-kü upon the state of affairs connected with the *lekin* in Szech'wan and the salt revenue of the eastern seaboard division.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with reports on unimportant administrative details in Yünnan, Kweichow, Kwangsi, and Tibet.

March 11th and 12th.—No documents of importance.

March 13th.—Memorials reporting the number of octogenarian and nonagenarian candidates who were granted honorary degrees at the various provincial examinations for the *kü-jên* degree last autumn, as follows:—

Of the age of 80 and upwards: In Kwangsi, two; in Kansuh, two; in Yünnan, two; in Shensi, seven; in Hunan, fifteen.

Of the age of 90 and upwards: In Hunan, three; in Sze-ch'wan, four; in Shensi, three.

March 14th.—(1) A Decree. Let Chi Ho 志和 succeed to the post of Commissioner of the Court of Transmission.

(2) A decree in reply to a memorial from Fêng Tsze-ts'ai, the General-in-chief in Kwangsi, who complains that in the Archives of the Suppression of the Taiping Rebellion, lately issued by command, he finds it mentioned that he "submitted himself to rightful authority at the same

time with the rebel leader Hwang Kin-sze." The fact, he states, is simply that he was made prisoner by the insurgents in 1853, and kept in detention by them for something over ten days, at the end of which time he effected his escape, whereupon he enlisted as a volunteer with the military forces. There is no truth in the story that he was long connected with the rebels, and came over from them at the head of a body of his followers. The statement to which he draws attention is at variance with the tenour of other memorials printed in the same collection, and he begs that it may be corrected. The rescript in reply observes that Fêng Tsze-ts'ai has long been regarded with affection and honoured with distinguished rewards for his meritorious services; and what is due from him is that he should exert all his efforts in token of the gratitude which he owes. The fact of his having fallen into the hands of the rebels and immediately thereafter come out from among them to do military service was heretofore duly reported by the Governor then in office, and the fact was publicly noted in a Decree issued by his Majesty the Emperor Wên Tsung Hien (Hien Fêng.) Inasmuch as the Archives of the Rebellion have been issued with the approval of his late Majesty, the Emperor Muh Tsung I (T'ung Che), it is out of the question that any alteration of the text should be hazarded. The request preferred is not acceded to.

March 15th.—(1) A decree based on a memorial from the Censor Li Kwei-lin, who has represented that the candidates coming to Peking for the examinations are liable to be stopped by the Customs' officers at the gates, and has requested that the proper authorities be commanded to forbid the practice of extortion. On the arrival of candidates at the gates of Peking, they are as a matter of course liable to an investigation if they are in possession of smuggled merchandise; but if they have nothing with them beyond their personal effects, they should be allowed to pass after examination without being subjected to delay or annoyance. It may be feared, however, that when carts are about to enter the gates, the searchers on duty may perhaps deliberately obstruct their passage, in order to have an excuse for levying exactions upon them, and also that, on reaching the examiner's office, they may be kept waiting for inspection, being thus subjected to one delay after another. The Superintendency of the Customs of Peking is now stringently commanded to require all the subordinate employés of the department to give passage

without delay, and also to inflict severe punishment upon any individuals who may be found guilty of acts of extortion.

(2) The Governor of Chehkiang memorializes reporting the number of honorary degrees awarded at the recent examinations as follows, viz., to candidates of the age of ninety and upwards, two; and seven to candidates of the age of eighty and upwards.

March 16th.—(1) The Governor-General of Kansuh, &c., memorializes requesting leave on behalf of the Judicial Commissioner of the Province, Ch'eng Ting-k'ang, to resign his appointment on the ground of ill-health.—See *Gazette* of Feb. 28th.

(2) The Governor of Kwei-chow forwards a voluminous report of the trial held in a case in which an expectant district Magistrate had been swindled by certain other officials, notably a lieutenant-colonel named Chow Fei-hiung, under the pretext of obtaining an appointment for him by underhand contrivances. The expectant Magistrate was induced to place in the hands of his officious friends a promissory note for Tael 2,400, which was issued on his behalf by a friend of his, keeper of an outfitter's shop; but he was put off with one delay after another, and his appointment never made its appearance. A part of the amount represented in the promissory note, viz., Tls 1,700, was drawn and appropriated by the confederates; and the matter having at length reached the ears of the provincial authorities, orders were issued for the arrest of all the parties. Upon this they came forward voluntarily to give themselves up; and they have been stripped of their respective ranks and sentenced to various penalties according to law.

March 17th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Sung Lin, who has presented a statement of his views regarding the cultivation of waste lands, the prohibition of clan-fighting, attention to the duty of reporting on the character of officials, and improvement in military discipline. The importance of all these subjects is recognized, and the attention of the provincial authorities is called to the representations now made.

(2) A decree calling upon the provincial government of Shantung to forward without delay an amount of Tls. 40,000 and odd, being the arrears of interest on certain funds appertaining to the Board of Works, for which the Salt Department of that province is responsible.

March 18th.—(1) A decree, in answer to a memorial from the Director General of the

Grain Transport, who has requested the bestowal of memorial boards, and the grant of an additional title, in honour of the Gods of the Yellow River and its tributaries, including the canonized spirit of Lih Yü-mei, now designated Lih Ta Wang. These tokens of the Imperial gratitude for the protection accorded to the river and canal works during the past autumn are respectively accorded, the Board of Ceremonies being commanded to report upon the title that should be granted in the case of Lih Ta Wang.

(2) The Governor of Chehkiang memorializes reporting the successful attack upon and capture of a stronghold of coast pirates in the T'ai-chow prefecture, by a detachment of the provincial forces, in September last. The pirates were led by a Cantonese, and had fortified themselves so strongly as to believe themselves capable of setting the authorities completely at defiance.

March 19th.—The Censor Wang Hin memorializes that severe punishment be inflicted upon the high authorities of the province of Chehkiang, for their misconduct in connection with the trial of the wife of Koh P'in-lien for the alleged murder of her husband. Referring to the decree published on the 28th February, in which the report of the Board of Punishments on its enquiry into the case is commented upon, the Censor gives utterance to the surprise with which he is filled at the duplicity, partiality, and disregard for the interests of justice which have been manifested by the authorities through whose hands the trial has proceeded. As regards the District Magistrate, Liu Si-tung, who has involved an innocent woman in a network of misrepresentation, proving her guilty of causing the death of a person who in reality died from natural causes, and forcing her to confess a crime the penalty for which is execution in its most dreadful form, the guilt with which he is laden admits, plainly, of no exculpation. What the Censor finds more difficult to comprehend, is that men filling such high offices of State as the Provincial Governor, Yang Ch'ang-sun, and the Literary Chancellor, Hu Jui-lan, should have consented to become his abettors as they have done. When commanded to undertake a rehearing of the case, not only did Hu Jui-lan devote all his efforts towards extorting a confession, shewing himself fearful only lest the previous judgment should be disturbed, but in his successive memorials to the Throne he actually ventured to express himself in terms of irritation, shewing

himself stubborn and self-opinionated to the end. The Governor Yang Ch'ang-sün, again, when ordered by decree to send up the parties to the case for further trial at Peking, openly signified his disapproval, and on the plea of the necessity for supplying the evidence of all the parties, sent up a crowd of prisoners, with no other result than that of causing widespread inconvenience. What he plainly intimated was that the Board of Punishments had no right to apply for the removal of the venue to Peking, and that his Majesty should not have acceded to the request when made. That Hu Jui-lan and Yang Ch'ang-sün should have ventured to act as they have done, the memorialist can only account for on the ground of the Government being in the hands of their Majesties the Emperesses as Regents, the Emperor having acceded to the Throne while yet of tender age, and not as yet having reached the period for assuming the control of affairs in person. The flagrant audacity they have shewn in contempt for the law and in deceit toward their sovereign can only be ascribed to such a cause. This being the character of their offence, it is impossible to suppose that their punishment can be based upon mere ordinary rules, such as apply in cases of undue severity, whether wilful or due to oversight alone, and in which execution of the individual whose trial is in question may or may not have taken place. The memorialist reflects that there has not been a single instance, of late years, of an appeal to Peking resulting in a simple reversal of the judgment of a Court below; the Governors-General and Governors, although well aware that injustice has been done, simply closing the case with a report to the Throne that "a groundless appeal has been lodged under mistaken impressions." Moreover, when Imperial Commissioners are seen to be despatched on special missions of enquiry, they constantly explain points of serious importance to be mere trifles, and then proceed to refine away these trifles into absolute nonentity. These long standing practices of wrongdoing from interested motives have grown to be an unalterable routine. The only exception to be noted is the case of the [outrages] at Tung-hiang, in Sze-ch'wan, in which the acting Governor-General, after denying the culpability of the accused officials in the first place, subsequently came forward to make confession spontaneously (see *Gazette* of Jan. 4); and had not the present case already occurred, there can be little doubt that fraud and misrepresentation would have been clung

to [in the Sze-ch'wan affair] to the end. The memorialist feels bound to urge that rigorous punishment be denounced by public decree upon the two high officials whom he inculpatates.—A rescript postponing farther decision until after receipt of the Board of Punishment's final report, has already appeared.

March 20th.—A decree, on receipt of a memorial from the Vice-Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, Wang Kia-pih, who has represented that the Metropolitan temple in memory of faithful public servants is in need of repair, directing the Boards concerned to consider and report upon the matter.

March 21st.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reported that rain has fallen at Peking (on the night of the 19th inst.), producing saturation to a depth of upwards of three inches.—Pien Pao-ts'üan, a Censor who has succeeded to the list of Taotais, and Su Pei-hün, who has been placed on the list of Prefects, had audience.

(1) A Decree. Let Yang Tsi 楊霽 succeed to the post of Prefect of Sung-kiang Fu, in Kiangsu.

(2) The Military Lieutenant-Governor at Shan-hai Kwan memorializes reporting the apprehension of a man named Wang Tsi-sien, who was caught in the act of endeavouring to smuggle a packet of five taels weight of ginseng past the Customs barrier there. The delinquent has been handed to the local authorities to be escorted to Moukden to be dealt with. Of the ginseng seized, four taels' weight is confiscated, and one tael weight bestowed by way of reward upon the seizing officer.

March 22nd.—(1) A Decree. Sieh Ying-hi, Judicial Commissioner of Ngan-wei, having memorialized Us stating that his complaint gives no hope of speedy recovery, and requesting permission to vacate his appointment, We command that he be permitted, accordingly, to retire from his post.

(2) The Governor of Kiangsi memorializes reporting the result of a trial that has been held, according to rescript, in the case of the escape of a prisoner from the jail of the Kien-ch'ang district. The prisoner in question was awaiting execution after being sentenced to death for inflicting a fatal wound upon a person named Liu Hien-chu, with whose wife he had been engaged in a criminal intrigue; and the result of the enquiry now instituted shews that he took advantage of a storm on the night of the 2nd April, 1876, to break his fetters and clamber over the walls of the prison, whilst the guards and jailers were under shelter

and asleep. The jail warden had visited the prison the evening before, in company with the clerk of the criminal department and the jailers, and had duly inspected the prisoners and verified the condition of their fetters. The prisoner, Hiung Ming-shéh, however, effected his escape in the manner described, and, notwithstanding every effort, has not been recaptured. The enquiry shews that the officials concerned are not chargeable with guilty connivance, but for their neglect the jailers are severally sentenced, according to law, to periods of banishment and bastinadoing. The jail warden, who has already been stripped of his rank, is held bound, according to law, to maintain his efforts for the recapture of the prisoner for the period of five years, at the end of which time, if he remains unsuccessful, his case is further to be dealt with.

(3) The acting Governor-General of Szech'wan memorializes with reference to the vacancy in the post of Taotai for the Ch'êng-Mien-Lung-Mow Circuit, rendered vacant by the death of Yang Nêng-koh, who was appointed to that post in the course of last year. Another officer has been appointed to take charge of the duties of the Intendantship pending farther appointment.

March 23.—(1) A Decree. Our uncle Yih Hwei, the Prince of Fu, invested by brevet with rank as an Imperial prince of the first degree, was endowed by nature with a mild and equitable disposition, and in his personal conduct he guided himself by principles of uprightness and devotion to duty. From his youth he was favoured with the affectionate love of Our Imperial Grandsire, Süan Tsung Ch'eng Hwang-ti (the Emperor Tao Kwang), and the cordial regard of our Imperial father Wên Tsung Hien Hwang-ti (the Emperor Hien Fêng), by whom he was invested with the rank of Prince of the second degree and admitted to pursue his course of education in the Imperial Studio. When the Emperor Muh Tsung I (T'ung Che) first ascended the Throne, his Majesty conferred upon him the right of entrée, appointed him to the directorship-in-chief of the *Wu Ying Tien* and the Board of State Music, and appointed him to the post of Chamberlain. In the year 1872 Their Majesties the Empresses conferred upon him by their benign mandate the rank by brevet of Prince of the first degree; and We, when We acceded to the Throne, bestowed upon him the control of the Captain Generalship of the Plain Blue Banner of the *Han Kün* division. In all his several trusts he

shewed himself alike earnest and respectful, and diligent in redoubled efforts toward the discharge of his duty. On his becoming recently a sufferer from illness, We granted him leave of absence for the care of his health, and moreover sent persons to visit him on Our behalf. At the very time when We had hoped that he was about to become convalescent, and long to continue in the enjoyment of our love and affection, we have been overwhelmed with the deepest sorrow by the unexpected news of his decease. We command that a *To-lo* pall be bestowed for his obsequies, and we enjoin upon Yih Siang, the Prince of Hwei, that he proceed this day with ten officers of Our guards to offer a funeral libation. We furthermore appoint Mow Lin, one of the Comptrollers of Our Household, to assume the direction of all that appertains to the funereal rites. Let all be undertaken as a concern of Government. As a special grace, We command that the scale appropriate to a Prince of the first degree be observed in the posthumous arrangements for the bestowal of Our bounty. Let the departments concerned report upon what is requisite.

(2) A Decree. Let Wang Sze-yih 王思沂 succeed to the post of Judicial Commissioner for the province of Ngan-hwei.

(3) A decree, admitting T'o-lun-pu, formerly Assistant Resident at Kobdo, who has recovered from his sickness, to do duty as one of the Imperial Guards of the K'ien-t'ing gate of the Palace.

(4) A decree directing the Governors-General of Min-Chéh and the Two Kwang, and the Governors of Chéhkiang and Kwang-si, respectively, to hold the triennial military inspection this year within their several jurisdictions.

(5-6) Decrees appointing Wên Che 文治 to be Vice-Director of the Court of Instruction and Chung Lien 鍾濂 to be Director of the Imperial Banqueting Court.

March 24th (Court Circular). The Prince of Kung paid his respects on the expiry of his sick-leave.—The ex-lieutenant Governor of Fuhkien, P'an Wei, paid his respects on his arrival at Peking, and had audience.—The Superintendent of Customs at Canton, Tsün K'i, requested instructions on his departure.

(1) A Decree. Let Ch'êng Yün 成允 succeed to the post of Taotai of the Ngan-Lu-Ch'u Intendancy in Ngan-hwei.

(2) A decree conferring upon the widow of the Prince of Fu, by way of pension,

one-half of the State allowance of a Prince of the second order. (See *Gazette* of yesterday).

March 25th.—(1) The Governor-General of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, memorializes stating that he proposed to leave the provincial capital (Pao-ting Fu), on the 8th March, and to proceed to the Southern prefectures, Chêng-ting and Tai-ming Fu, to complete the military inspection of the provincial forces, the results of which, as regards the inspection of the northern division, he has already reported. He will so arrange his tour as to direct the line of his journey toward Tientsin as its final point. He will probably arrive there about the middle of April, and take up his residence there for the season as usual.

(2) The Military Lieutenant-Governor at Jeh-ho memorializes reporting farther results obtained in connection with the trial of Chang Chêng-yuan, Kwoh Tien-yüan, and another, who have presented complaints regarding the action of officials at the Hunting Grounds, and have themselves been denounced and imprisoned as mischievous agitators. The statements obtained are so conflicting that the Lieutenant-Governor intends to examine the question on the spot, when the weather grows milder.

March 26th (Court Circular.)—Two officials return thanks for appointment to provincial "expectant" lists, viz:—Chung Ch'êng 忠誠 and Wei Kang 魏綱, named expectant Taotais in Kiangsu and Hupeh respectively. (The last-named is an official who has been employed in connection with coal-mining projects. As a titular Secretary of the Board of War he memorialized the Throne in 1875, submitting various recommendations of moral reform. (See *Gazette* of 15th March, 1875.)—No documents of importance.

March 27th (Court Circular.)—The late Literary Chancellor of the province of Sze-ch'wan, Chang Che-tung 張之洞, paid his respects on arrival at Peking, and had audience.—No documents of importance.

March 28th.—(1) Ming Ch'un, Military Resident at Hami, memorializes urgently soliciting a bestowal of honours and rewards on behalf of the officers of the two divisions of troops distinguished as the *Wei I* 威儀 and *Kien Jui* 健銳軍, which have formed the garrison of Hami for the past three years. He submits that since the leader of the Shensi Mahommedans, Peyen Hu, made his irruption in 1873 into the

region beyond the Wall, repeated Decrees have been received, dwelling upon the vital importance of Hami as a strategical point, and commanding that everything needful be done in the way of offensive and defensive operations at that place. After dwelling upon the services rendered and the hardships undergone by the troops under his command, the memorialist goes on to state that by far the larger portion of the remittances ordered to be sent from different provinces for the pay of the soldiery remain outstanding, and that arrears of two years' pay are due to the Wei I division. Not 50 per cent. of the amounts allotted last Spring by the Board of Revenue for the supply of the garrison has come to hand; and from Hupeh, in particular, not one-tenth of the amount ordered has been sent forward. It is not only impossible, therefore, that the pay of the troops should be issued as is due, but even their ration-allowances are largely in arrear. The state of distress to which they are reduced exceeds all that has occurred in the past. It has further to be observed that as the cities of Urumtsi, Ch'an-ki, Sui-yüan, and other places, have been successively recaptured, there is reason to apprehend that the banditti who have escaped into hiding places may make sallies from their mountain retreats. The Governor-General Tso Tsung-t'ang wrote, some time ago, to state that the Hunan and Szech'wan troops were about to rendezvous with the force under the orders of Chang Yao for a joint advance against Turfan; and as Hami is the base for all the forces in the field, the importance of guarding it in safety is the more pressing on this account. The memorialist feels bound to submit a list of recommendations of the officers and men serving under his command, as a means of conciliating and inspiring the forces.—Rescript: We bestow upon Kia Mow-ts'ing the title of Bat'uru with the epithet *Mow Yung*; and upon Wei Ch'ang-lin the title of Bat'uru, with the epithet *Choh Yung*. For the rest, be it as is proposed.

(2) Wên-Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, memorializes with reference to contributions received on behalf of the sufferers from famine whose support has been undertaken (at Hwai-ngan Fu.) General T'ang Ting-kwei, Commander-in-chief of the Chinese forces in Fukkien, acting as General in command of the *Wu I* and other divisions, with three of his chief subordinates, has contributed 800 piculs of rice and Tls. 1,300 in silver. General Sü Pang-tao, commanding the

Hünan cavalry force, has contributed 200 piculs of rice. The Assistant Salt Commissioner at Hai Chow has headed a list, to which the leading merchants have subscribed, yielding a total of 1,000 piculs of rice. All these subscriptions have been paid in; and the donors are recommended for reward from the Celestial grace.

March 29th.—(1) The Empresses Regent decreed as follows:—Three years have nearly elapsed since His Majesty the Emperor Muh Tsung I ascended upon the Dragon to be a guest on high. In the third moon of the present year (April-May) the period for laying aside the garb of mourning will be at hand. The years and the months pass away like a stream, but Our sorrow increases in its poignancy all the more. According to the institutions of Our house, it is proper, when the Emperor has laid aside his mourning, that the various ceremonials of rejoicing and festivity be proceeded with in due order; but at the present moment, when the coffin containing the Imperial remains has not yet been deposited in its eternal resting place, Our minds cannot willingly endure the thought of the practice of the ceremonials as in ordinary times. The Emperor, moreover, being still of tender years, there are forms of the ceremonial of rejoicing which it is impossible to carry into effect; and it is the more necessary, on this account, that the relative importance of the various particulars concerned be duly weighed, and decision taken with unvarying propriety. With exception of the high State ceremonial of Audiences of Congratulation (at the New-Year, to wit), which shall be conducted as usual, We command that all other ceremonials, such as the annual entertainment of Mongolian princes and nobles in the K'in Chêng Throne Hall, the witnessing of the martial dance in the Chung Chêng Throne Hall, and the entertainment of lamas, together with the banqueting at the Purple Pavilion (*Tsze Kwang Koh*) of the Mongolian princes and nobles and the envoys of foreign states (*wai kwoh she ch'ên*) in the first moon of the year, be for the present suspended. With regard to all other ceremonials, let the departments concerned take action, as may be necessary, in conformity with the precedents established in the second year of the reign T'ung Che (1863.)

(2) Fêng Tsze-ts'ai, General-in-chief of the province of Kwangsi, memorializes representing that, as in his early life he lived in a condition of poverty in one of the seaboard districts, himself and his mother finding difficulty in providing for

their barest maintenance, he was driven by necessity to apply to his relatives for the loan of a few taels, with which, in the third moon of the year 1851, he set out in company with some friends of his, traders of his own neighbourhood, to endeavour to turn an honest penny in a commercial way. As ill-luck would have it, he and his companions fell into the hands of the bandit-leader Liu Pa (Low Pát), who not only robbed them of everything they had in their possession, but furthermore carried them off as prisoners to the midst of the insurgent camp. Here they underwent continual ill-treatment, until, after the lapse of about a fortnight, they found an opportunity of escaping. This was on the 2nd day of the 4th moon. The memorialist and his companions, on reaching an Imperial camp, begged that they might be allowed to serve as volunteers against the insurgents, and from this time forward they were engaged in active service and took part in many victorious engagements. After fighting in many provinces, the memorialist was advanced to his present post, and he has been favoured for years past with marks of distinguished favour, for which he is profoundly grateful. In January last he was farther favoured with the gift from his Majesty of a copy of the Record of the Suppression of Cantonese (Taiping) Rebellion, as also of that relating to the Nien Fei; and on referring to the fifth book of the first section of the former of these works, he has read, with the utmost astonishment, a passage to the effect that "the local authorities reported that on the 10th day of the 4th moon the rebel leaders Hwang Kin-sze, Fêng Tsze-ts'ai, and others, surrendered with their followers;" and in the Imperial decree upon this the same words are repeated. The memorialist submits an emphatic disavowal of the alleged facts, pointing out that the date given is not that on which he effected his escape, and that, instead of having been a rebel leader, he with his companions, was a prisoner in the hands of the bandits. Observing that it is inconceivable how such a misrepresentation could have been made at the time, and that nothing could be more abhorrent to him than to have brought disgrace upon the spotless reputation of his ancestry by casting in his lot with insurgents, he cannot but reflect upon the stigma that is attached to his name in the printed Record which has now gone forth; and he consequently solicits the favour of a Decree commanding that in all the copies of the work the character *ts'ai* 才, forming part

of his name, be altered, by the addition of a stroke, into *lin* 林,—an act of grace by which not only the memorialist but his descendants will be endlessly benefited.—For rescript negating the request see *Gazette* of 14th inst.

(3) The Governor of Kwangsi, T'u Tsung-ying, memorializes reporting the establishment at the provincial capital of a House of Detention for witnesses, on the plan proposed last year by the Governor of Kweichow (see *Gazette* of 6th April, 1876). The intention of this institution is to obviate the suffering which is otherwise entailed upon witnesses and parties to appeal cases when awaiting trials at the provincial capital. An office has now been established to take the custody of all such persons, to whom an allowance is to be issued of one catty four taels weight of rice and ten *cash* for salt and vegetables per diem, medical attendance being also provided when needful.

(4) The Censor Li Kwei-lin memorializes pointing out the hardships to which candidates arriving from the provinces for the examinations at Peking may be subjected by harsh and illegal practices on the part of the subordinates of the metropolitan Customs.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 14th instant.

March 30th.—(1) A decree referring to the antecedent history of the murder case in Chehkiang, from the first representation made two years ago by the Censor Wang Shu-jui, at whose instance the Literary Chancellor Hu Jui-lan was commanded to institute a new trial, to the recent report from the Board of Punishments invalidating all the results previously obtained, and the memorial from the Censor Wang Hin (see *Gazette* of 19th inst.), accusing the high provincial authorities of acting under the influence of corrupt partiality. In obedience to the commands issued, the Board of Punishments has now handed in the report of its decision in the matter, stating that the Magistrate of the Yü-hang District, Liu Sih-tung, having come to the erroneous conclusion that the death of Koh P'in-lien had been caused by poison, extracted an imaginary confession by torture from the wife of the deceased, Koh Pih-she, and from Yang Nai-wu, to the effect that they had conspired, in consequence of an adulterous connection, to make away with Koh P'in-lien, upon which they were unjustly sentenced to suffer the heaviest penalty of the law. Conduct such as this reaches the utmost limits of misconduct. We decree that, in conformity with the sentence submitted by the Board,

the delinquent be transferred to the province of the Amur, under the severer form imposed by law, to redeem his offence by his exertions, and that he be debarred from the privilege of compounding for a pecuniary mulct. We further decree that the following officials be stripped of their rank, viz: the late Prefect of Hangchow Fu, Ch'ên Lu-yü, for his failure to become apprised in any way concerning the erroneous finding arrived at on an inquest by a District Magistrate within his jurisdiction, and that, without eliciting the actual facts by investigation, he presented a careless report to his superiors, shewing himself thereby to be neglectful of the interests of life and death: the Prefect of Ning-po Fu, Pien Pao-hien; the district Magistrate of Kia-hing, Lo Tsze-shên; the expectant District Magistrates, Ku Têh-hêng and Kung She-t'ung, for that in their proceedings when engaged in the trial of this case, they failed to make thorough investigation of the facts, and formulated their sentence in an inconsiderate manner: and furthermore, the expectant District Magistrate Chêng Sih-kaio, for that, when appointed by the Governor of the province to make secret enquiries, he returned an equivocal report. The Governor, Yang Ch'ang-sün, who forwarded his regulation report to Peking on receipt of the statement of the provincial courts, not only failed to discover for himself the facts of the injustice perpetrated, and, on appeal having been lodged and further trial held, shewed himself again incapable of causing redress to ensue, but also, when a Decree had been issued handing the case over to the Literary Chancellor Hu Jui-lan for additional re-investigation, remonstrated declaring that the judges who had dealt with the case had used no rigorous methods of torture to extract confessions, has shewn himself actuated by a desire to shield his subordinates from the consequences of wrongful acts, and he is in even a still greater degree deserving of blame. As for the conduct of Hu Jui-lan, in failing to elicit the actual groundwork of fact and to hold a fresh inquest when, on presiding at a new trial, he found that the particulars elicited were at variance with those originally reported to the Throne, in lieu of which he memorialized without regard to accuracy, declaring the proceedings closed, he has shewn himself conspicuously unfitted for his trust. Let Yang Ch'ang-sün and Hu Jui-lan be forthwith stripped of their rank in the public service. As regards the remainder of the sentences propounded by the Board, let the case be concluded as is proposed. In matters so grave as those

involving questions of life and death, the nature of the sentence, whether lenient or severe, is altogether dependent upon the degree of thoroughness with which the presiding judges devote themselves to the elucidation of the facts. Their object should be to avoid unjust severity on the one hand and culpable laxity on the other. In the present case of the death of the man Koh P'in-lien, two lives have come near to the sad fate of being involved in a most wrongful infliction of the extreme penalty of the law, in consequence of the disregard for the truth shewn by the Governor of the province and the other functionaries concerned in their conduct of the trial, and the determination shewn from first to last to shield the perpetrators of injustice. Let the Governors-General and Governors of all the provinces henceforward know that it is incumbent upon them to impress upon their subordinates the duty of conducting trials in the most painstaking manner, making it their object to establish a truthful record of the facts and to mete out penalties which are adequate and fitting. Let there be not the slightest approach to remissness or inconsiderate proceedings, in order that the Sovereign's earnest desire for the careful discharge of the functions of the criminal law may be duly supported.

(2) Li Yüan-hwa, Lieutenant-Governor and acting-Governor of Shantung, reports in a voluminous memorial the results of his personal examination of the Yellow River and the Grand Canal, and his proposals for dealing with both these waterways in the readiest manner. On the departure of the late Governor, Ting Pao-ch'eng, on his promotion to another office, he impressed most earnestly on the memorialist the plans he had in his mind for the benefit of the province of Shantung; and among these the works in connection with the River and the Canal, which want of means have prevented from being carried out in their integrity, are those which principally require continued attention. The southern embankment of the Yellow River, from Kia Chwang to Tung-p'ing, a distance of 200 *li* and upwards, is in a solid and effective condition; but higher up the course of the river, on the borders of Chihli and Honan, from Sieh Chai 謝寨 in the Tung-ming district in Chihli, passing down by Ch'ang-yüan, and thence as far as the thirteen-li station (*shih-san li P'u*) in the K'ao-ch'eng district in Honan, a distance of between 70 and 80 *li*, there is no embankment whatever, no connection being established with the districts in Ts'ao-chow Fu on the lower course

of the river. This section is of extreme importance, and the labour upon it admits of no delay. When, in past years, the breach at How Kia Lin was repaired, dread of the heavy cost which would have been entailed at this point led to its being left on one side, and the result of this was the breach which took place at Kia Chwang. Below this point the embankment is now solid and secure, but if a similar work be not constructed above it, there is reason to apprehend that this may prove the one flaw which will lead to the destruction of the entire previous undertaking. The result of a further breach would be that Honan, Nganhwei, and Kiangsu would once more bear the brunt of the overflow, Shantung, it is needless to observe, being the first and foremost to suffer, and the whole of the Canal, from the Nan-yang Lake southwards to the Ts'ing Ho would again be rendered unavailable. Tens of millions of Taels would be required to repair the consequences of such a misfortune. The inhabitants of Honan and Nganhwei, not yet having actually experienced the effects of the threatened danger, are callous to the possible consequences; and even the people of Kiangsu, though they have known what it is to suffer, are too remote from the spot to feel any active interest. It is only the denizens of Ts'ao-chow Fu and Tsi-nan Fu in Shantung who, living next door to the scene of danger, are like the bird which feels alarm at the sight of the bow, and are yearning anxiously for the commencement of the works, although their ability in the matter is not on a par with their desires. The memorialist has directed the Prefect of Ts'ao-chow Fu to have a survey and estimates drawn up, proposing that 6/10 of the work be undertaken by the soldiery and 4/10 performed by hired labour of the peasantry. Commencing from a point in the Tungming district in Chihli down to the thirteen-li station in Honan, a distance of 70 odd *li*, it is estimated that for an embankment one *chang* (about 11 feet) in height, one *chang* six *ch'ih* in width at summit and six *chang* in width at base, something over Taels 50,000 will be required; but as the work will lie beyond the limits of the province of Shantung the Governor's authority will be insufficient, and he has therefore written to the Governor-General of Chihli and the Governor of Honan asking for their co-operation. Li Hung-chang has replied promising that the district authorities along the line of the works shall be instructed to render assistance; and a special agent has been sent to Honan to consult with the Governor of that province. So much with

respect to the southern embankment. As regards the districts of P'u-t'ai and Fan Hien, this region has been converted into a vast lake since the river changed its course, and for nearly twenty years the population was reduced to the depths of misery. Some improvement was experienced when the breach occurred at Kia Chwang, but since this was repaired the suffering in the above-named region has been as great as ever. Between the southern embankment and the dyke of the Kin [dynasty] on the north, there intervenes a tract of 60 or 70 *li* in width; and although it may be correct to say that the Kin embankment protects the capital, yet as regards the population of the districts above-named, they are left without defence. Numerous petitions have been presented by the notables and people of this tract of country, urging that they, like others, are the Sovereign's children, and that if, while the southern embankment is attended to, their interests are ignored, they have to complain of being left in an invidious position. The memorialist would observe that, although only temporarily in charge of his present office, he cannot refrain from giving ear to such representations as these, and he has to point out that if an embankment such as is proposed be constructed, upwards of 100,000 *mow* of land in the P'u-t'ai, Fan, Yang-kuh, Show-chang, and Tung-O districts would become restored to the condition of dry land. The length of the proposed dyke, extending for a distance of 170 and odd *li*, is upwards of 30,000 *chang*, and the cost of the work, if calculated on the ordinary scale per cubic foot, would be many tens of thousands of Taels. By meeting the wishes of the population, however, and allowing the work to be undertaken by them with Government assistance, and, moreover, by turning the operation to account, in the present time of scarcity, by a system of labour-relief, it will be possible, as it were, to kill two birds with one stone, and to render the accomplishment of the task possible without overtaxing the energies of the people. The memorialist proposes, however, to achieve the undertaking in two annual instalments, having the embankment built in the first instance to a height of one *chang*, with a summit width of one *chang* six *ch'ih*, and a width at base of six *chang*. In the following year he proposes to add four *ch'ih* to the height, and to widen the work by 1.4/10ths *chang* at the summit, and by 4 *chang* at the base, thus rendering it uniform in dimen-

sions with the southern embankment. It is further proposed to undertake works in the P'u-t'ai and Fan districts, with a view to diverting the waters of the Yellow River from the minor of the two channels through which they there flow, with a view to the recovery, if the scheme be favoured by Heaven, of some hundreds of thousands of *mow* of land. It is noted, in addition, that it is proposed to pay compensation for such lands as are taken for embankment purposes at the rate of Tls. 3.2 per *mow*. The total outlay contemplated on the works in question is Tls. 200,000 and odd. (N.B. —In the *Gazette*, the figure is given as Tls. 20,000,000; but there is reason to suppose that the character 千 has been misprinted for 十). Coming to the question of the Grand Canal, three courses present themselves. The best would be to dredge out the entire course of the Canal, as far as the southern sluice-gate on the old site at Shih-li P'u. This would necessitate the construction of a dock for the harbouring of junks on the north side of the sluice, at a cost of upwards of Taels 100,000, so that, when the junk-squadrons had all arrived, the sluice might be opened and the passage of the Yellow River effected. On the North side of the Yellow River, again, sluice gates would require to be constructed at a point south of Chang-ts'iu, so that opening or shutting of the Canal might be effected at pleasure. By this means, after the passage of the grain fleet, the deposit occasioned by the Yellow River water would be kept from going beyond the sluice, and the silt which would be deposited outside the gates, extending only for the distance of a few *li*, could be dredged away annually without difficulty. In the T'ao-t'ang district, furthermore, for a distance of 70 odd *li*, it would be necessary to clear out a formerly existing channel to bring the waters of the river Wei to feed the Canal. As the cost of this undertaking would amount, however, to an aggregate of upwards of Tls. 1,000,000, and funds to this amount are not to be had, the scheme must be abandoned. An intermediate course is that of dredging out the present channel of the Canal along its whole length, at a cost of about Tls. 250,000, with an additional Tls. 50,000 for the northern sluice-gate. The third and least eligible plan would be to continue, as in past years, to effect a little deepening in the parts which have silted up the most, at a cost of Tls. 30,000 or Tls. 40,000. The memorialist proposes to adopt the second of the

three courses he describes.—In reply to the foregoing memorial, the following Rescript is appended:—Let the Boards concerned consider and report. The plans are forwarded to them herewith. In the memorial, the name of an officer is most improperly written as "Colonel Chang" (instead of "the Colonel, Chang.") Let the Board adjudicate the proper penalty against Li Yüan-hwa. (N.B.—The date of publication in full of the above memorial may be taken as an example of the utility of the publication of "abstracts," with rescripts appended, which was commenced toward the end of 1875—see *Gazette* of 24th December, page 164 of the volume of translations for 1875. An abstract of Li Yüan-hwa's memorial, with the rescript appended to it, was published in the *Gazette* of 5th March, on or about which day the memorial must have been received, as was noted at the time. A gain of three weeks in the publication of the Imperial rescript is thus, in the present instance, secured, press of other matter having evidently delayed for a full fortnight beyond its proper time the publication of the memorial itself.)

March 31st.—(1) A Decree. Let Kwoh Sung-tao succeed to the post of senior Vice-President of the Board of War. Pending his accession to this office, let Tung Hwa continue to hold the acting appointment. Let Sü T'ung 徐桐 succeed to the post of senior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies (vacated by Kwoh Sung-tao).

N.B.—The vacancy in the Board of War, to which Kwoh Sung-tao, at present Envoy to Great Britain, has been transferred from his appointment in the Board of Ceremonies, is caused by the degradation of Hu Jui-lan, Vice-President of the Board of War, acting as Literary Chancellor in Chehkiang, as decreed in yesterday's *Gazette*.

(2) A Decree. Let Mei K'i-chao 梅照啟 succeed to the post of Governor of Chêhkiang.

N.B.—This appointment is in pursuance of the decree of yesterday's date, degrading the Governor Yang Ch'ang-sün, in consequence of his action in the Koh P'in-lien case. Mei K'i-chao, his successor now appointed, has for the last six years acted as Lieutenant-Governor (*Fan-l'ai*) at Nanking, and was formerly Prefect of Kwangchow Fu and Grain Comptroller at Canton.

(3) A decree referring to proceedings heretofore taken in the case of a spiritual dignitary in Tibet, the Hu-chêng Hut'ukht'u, who was impeached by the then Resident at Lassa for deserting his post,

carrying off his seal of office, in consequence of a disturbance which arose through a distribution of alms; upon which his title and seal were cancelled by rescript, and it was at the same time decreed that his soul should not be allowed to transmigrate at his decease. The hut'ukht'u in question came to Peking to lodge an appeal, and some time afterwards died. The Resident Sung Kwei has now memorialized stating that a petition has been lodged with him by the lamas in a body, complaining that injustice had been done to the hut'ukht'u, notwithstanding meritorious service on his part, and entreating that a representation be laid before the Throne on the subject. We decree that, as is besought of Us, search may be made to discover the child in whose body the soul of the deceased Hu-chêng Hut'ukht'u has been reborn, and that he be allowed to resume the government of his proper lamasery. We likewise grant him the reissue of his title. Let the departments concerned take note.

(4) The Censor Sung-lin memorializes submitting his views on four subjects of national importance, viz., the cultivation of waste lands, the suppression of the practice of clan-feuds in the southern provinces, the careful selection of district Magistrates, and the proper control of military officials.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 17th inst.

April 1st.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from Wu Yüan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, who has denounced an officer of the rank of Major, named Chêng Nai-li, for stirring up disturbances at Soochow after being dismissed from his employ. As requested, he is now stripped of his rank, and ordered to be conveyed back to his native place and to be kept there under stringent official surveillance.

(2) A decree acceding to a request on the part of the authorities of Shun-t'ien Fu, extending for two months the period during which the charitable relief-agencies are to be kept open; and granting a further allowance of 200 piculs of millet and Tls. 400 from Customs' revenue of Peking toward their support.

(3) A Decree. Let Sun I-yen 孫衣言 be transferred (from Hupeh) to the post of Lieutenant-Governor at Nanking, and let him proceed at once to take up his post without coming to Peking for audience. Let P'an Wei 潘霽 succeed to the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Hupeh.

(4) Let Mei K'i-chao, whom We appointed yesterday to the post of Governor of Chêhkiang, proceed forthwith to his post. He

need not come to Peking for audience. Until his arrival at his post let (the Lieutenant-Governor of Chêhkiang) Wei Yung-kwang temporarily act as Governor.

(5) A Decree. Let Chih-Ho succeed to the rank of sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, with the position of Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies annexed.

(6) The Governor of Honan memorializes reporting the establishment at the capital of that province of a House of Detention for witnesses and parties to appeal cases, in pursuance of a Decree issued on the 11th July last, approving the instructions which it was proposed by the Board of Punishments, in conjunction with the Boards of Civil Office and War, to issue on this subject, at the instance of the Governor of Kweichow, who had undertaken the establishment of an institution of this kind in his province. The memorialist dwells upon the hardships to which witnesses and other parties to suits or trials being held at the provincial capital must be subjected if imprisoned without care being taken for their maintenance, clothing, and health; and proceeds to state that he has caused a building to be appropriated, in the Drum Tower Street at K'ai-fêng Fu, comprising between 60 and 70 separate dwelling rooms, which is to be known as the *Hou Shên Kung So* (or place of detention pending trial), where all witnesses and parties to judicial cases, not actually criminals, shall henceforward be kept in custody. Provision is made for supplying each individual with 12 *taels'* weight of rice and ten *cash* for salt and vegetables, with three cups of tea per diem, and in case of need medical attendance and warm clothing will also be supplied. In order to guard against the extortion and ill-treatment which would be practised by official underlings and police, were they placed in a position to control the establishment, the employes are to be hired servants, and the whole is to be superintended by two trustworthy officials. It will be the duty of the higher authorities to guard by constant supervision against the laxity and abuses which would creep in time into the undertaking, unless the right description of officials be invested with the management.

April 2nd.—A Decree. Let the Grand Secretary Pao Yün be invested with the designation of *Wu Ying Tien Ta Hieh She*; and let the Grand Secretary Ying Kwei take his title from the *T'i Jen Koh* (vacated by Pao Yün.)

N. B.—These titular distinctions are the result of the vacancy caused among the

members of the Grand Secretariat by the death of Wên Siang, in May, 1876.

April 3rd.—(1) A Decree. Let King Lung 景隆 succeed to the post of Prefect of Hu-chow Fu, in Chêhkiang.

(2) Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, memorializes soliciting marks of Imperial approbation on behalf of the deities of the Grand Canal and the river Hwai, who manifested themselves bodily last year, according to a report made by the District Magistrate of Ts'ing-ho, in answer to prayers for rain. The god of the river Hwai 淮瀆神, it is represented, received his investiture in the 14th year of the reign Shun Che (A.D. 1657), whilst the deity worshipped under the title Lih Ta Wang is the canonized spirit of Lih Yuh-mei, a former Director-General of the Yellow River (died 1840.) Permission is besought for the erection, hereafter, when means are forthcoming, of a temple in honor of the last-named divinity at Ts'ing-kiang P'u—For rescript see *Gazette* of 18th March.

(3) The same functionary reports, in a postscript memorial, the employment of the famine sufferers in the Hwai-ngan region, on relief works in connection with the dredging and repairs of the Canal and its sluices.

April 4th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Censor Fêng K'ing-lin, who has denounced an officer of the Cellar's department of the Imperial Household, for sundry malpractices. A strict enquiry is ordered.

(2) The Governor of Hupeh memorializes acknowledging the receipt, on the 17th December last, of a despatch from the Board of Civil Office, forwarding copy of a decree, by which the Taotai at Hankow, Li Ming-ch'ih, was promoted to the office of Judicial Commissioner at Foochow. To fill the vacancy thus created in the post of Intendant of the Han-Hwang-Têh Circuit, with which is combined the Superintendency of Customs at Hankow, the acting Intendant of the Grain Tax, Ho Wei-kien, has been transferred, pending further commands. The expectant Taotai Chang Ping-Kw'ên is selected, as being qualified by seniority and character, to succeed him in the acting appointment he vacates.

(3) The acting Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien, Ch'ung Hôw, memorializes with reference to the measures he would propose to adopt, in obedience to a decree to this effect, for increasing the stringency of the frontier guard on the Korean border, with the object of preventing passage on either

side. A decree has been received, forwarding copy of a memorial on the part of the Board of Ceremonies, in which a letter, received by the Board from the King of Corea, was laid before the Throne; and in reply to the instructions received, the memorialist would observe that, in former years a tract of land was purposely left uninhabited on the further side of the frontier, beyond the "Corean Gate," in order to prevent the mingling of the subjects of China with people from outside. In process of time, however, as it became difficult to maintain the stringency of the frontier-guard, squatters began to populate this tract, and a few years ago, when the then Vice-President of a Board, Yen Hü, proceeded on a mission of inspection beyond the frontier, he found almost the entire region overspread with cultivators. After a conference at the frontier with commissioners from Corea, he reported that what the Corean Government dreaded was admixture of a foreign element in its population. He represented that the width of the tract left uncultivated was of less moment than the efficacy of border regulations, and he proposed the construction of a wall and ditch along the boundary, adhering to the natural features of the country, submitting at the same time a code of proposed regulations. Notwithstanding these proceedings, nothing effectual has been done for years past, and the population has gone on increasing until now it extends to the very banks of the River (the Ya-lu.) In view of the alarm expressed by the King at the encroachment upon his own territory with which he is menaced by the rapidly increasing advances of the squatter population, who are now divided from his territory only by a mere stream, it is proposed that the regulations submitted by Yen Hü some years ago be actively enforced, and that death by summary execution be the penalty for any act of trespass beyond the river-boundary on the part of any subject of China; and that any Chinese subject who may be apprehended in Corea be sent as a prisoner to Moukden, whence, after report to the Throne, he shall be conveyed to the banks of the river and executed. It is also proposed that it be lawful for the Coreans to slay any Chinese who may attempt to resist capture at their hands.—Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies take note.

April 5th.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from the acting-Governor of Shantung, who has denounced a deceased district magistrate for defalcations in his accounts. A sum of Tls. 3,209 on revenue account and Tls. 969 on account of receipts

from the sale of titles is not forthcoming, and accordingly, as requested by the acting-Governor, the deceased is stripped of his rank, and commands are issued to the Governor of Ngan-hwei, his native province, to make search for and to confiscate any property of which he may have died possessed. (Note.—It is not necessarily the case that the deceased magistrate was personally a defaulter. He may have taken over the deficiencies in the accounts from his predecessor, an abuse which has been stated in a recent Censor's memorial to be of frequent occurrence.)

(2) The acting Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien memorializes urging the necessity for the appointment of additional local authorities in the border region of the province. The extent of this tract of country, on the eastern frontier, is upwards of 1,000 *li* from north to south, whilst from east to west it has a width of from 50 to 200 or 300 *li*. Since the institution of measures for bringing the squatters on this tract of country under control, a great number of applications have been made for the registration of titles at the offices that have been set on foot, to such an extent that the area of land that may be added to the register amounts to an increase of some 700,000 *mow*. To this must be added the 530,000 and odd *mow* which were admitted to the tax register of the Ngan-tung district last year, and another amount of 500,000 and odd *mow* admitted in the years immediately preceding. It is estimated that when the land has all been duly placed on a tax-paying footing, the revenue will be augmented by an annual collection of upwards of Tls. 300,000, in addition to other amounts from the taxes on reedlands and miscellaneous duties. The memorialist proposes the establishment of three new District Magistracies in the region of country in question, and the adoption of other administrative measures.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned consider and report.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang memorializes reporting that the expectant Taotai Hu Kwang-yung, who acts as manager at Shanghai for the Rice-tribute Agency, has addressed him to the effect that, on receiving accounts of the distress prevailing in the region north of the Yangtze, he has personally contributed 8,400 piculs of wheat and 4,700 wadded gowns, in addition to which he has raised a subscription among the merchants and notables of Shanghai, to the amount of Tael 11,000 and 3,000 and odd wadded garments, which he is prepared to send forward. He requests that a steamer may be detailed

to tow the boat conveying these supplies, and that the magistrate of the Muh-yang district be ordered to keep order among the recipients and to effect the distribution. He concludes by praying that there may on no account be any thought of applying to the Throne for honorary rewards.—The Governor-General, commending the charitable spirit displayed, and stating that he has complied with the requests addressed to him, feels bound to bring the facts to his Majesty's notice, and to solicit that a list of the names of the charitable donors may be called for, to the end that honours be conferred upon them according to precedent, as an incentive to good deeds.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

April 6th.—(1) A Decree. Let Chu Têh-ming succeed to the post of Brigadier General of the Ting-chow command in Fuhkien.

(2) A memorial from the Governor General of the Two Kiang and the Governor of Nganhwei, with reference to the removal of a Sub-Prefect to be stationed henceforward at the thriving place of trade which has grown up of late years on the island of Ho Yüeh Chow, opposite Ta-t'ung, on the Yangtze, as reported in the *Gazette* of 21st October 1876. The Board of Civil Office has found fault with the manner in which it has been proposed that this arrangement shall take effect, as regards the classification of the new appointment. The existing system has been disturbed by the establishment of a new post of the "superior responsibility" class, without the corresponding reduction of some previously existing post of that class to the "inferior-responsibility" scale. A standing regulation is thus violated, and the Board has obtained sanction by rescript to its demand that obedience be shewn in this respect, since otherwise the system under which official exchanges take place will be disturbed. The memorialists demonstrate, in reply, that the province of Nganhwei contains no appointment of the Sub-prefectural class which it is possible to reduce as commanded, and entreat permission to retain the new office on the footing originally recommended, with exemption from the rule relating to the interchange of appointments.—Referred by rescript to the Board for report.

April 7th.—(Court Circular.) Chang Sze-kwei, 張斯桂, wearing the button of the third rank, assistant Envoy to Japan, returned thanks for his appointment, and

had audience. (N.B.—Chang Sze-kwei, who was appointed to the post above-named in January last, has but lately arrived in Peking from his place of residence, Ningpo.)

(1) A Decree. We command that the candidates of the *Kü-jên* degree from the provinces, who have passed the test-examination and have been classified as follows, namely, of the first-class, 80; of the second-class, 400; and of the third-class, 695, be admitted to the competition for the *tsin-sze* degree. Ch'ên Shên, Ts'ien Ting-hien, and How Tsêng-fuh, who have been rated in the fourth-class, are turned back until the next period for examination. K'ing K'i is turned back until the period after the next.

(2) A decree admitting to the forthcoming triennial competition 14 Manchu *Kü-jên* from the provinces, who have passed the test-examination, after graduating in the provincial examinations for Manchu interpretation.

(3) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, presents a memorial denouncing a long list of District Magistrates, Sub-Prefects, &c., for incompetence, vice (opium-smoking), neglect of duty, &c., &c. Among these, an expectant District Magistrate, named Luh Uih-fa, is signalled as having made himself very unpopular by his conduct while in charge of a *lekin* tax-office.—A rescript has already appeared, cashiering or degrading the inculpated officials, as requested.

April 8th.—(Court Circular.) Li Ming-ch'ih, Judicial Commissioner of Fuh-kien, presented his respects on his arrival at Peking, and had audience.

(List of appointments for the second moon). To be Grain Intendant for the province of Hu-peh, Hwên Yen-k'i 惲彥琦.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Kwoh Ts'ung-kü, who has requested that regulations of a proper nature may be drawn up for the treatment of cases referred for trial after appeal to Peking. He has represented that in the petitions of appeal it constantly occurs that a large number of individuals are involved by name, with malicious intent to injure them; in addition to which he enumerates other malpractices, such as false personation, contracting for the prosecution of the suit, instigation, and the like. Litigious practices such as these cannot be allowed to gain ground. For the future, it will be incumbent upon the Governors-General and Governors of all the provinces, when

appeal cases are referred back for investigation, to use strict care in discriminating with regard to the summoning of persons who are named in the appeal, and to refrain from involving the innocent in harassing proceedings. Let the proper Board draw up the regulations which should be adopted for taking down accurate evidence respecting the complainant and the accused, their personal descriptions, and the depositions relating to the case at issue, in all instances in which, after the lodging of an appeal through any of the metropolitan departments, the parties are about to be sent back to the province in conformity with law. Inasmuch as manifold cases of injustice arise in consequence of the habitual practice of the provincial governments, in cases of appeal, of referring the cause for reinvestigation to the court by which it was decided in the first instance, whereupon the officials concerned being actuated with a desire to screen themselves from the consequences of misconduct, a finding in support of the original judgment is at all hazards affirmed—the provincial governments shall henceforward not be at liberty to remit appeal cases to be reinvestigated by the officials before whom the cause was tried in the first instance. Should the officials directed to take in hand the judicial proceedings evince a disposition to act from motives of corrupt favoritism, let them forthwith be rigorously impeached, in order that the institutions of penal justice may have due weight given to their fulfilment.

(2) A decree admitting to the privilege of competition at the approaching examinations the following numbers of provincial candidates (in addition to the list published yesterday), who have passed the supplementary test-examinations, viz., of the first-class in order of merit, 36; of the second-class, 114; and of the third-class, 199. Two candidates who have been assigned to the fourth-class are turned back until the period after next for admission.

April 9th.—(1) A decree in acknowledgment of a memorial from T'u Tsung-ying, Governor of Kwangsi, who has reported the dispersion of a body of insurgents, and the capture and execution of their ringleader. It appears that a titular graduate, who had been stripped of his rank, belonging to the Ma-p'ing district, had assembled a band of peasants whom he had incited to revolt under pretext of insisting upon a reduction in the amount of taxes. The Taotai Yih Yüan-tai proceeded against this insurgent body with an armed force, and having met with overt resistance, attacked and routed

the band in January last. The ringleader, Lan Shêng-ts'ui, and a number of his principal followers, were captured and put to death. For this exploit the Taotai Yih Yüan-tai is rewarded with the bestowal of rank of the first degree upon his progenitors for three generations past, and with the title of *Ha-hi-pa Bat'uru* in lieu of the title heretofore conferred upon him; and the Brigadier-General Mo Yün-ch'êng is to be recorded on the list for immediate employment, to be nominated to the first vacancy occurring in that rank in either of the two Kwang provinces. He is also invested with brevet rank as General. Permission is accorded for the presentation of a list of recommendations on behalf of the remaining officers of the force who have signalized themselves on this occasion.

(2) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Censor Liu Tsêng, who has denounced an individual named Niu Kwang-to as having illegally obtained the literary degree of *Kü-jên*. His father, Niu Show-jên, with two aliases, is represented as having been a gate-keeper in the yamên of a district Magistrate in Kwangsi, notwithstanding which disqualification, he had the audacity to obtain his admission, through the assistance of certain dishonest notables, to the register of the district of Lin-kwei, and to send his son under false pretence to the literary examinations, at which the son succeeded in obtaining the degree of *Kü-jên*. It is contrary to law that a low official underling should obtain registration in a district other than his own, and thus fraudulently gain access to the privilege of examination, and it is most necessary that severe punishment be meted out in such a case. We command that Niu Kwang-tow be deprived of his degree; and We command that enquiry be instituted by the Governor of Kwangsi to ascertain whether Niu Show-jên has purchased official rank under false pretences. Should this be the case, let him likewise be deprived of the rank so acquired and be punished according to law, to the end that the purity of the official career may be maintained. Let the Boards concerned take note.

April 10th.—(Court Circular). Liu Hien 劉咸 returned thanks for his appointment to the post of Taotai of the Hwai-Yang Intendency in Kiangsu.—The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reported a rainfall at Peking, producing between two and three inches of saturation.

(Abstracts of Memorials.) Among these a memorial from the Military Governor of Heh-lung Kiang is noted, in which report

is made of a victory achieved over the banditti at Pa-yen Su-su by the Government troops. Commands are issued, enjoining the most active efforts for the extirpation of the remainder of the band.

(1) A Decree. Let Wang Kia-pih be transferred to fill the post of vice-Governor of Fêng-t'ien Fu, with the functions of Literary Chancellor annexed.

(2) The acting Governor-General of Min-chêh memorializes with reference to the arrears of judicial cases in the courts throughout the province of Fuhkien, to which the Governor, Ting Jih-ch'ang, has already drawn attention. These arrears have been of such long continuance, and have accumulated under so many incumbents of office, that the Magistrates generally are afraid to deal with them, and prisoners and witnesses meanwhile languish in confinement and suspense. It is solicited that, as a special act of grace, and in order to expedite the administration of justice, indemnity for past neglect may be granted, and that a period of three months be now assigned for hearing and disposing of all old cases dating from before the commencement of last year; the District Magistrates being held bound, for the future, to adhere to the prescribed limitations of time in the hearing and disposal of all recent cases.—Assented to by rescript.

April 11th.—(1 and 2) Decrees in reply to memorials from the Governor of Kweichow, denouncing long lists of military and civil officials. In accordance with his application, a Brigadier-General named Yeh Chêng-hiung is cashiered and sentenced to perpetual exclusion from farther recommendation or employment, on the ground of self-seeking practices in contempt of the law and disregard of what was due to his position. A similar sentence is pronounced against a Colonel named Chên Che-tao, for treacherous and deceitful conduct, disgraceful to his official rank. Five or six others, from the rank of Brigadier-General down, are cashiered for various forms of misconduct; and two captains are degraded to the rank of lieutenant. In the following decree, a list of civilian functionaries, from the rank of Prefect downwards, occupying three pages of the *Gazette*, is dealt with, the delinquents being cashiered or degraded according to circumstances.

(3) A Decree. Let P'an Sze-lien 潘斯濂 succeed to the post of Vice-Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu.

(4) The Court of Censors memorialize forwarding an appeal lodged by a native of the province of Honan, named Tsêng

Ch'wan-san, complaining that his mother had been murdered by a party of robbers, whom the local authorities have allowed to go free.—Referred in the usual manner.

(5) The Governor of Kiangsi reports the hearing and decision of a case in which certain notables of the Yü-ts'ien district had lodged a complaint against a *Kü-jên* graduate, whom they charge with making himself an agent for purposes of litigation, extorting money from inoffensive persons, monopolizing the collection of the taxes, and making the authorities subject to his dictation. The incriminated person, on learning that orders for his arrest had been issued, came spontaneously to the provincial capital to deliver himself up; and on trial being held, the main facts charged against him have been substantiated. The sentence he has incurred is transportation to the extremest frontier, at a distance of 4,000 *li*; but in consideration of his act of voluntary surrender he is entitled to mitigation by one degree, which makes his penalty that of 100 blows and banishment for three years, without the benefit of participation in the Acts of Grace recently proclaimed. Other sentences on accessories to the case are at the same time submitted for approval.

April 12th.—The Board of Punishments memorialize reporting the conclusion arrived at in the case of the woman Koh Pih-she, charged, together with her alleged paramour Yang Nai-wu, with the murder of her husband Koh P'in-lien by arsenic poisoning. The following is a summary of the facts respresented by the Board, after a recital of the tenour of the decrees under which the recent proceedings in this *cause célèbre* have been instituted. The deceased, Koh P'in-lien, was a native of the district of Yü-hang, in Chêhkiang, where he married, in April, 1872, a woman surnamed Pih, whose father was dead, and whose mother had become the wife of a man named Yü K'ing-t'ien. A month after his marriage, Koh P'ien-lien moved into a house belonging to the provincial graduate Yang Nai-wu, who shared part of the dwelling with him. He himself was employed in a bean-curd factory; and his mother, who had also married a second time, lived apart from his household. Toward the middle of the ensuing autumn, Koh's suspicions of his wife's fidelity were aroused through his seeing her continually in Yang Nai-wu's company; and he sought to assure himself of what was going on by listening at the window-sill, but he was able to hear nothing beyond Yang Nai-wu instructing his wife in the

text of the Classics. He complained, however, to his mother-in-law and her husband; and his mother-in-law, having visited the house and seen her daughter taking her meals in company with Yang Nai-wu, was unable to divest herself of the suspicions she had formed. As she spoke of these to outsiders, the matter became a subject of common gossip in the neighbourhood. At the advice of his relatives, Koh moved in July, 1873, from Yang Nai-wu's dwelling to another house, belonging to a cousin of his wife's step-father, named Wang Sin-pei, who himself lived next door. This man kept an active watch, but at no time saw any visits paid to the house by Yang Nai-wu. On the 15th October following, Koh scolded and beat his wife on account of his dinner being behindhand, and she, in a fit of disgust, cut her hair short and vowed that she would enter a nunnery. The mother, mother-in-law, and other relatives, hearing of the quarrel, came one after another to the house, and on Koh Pih-she's mother angrily exclaiming that things should not have reached such a pass for so trifling a matter, and the mother of Koh himself blaming his conduct, he replied, this being the first occasion of such a remark, that he had taken this opportunity of venting his displeasure on account of the affair with Yang Nai-wu. On the 26th November he was taken ill, with a complaint to which he was liable, and two days afterwards he was seen by the neighbour returning home shewing symptoms of ague. The *ti-pao* Wang Lin saw him stop at a cake-vendor's shop and buy a dumpling, after eating which he was seized with vomiting. He returned to his house, and, feeling very weak, desired his wife to take 1,000 *cash* to her father-in-law and request him to buy certain medicines for him. His wife's mother paid him a visit forthwith, and found him lying very ill in bed, shivering and vomiting, after which she returned home. His wife, alarmed by a choking sound in his throat, called out to him, but white froth issued from his lips and he was unable to utter a word. In her alarm, she screamed to the neighbours, who hurried in, and she entreated them to fetch her own and her husband's mother, which they did; but all their endeavours, aided by the advice of a medical practitioner who was called in, proved fruitless, and the patient died towards evening. His mother attended to the preparations for interment of the corpse, and expressed no doubt of his having died of the violent fever with which his illness was at the time identified. It was only when a rumour was set afloat the next day,

through the deceased's foster mother, of his having been poisoned, that his mother was led to suspect, from this fact and the speedy decomposition of the remains which set in, that he had been foully dealt with; and she lodged a complaint at the district Magistracy, calling for an inquest. This district Magistrate complied with this application, and the condition of the remains was such as to lead the examiner of corpses employed on this occasion to suspect the agency of poison. He was inclined to believe that opium had been the cause of death, owing to the absence of rigidity in the corpse; but one of the Magistrate's underlings having observed, in adherence to the mistaken theory of Ch'ên Chuh-shan, that death from opium poisoning can scarcely occur except when the drug has been taken by the individual of his own accord, the examiner was led to believe, from the livid blisters observed on the abdomen, that the cause of death was poisoning by arsenic. Whilst arguing the point, he omitted to cleanse the silver probing-needle with the decoction of *Gleditschia*; and being unable to feel positive what poison had been employed, he declared ambiguously that "death had been caused by poison." The Magistrate hereupon interrogated the relatives of the deceased, and the neighbours, none of whom knew anything respecting the source whence poison had been procured; and the widow, on being taken to the magistracy and questioned, denied all knowledge in this respect. Torture having been applied to her, however, her powers of endurance were insufficient for the ordeal, and she made a false confession to the effect that, having had criminal relations with Yang Nai-wu at former times, this man had supplied her with some arsenic on the 24th November for the purpose of putting an end to her husband's life. The Magistrate hereupon applied to the superior authorities, requesting that Yang Nai-wu be stripped of his degree in order that he might be placed on trial, whereupon certain of his relatives came forward to testify that on the 24th November he had been absent at a place called Nan Hiang, and could not possibly have handed the poison to Koh Pih-she as alleged. The woman, however, in dread of further torture, adhered to her statement; and the Magistrate, in forwarding a report of the case to his superior, the Prefect of Hang-chow, falsely declared, in connection with the inquest, that the silver probe had been duly washed without removing its greenish discoloration. Yang Nai-wu, on being put on trial before the Prefect, was induced, through

fear of torture, to admit the charge; and on being asked where he obtained arsenic, he mentioned the name of a shop which he remembered having passed. From this point the story is continued to the same effect as has been already set forth in previous memorials; and the Board submits, for the Imperial decision, the question as to the penalties that should be meted out to the officials, high and low, who have been guilty of the gross perversion of justice brought to light in this case. For rescript, see *Gazette* of March 30th.

April 13th.—(1) A decree commanding two hereditary Princes of the first degree to attend the preliminary obsequies of the Imperial Prince of Fu, lately deceased, on the 17th inst.

(2) The remainder of to-day's *Gazette* is occupied with the concluding portion of the Board of Punishments' memorial begun yesterday.

April 14th.—(1) The acting Governor-General of Min-Chêh, and Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, jointly memorialize representing the urgent necessity that exists for a modification of the rules in force respecting the custody of prisoners, in order to allow a speedy dispensation of justice to take place. Observing that the civil administration in the province of Fuhkien has lapsed into a condition of vicious routine, one consequence of which is that unsentenced criminals and other parties to judicial cases habitually languish in imprisonment, frequently resulting in death, the memorialists point out that in order to afford any actual relief it is necessary to undertake a radical and searching enquiry into the causes of the evil complained of. They have already, on two successive occasions, denounced a series of officials guilty of acts of suppression in connection with reports of law proceedings, and they have at the same time lavished exhortations upon all their subordinates to discharge their duties with diligent exactitude, to such an extent that they may almost say they have worn away the points of their pens and have brought blisters to their lips in the effort. In the course of six months, the cases of 532 prisoners, old and new, have been wound up; but the misfortune is that in many cases where the official returns shew only a few prisoners in custody, there are in reality some scores of persons in confinement. Thus, at Amoy, the sub-Prefect had upwards of eighty prisoners in jail, and reported barely half-a-dozen. The sub-Prefect at Shih Ma had upwards of twenty persons in confinement, and had gone on

for some time reporting the prison as untenanted; and these cases may be taken as typical of the remainder. Not only is this what happens as regards the magistrates themselves, but prisoners are confined by the underlings without the knowledge of the clerks and secretaries, whilst these again commit persons to custody without the knowledge of their official employers. Farmers and labourers or petty traders once cast into prison, their entire household knows not a moment's peace; and their release is not effected until land and houses, nay, it may be, wife and children, are sold, and interest brought to bear on their behalf. The official sits at his chess and wine, while the people are offering up supplications to which there is none to lend an ear. Verily! the sound of their woes and anguish may well suffice to evoke the visitation of drought and to arouse the wrath of Heaven. Since the memorialists began their work of scrutiny, prisoners to the number of 1,246, borne on the lists sent in from the various districts, have been released; but they have no doubt that thousands more are still confined, of whom no report is made or who are surreptitiously held in durance by the official underlings. Most marvellous of all are such instances as that of the Magistrate of Show-ning, who, when stringently called upon to explain why a prisoner named Li was still detained in custody, more than a year after he had been entitled to his release by Act of Grace, replied that the prisoner was so fond of confinement that he did not wish to be set at liberty; and of the Magistrate of Tsiang-loh, who, when called upon to report why a prisoner named Yang had been so long in jail, replied that the man had been handed over by one incumbent of the office to another during a long series of years, and that no particulars of his case were on record! Other instances of the kind might further be cited. There are, at present, in all the districts of the province, some 290 odd criminals in prison whose trials are as yet not at an end, and 620 odd prisoners in addition to these. The prisoner who has been longest in confinement is one Wêng I-loh, in the Fuh-t'ing district, who has been 20 years in jail; and other instances of imprisonment for 12, 11, and 10 years are recited. The majority of these are individuals connected with charges of murder or robbery with violence; but some have retracted confessions made in the first instance under torture, whilst others are simple accessories or even persons who declare themselves to

be the victims of false accusations. The courts, bound down by the letter of standing regulations, do not venture to pronounce a final decision; and the consequence is that prisoners who, if they had only been sentenced, might go free in conformity with the terms of the Imperial amnesties, are detained in perpetual imprisonment owing to some contradiction in their depositions first and last. In order to remedy the crying evils thus exposed, it is prayed that the existing regulations may be modified so as to enable a general jail delivery to be held, irrespective of the limitations of time prescribed by the rules affecting trials, for all cases dating from before the year 1875, exception being made in the case of persons who have retracted confessions made in the face of direct testimony, keepers of gambling houses, promoters of litigation, kidnappers to hold to ransom, and evil doers of this class, who, if set free with the rest, would be certain either to betake themselves to the profession of brigandage, or to drift into connection with alien sects. It is proposed that this class of prisoner may be kept in custody for a fixed term of years by being chained to blocks of stone, but not locked up in the prisons. For all subsequent cases, it is proposed that the regulations enjoining despatch in procedure be duly enforced. An apology is made for some delay in sending forward the present memorial, owing to the departure for Formosa of the Governor, Ting Jih-ch'ang, by whom it has been drawn up.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned consider and report to Us.

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

April 15th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Liu Sih-kin, who has represented that entertainments and theatrical performances are given on the part of officials, and that these should be prohibited. In reply it is observed that, notwithstanding the termination of the period of national mourning for the late Emperor, the Imperial remains have not, as yet, been deposited in their last resting-place; and there would be something repugnant to the feelings if feasting and mirth were to be abruptly resumed. For this reason entertainments on the part of officials are still entirely prohibited.

(2) The acting Governor-General of Min Ch'eh reports the arrival of 23 shipwrecked Liu-ch'iuans at Foochow on the 3rd December last, the account they give of themselves being that they sailed from

Napa on the 21st October, 1876, were blown off the land in a typhoon, and after drifting about for some time were at length rescued by Chinese fishermen in the neighbourhood of Chusan, and guided by them to Foochow. The usual allowance of a pint of rice and six *cash* per diem will be issued to the sufferers until they can be sent back to their native country.

(3) The same authority reports the arrival of a second party of distressed Liu-ch'iuans at Foochow, to the number of fourteen persons. They state that on the 21st May, 1876, they sailed from Napa with a cargo of crockery, lacquerware, and sundries, for the Meiaco Sima islands, intending to bring back a return freight of white rice, hides, bêche-de-mer, etc.; but having been caught in a gale they were driven on the coast of Corea, and finally drifted down to the mouth of the Yangtze, where their vessel became a total wreck. Having swum on shore, they were taken charge of by the local authorities and sent on by them to the provincial capital, Soochow. They arrived at this place on the 13th October last, and on the 5th February, 1877, they reached Shanghai, from which point they were forwarded by steamer to Foochow. They will be relieved in the usual manner, and sent back when opportunity offers, to their own country.

(4) Shên Pao-ch'eng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, memorializes applying for an extension of his sick-leave for one month, stating that his health still continues in an unsatisfactory condition. In answer to an application he felt bound to make, toward the close of last year, for leave to resign his post, he received the Imperial sanction to his taking a congé of two months; and he is now compelled to solicit an extension of this period.—Granted by rescript.

(5) The Military Governor of Heh-lung-kiang (the Amur) memorializes reporting the details of a victorious engagement on the part of the Manchu troops stationed at Pa-yen Su-su, over a band of mounted free-booters who, to the number of between 50 and 60, made an incursion into that neighbourhood in February last. The detachment of troops, 100 strong, which was set in motion on news being received of the fray having occurred, succeeded in enveloping the party of robbers, of whom 30 were killed on the spot. Thirteen wounded prisoners were at the same time taken. Twenty-three horses, and much saddlery and other trophies were also captured. Twelve of the prisoners were

so severely wounded that they were despatched at once, by being speared to death; whilst the remaining captive was brought up for interrogation. He stated that he was a native of Pao-ting Fu, who had emigrated many years ago to this part of the country; and he gave an account of the arrangements he had lately entered into with certain of the lawless gold-hunters of San-sing to make a raid upon the neighbourhood of Pa-yen Su-su. After his deposition had been taken, the prisoner was executed and his head exposed on a pole. It is observed that the region of country about Pa-yen Su-su is greatly exposed to incursions from the adjoining territory, more especially as during the frosts the river can be crossed upon the ice; and precautions against brigandage must consequently be maintained without relaxation.—Rescript enjoining vigorous efforts for the extirpation of the bands of brigands in this region.

April 16th.—(1) The Governor of Kiangsi reports that eight candidates above the age of 90, and thirty-two of the age of 80 and upwards, are entitled to the bestowal of honorary degrees as *Kü-jen*, after competing at the provincial examinations of last autumn.

(2) The Governor of Kiangsi reports in a postscript memorial the destruction by fire of the yamen of the district Magistrate of Nan-ch'ang, in the provincial capital. The conflagration took place on the 7th November last.

(3) The Governor of Ngan-hwei reports the number of octogenarian and nonagenarian candidates at the last year's examinations, who are entitled to honorary degrees, to be as follows: of the age of ninety and upwards, 4; and of the age of eighty and upwards, 20.

April 17th.—The Manchu General-in-Chief of Sze-ch'wan memorializes proposing the enrolment of an additional body of 500 Banner-men, to be picked from the Manchu population of Ch'êng-tu, to reinforce the scanty numbers of the Banner soldiery residing there. Of these the number originally was but 1,600 officers and men, to which 500 were added, on the system it is now proposed to follow, some 10 years ago. It is proposed that the pay of the additional force should be at the rate of 2 Taels per man per mensem; and as a saving of Taels 2,000 monthly on the provincial military expenditure has lately been effected by the disbandment of a body of braves no longer required on the border, the present scheme can be put into effect

without additional expense.—Sanctioned by rescript.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is principally occupied with memorials on administrative details relating to the Hunting Grounds.

April 18th.—(1) A Decree. Fêng Tsze-ts'ai has memorialized entreating permission to have audience. Let him come to Peking for audience; and let Liu Kw'ên-yih submit the name of an officer to receive appointment to act in his absence.

(2) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from the Governor-General Tso Tsung-t'ang, reporting the decease from illness of Brigadier-General Liu How-ki. The death of this officer, who held the command of the Yen-Sui division in Shensi, is much deplored, on the ground of the valiant services he has rendered during his career. The customary honours are decreed in his favour. A successor to his post is appointed in the person of T'an Jên-fang 譚仁芳.

(3) The Governor of Kiangsu reports the shipment of the first batch of the grain tribute due from that province for the supply of the capital. The first squadron of the rice junks, numbering 165 sail, and carrying 325,970 piculs of grain, plus a waste allowance of 27,217 piculs, left the port of Shanghai on the 8th March, to commence their voyage northward.

April 19th.—(1) A decree appointing the Grand Secretary Pao Yün as Examiner-in-chief, and the Ministers Mao Ch'ang-hi, Ts'ien Pao-lien and Kwên Kang, as Assistant Examiners for the Examinations about to open.

(2-5) A series of decrees making appointments in connection with the forthcoming Examinations.

(6) The Governor of Kiangsu reports the measures that have been taken generally with reference to the refugees from the famine-stricken districts North of the Yangtze, who have been cared for during the winter in the region about Soochow, Ch'ang-chow, Chin-kiang, Yangchow, etc. The sufferers began to flock southwards, he observes, in November last, arriving daily at Soochow in parties of from 10 to 100 in number, upon which vacant spaces in and about the city were set apart for their temporary habitation under the care of special officers. Provision was made for the issue of two rations of congee per diem to each individual, the allowance being four-fifths of a pint to adults and one-half that quantity for children. To such of the refugees as came in boats anchorage room was allowed, and rice was served out to be

cooked by themselves, with a dole of cash and supplies of fuel, and cotton for the purpose of wadding their clothes. Medical attendance was also provided for the sick and for women in child-bed. In order to prevent too large a concourse of individuals at any one point, such as might have given rise to disturbances, orders were sent to the provincial Treasurer to forward funds to the various afflicted districts for local issues of relief; and measures were taken to institute labour-relief works upon the Canal in order to provide employment for such of the afflicted population as had not yet migrated from their own part of the country. Agencies for the distribution of relief were established at Yang-chow, Chinkingiang, Kiang-yin, etc., to attend to the requirements of that portion of the sufferers who had not yet crossed the Yangtze, or who were in the first stage of their journey after crossing the River. As regards those who were the first to migrate, and who were established about the relief agencies at Soochow and Ch'ang-chow, or who had been draughted off to Sungkiang, T'ai-ts'ang, etc., to be taken care of, the total number amounted to 10,600 and odd. In addition to these, the ex-Lieutenant-Governor of Fuhkien, P'an Wei, and another official, had taken upon themselves the charge of maintaining 5,900 and odd persons, with funds they had collected for the purpose; and other detachments mustered as follows:—

In the Su-Sung-T'ai Intendency, 8,000 & odd.	
At Ch'ang-chow	3,100 ,, "
„ Kiang-yin	4,600 ,, "
„ Chinkingiang	3,000 ,, "
„ Yangchow	41,900 ,, "
Sent back with relief	9,400 ,, "
Total.....	70,000 ,, "

(in addition to the 15,000 previously referred to.)

The vast numbers of the sufferers imposed a task of serious difficulty in the way of providing for their maintenance. A sum of Taels 20,000 was remitted to the office of the Director-General of the Grain Transport, at Hwai-ngan Fu, toward the expenses of the relief-agencies there; beside which Tls. 9,000 were allotted to Kiang-yin, and Tls. 5,000 were sent in the first instance from Shanghai to Yangchow. There was, further, the allowance of 13,000 and odd piculs of rice, the issue of which was sanctioned by decree, and a sum of Tls. 3,600 from the freight savings' fund, one-half of each of which was allotted to Yangchow and one-half to Soochow. A sum of Tls. 15,000, raised by charit-

able contributions at Shanghai, was allotted to the support of a number of the able-bodied refugees, who were employed in deepening the channel of the Tan-yang Canal. When things were at the worst, an allowance of 10,000 piculs of rice was additionally granted by the Imperial bounty. The refugees having now been maintained for nearly four months, and seed time being at hand, measures have been taken for returning them to their native districts. An abundant snowfall during the winter gives good promise for the next crops, and orders have been issued for the purchase of supplies of seed-corn, to be issued as advances to the cultivators. Rations are to be issued to the sufferers up to the end of the 2nd moon (April 13th), an additional month's ration allowance being employed in returning the parties to their homes.

April 20th.—(1) A decree commanding appointment to be made to the vacant post of Prefect of Ch'ang-sha Fu in Hunan, by selection of the most fitting successor from among the Prefects of the province. Liu Yü-king is the officer named to succeed to the ensuing vacancy.

(2) The acting Governor-General of Hu Kwang memorializes with reference to the officer lately appointed to the post of Prefect of I-ch'ang, Kia Wan-ts'ing 賈萬青 by name, whose letter of appointment required him to report himself at his post by the 13th November last, and who arrived at the provincial capital on the 11th January. It has to be observed that whilst the limits of the Prefecture are very extensive, and the region is habitually known as difficult to govern, the opening of the port to foreign trade, which has lately been agreed upon, entailing the establishment of a settlement of foreigners amongst the Chinese population, and the consequent growth of questions of an international character, renders it less possible for an official newly introduced to this office to discharge its duties effectively. It is, therefore, proposed that the Prefect be retained at the provincial capital for a time to gain experience. A communication is forwarded to the Boards and Supervisorates to this effect, and the letter of appointment is sent back to be cancelled.—Approved by rescript.

(3) The same functionary reports the selection of a Taotai to act in the stead of Li Ming-ch'ih, Taotai and Superintendent of Customs at Hankow, who has lately been appointed Judicial Commissioner at Foo-chow. It is observed that the incumbent of

the office in question, being charged with the conduct of commercial relations, in his capacity of Superintendent of Customs, has also numerous and weighty affairs of government under his control, beside having a constant succession of international questions to deal with, which are of even a still more important nature. None but an officer of wide intelligence, skilful judgment, and experience of affairs, is adapted to such a post; and as there is no qualified successor for the appointment to be found among the Taotais at present holding office in the province, with the exception of such as are already charged with important positions, selection has been made of the provincial Grain Intendant, Ho Wei-kien, a native of Nganhwei, aged 43, who purchased the grade of *lang chung* in 1853, and who, after passing the examination for the *Kü-jên* degree at Peking in 1855, received a post on probation in the Board of Revenue. In 1861 he purchased the rank of Taotai and was posted to the province of Hupeh. After presentation to His Majesty in December, 1863, he received the customary permission to proceed to the scene of his duties, and in April, 1864, he arrived in Hupeh, where he has subsequently served in various official employments. Since the removal of Li Ming-ch'ih, he has acted for several months in a very satisfactory manner, having conducted his relations with the foreign Consuls in a friendly spirit, whilst at the same time he has shewn a proper regard to the duties of his position, and a sedulous degree of attention to his political and fiscal responsibilities. It is earnestly solicited, therefore, that he be confirmed in his present post.—Referred by rescript for the decision of the Board of Civil Office.

(4) In a postscript Memorial, the acting Governor-General of Hu Kwang further reports, with reference to Li Ming-ch'ih, late Taotai at Hankow, that during his long tenure of office he has invariably conducted his relations with the various foreign Consuls, in the international questions that have arisen from time to time, in a friendly spirit, without either giving provocation on the one hand or pursuing on the other a yielding course, shewing himself capable of acting up to the duties of his position in this respect, and at the same time attentive and energetic in the discharge of his administrative functions. Having handed over charge to his successor, he took his departure for Peking on the 3rd March.

April 21st. — (1). The Governor of Kiangsu memorializes reporting the result

of a trial held with reference to the escape of two prisoners from the jail of Ch'wan-sha T'ing, on the 14th May last (see *Gazette* of September 29th, 1876). The two prisoners were implicated with others in a charge of burglary attended with acts of rape, and one of them, Kao Kwoh-tsiang by name, had been sentenced to death by strangulation. The other prisoner, Chu Fêng-shan, had been found guilty as an accessory to the crime, and was sentenced to transportation into military slavery in the Amur province, which sentence was commuted, according to law, into transportation to the extreme southwestern frontier. The sub-Prefect of Ch'wan-sha having occasion to proceed to Sung-Kiang Fu on business on the 13th May, placed the jail-warden, Fêng K'o-kün, in temporary charge of his office; and on the following evening the jail-warden made a personal inspection of the prison, attended by the warders and prison-clerk, and found the fetters by which the two criminals in question were secured to be in perfect order. In the course of that night, however, during a shower of rain, the watchmen on duty having fallen asleep, the two prisoners contrived to break their fetters, to burrow under a wall, and to effect their escape. The alarm was given at daybreak, and pursuit instituted, but in vain. The proceedings having been reported, and a decree obtained stripping the jail-warden of his rank, this officer, together with the prison-clerk and warders, has been placed on trial at Soochow, whereupon the facts summarised above were deposed to, with the declaration that the escape was due to momentary neglect and in no wise attributable to guilty connivance. This being ascertained to be the actual state of the case, without suppression or misrepresentation, it becomes necessary to pass sentence according to law. The statute provides that, in the case of any prisoner being allowed through negligence on the part of the jailers to escape, the jailers shall suffer a penalty two degrees less than that of the missing prisoner, and the jail-warden a penalty less by three degrees than that of the jailers. The penalty to be awarded in the present instance to the jailers is that of 100 blows and banishment for three years, whilst the clerk and watchmen receive corresponding penalties. The jail-warden, who has already been stripped of his rank by decree, is entitled to be left in office to continue his efforts for the recapture of the escaped prisoners; whilst to the sub-Prefect, responsible for the prison, deprivation of his

official button of rank is adjudged as the immediate penalty. He is equally bound, under penalty of further impeachment, to effect the apprehension of the culprits.—Referred by rescript for the report of the Board of Punishments.

(2) Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu Kwang, memorializes reporting his arrival at Wuch'ang on the 15th March, on his return from Szech'wan, whereupon, a couple of days later, he took over the seal of office. The Governor of Hupeh also memorializes, reporting his having surrendered the acting Governor-Generalship on the same date.

(3) The Governor of Kiangsu memorializes with reference to Chang Che-wan, heretofore appointed to the office of Governor-General of Min-ch'eh, who obtained leave in November 1871, to retire into private life to attend to his mother in her old age, and who, on account of his parent's infirmity, rendering her incapable of undertaking a long journey, has since then resided at Soochow. He has now sent to the Governor to report that his mother departed this life on the 15th February last; which is duly reported to the Throne.

April 22nd.—The Governor of Shantung memorialises, reporting that Chang Shu, formerly acting Magistrate of the Hai-f'eng district, who had been dismissed from his post on account of the escape of a prisoner from jail, may be restored to his former rank in consideration of the recapture of the escaped culprit, which he has now effected. The facts are these:—A man named F'eng Pao, who had been dismissed from employ as a police underling, was accused of having plotted the abduction of a prostitute named Wang, who was carried off and held to ransom; and this man, having been apprehended and lodged in prison, effected his escape during the Magistrate's absence on a visit to the provincial capital on public business. Having been denounced for his inefficiency, the Magistrate was cashiered, by a decree dated the 16th August, 1874; but it has now to be stated that, on the 6th August, 1876, he effected, through the agency of an employé of his own, assisted by the police of the Yen-shan district in Chihli, the recapture of the escaped prisoner. For this token of activity on his part, coupled with his previous good character, it is besought that he may be restored to the list of Expectant District Magistrates in Shantung.—Granted by rescript.

April 23rd.—The texts given out at the pending Examinations as themes for the

candidates' essays and verses are published.

(1) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the trial and sentence passed upon a man named Chao Urh-t'ao, on a charge of murdering his aunt and a cousin, in revenge for harsh language used toward him. He has confessed the crime, and is sentenced, as the law prescribes, to suffer death by the *ling ch'e* (slicing) process. Copies of the depositions are forwarded to the Board of Punishments, and the memorialist requests that the sentence may be laid before the three Tribunals of Judicature for final decision.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report to Us without delay.

(2) The Governor of Ch'ehkiang, Yang Ch'ang-sün, reports the capture of a criminal, charged with the robbery of a parcel of silk cocoons, and with the murder of two persons in the act of resisting arrest. He has been summarily executed.

April 24th.—(1) A rescript approving a long list of minor military appointments submitted by the Board of War.

(2) The Governor of Ch'ehkiang memorialises, reporting the despatch of the first squadron of junks for Tientsin with a portion of the grain tribute of that province. The amount of 1st and 2nd quality rice to be remitted in 1877 from the three prefectures of Hang-chow, Kia-hing, and Hu-chow on account of the collection of 1876 is 420,700 piculs; and the grain having been forwarded to the receiving department at Shanghai from the various districts concerned, shipments have now taken place as follows:—

By C.M.S.N. Co. steamers, Pls. 93,400
 „ junk..... „ 73,000

Thirty-two junks have sailed with the quantity named above, leaving Shanghai on the 2nd March.

April 25th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reported a fall of rain at Peking, on 23rd inst.—producing saturation to a depth of upwards of two inches.

No documents of importance.

April 26th.—(Court Circular.) Li Ming-ch'ih, newly appointed Judicial Commissioner of Fuhkien, had audience of leave, and requested one month's congé.

The themes issued for the second period of the Examinations are published.

The acting-Governor of Shantung reports the trial and execution of Chên Sze, a native of the T'ang-yih district, for the crime of parricide. From the evidence adduced at the trial, which has been pending for some time, it appears that on the 6th April, 1876,

the culprit, who had up to that time lived with his father on a footing of proper filial obedience, had sold a pear tree for 3,000 *cash*, and having this amount of ready money, was desired by his father to pay on his account the sum of 500 *cash* which the elder man owed at the village baker's. Ch'en Sze proposed to wait a while longer, upon which his father abused him as a disobedient son, seized a chopper, and rushed at him with it, threatening to kill him. Ch'en Sze defended himself as best he could, but his father continued to grapple with him, until at length, having possessed himself of the weapon, Ch'en Sze dealt a blow at his father unthinkingly, which laid him prostrate and insensible with an incised wound on the forehead. In great terror at the consequences of his act, Ch'en Sze gave an alarm, declaring that his father had been wounded by robbers, and some of his neighbours and relatives hurried in, with the *tipao*, to make enquiries. It so happened that Ch'en Sze was alone in the house at the time, as his wife was on a visit at her mother's, and he was able to conceal the real state of the case. After lingering in a state of unconsciousness for three days, his father died, and he proceeded of his own motion to have the remains interred, employing a couple of mendicants, whose names are unknown, to convey the coffin to a grave dug on his own land. Two months later two of his uncles, brothers of the deceased, returned from a journey, and they then questioned Ch'en Sze with regard to the alleged murder of his father by robbers, and to his having failed to make report to the authorities and solicit an inquest. Thrown into confusion by this interrogation, he was unable to conceal the truth any longer, and having confessed the act he had committed, he was denounced to the District Magistrate and committed to custody. A question arose, and was referred to the higher authorities, regarding the necessity for an inquest on the remains; but as it was considered that decomposition must have set in, and as the relatives who had come to the rescue deposed to the nature of the wound and the treatment they had resorted to in plastering it with flour, whilst the other relatives of the deceased begged that the remains of their kinsman, who had met so sad a fate, might not be further disturbed, the late Governor, Ting Pao-chêng, sanctioned the conclusion of the trial without an inquest. The prisoner, having confessed his crime, was accordingly sentenced under the statute relating to parricide, to suffer death by *ling-ch'e* (slicing), and as

the scene of the crime, although within the distance of 300 *li* referred to in the statute, is at the same time separated from the provincial capital by the Yellow River, the law permits, under these circumstances, that execution take place at the provincial capital itself. The sentence has accordingly been carried into effect; and the head of the parricide has been despatched to the scene of his crime to be exposed as a public warning.

April 27th.—A decree of the Empresses Regent referring to a special High Commission, for deliberation, the question as to the place to be assigned in the great Ancestral Temple to the tablets of the Emperor and Empress lately deceased.

No documents of importance.

April 28th.—(1) A decree commanding enquiry in the case of the escape of certain prisoners from the jail of the Hing-t'ang district in Chihli, and the degradation and trial of the officer responsible for their safekeeping.

(2) A decree extending for a further period of two months, the time for closing the 15 relief agencies existing in different sections of Peking for the distribution of supplies of food, as solicited by the metropolitan censors, and sanctioning the issue of further supplies of rice as requested.

(3) A decree. Let Liu Kwang-ming 劉光明 succeed to the post of Brigadier General of the Kieh-shih (Kit-shek) command in Kwangtung.

April 29th.—(1-4) Decrees based upon reports from the Governors of Shensi, Kiangsu, and Szech'wan, who have impeached a number of officials for various forms of misconduct or incompetence. They are cashiered or degraded according to the recommendations submitted.

(5) The Governor of Kwangsi reports the successful result of the operations undertaken against the revolted peasantry in the Liu-chow prefecture, who had been stirred into an insurrectionary movement by the persuasion of a graduate named Lan Shêng-ts'ui, who had been deprived of his rank.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 9th instant.

April 30th.—(1) A Decree. We have received the benign mandate of their Majesties the Empresses Ts'ze Ngan, etc. and Ts'ze Hi, etc. in the following words:—As the Prince of Fu-king (the "Ninth Prince," or Prince of Fu, whose death was recorded on the 23rd March) is without an heir, We decree that the Imperial clansman Tsai Hwang, son of Yih Tung, do adopt in lieu of his present name that of

Tsai P'ei 載沛, and become the adoptive heir to the Prince of Fu-king. We confer upon him the rank of To-lo Beileh (prince of the third degree.) Let the departments concerned attend to what is needful as the regulations provide.

(2) The Governor of Kwangtung memorializes reporting that 12 nonagenarian and 42 octogenarian candidates at the examinations of last autumn are qualified to receive honorary degrees according to regulation.

(3) The Governor of Kweichow similarly reports one candidate of the age of 90 and one of upwards of 80 in the category referred to in the foregoing memorial.

May 1st.—No documents of importance.

May 2nd.—(1) A Decree. Let the Director of the Banqueting Court, Hū Kêng-shên 許庚身, who has fulfilled his term of office as Literary Chancellor [in Kiangsi], and has returned to Peking, resume his position as before in the capacity of a Secretary to the Grand Council.

(2) A postscript memorial from the Censor Têng K'ing-lin, stating that a report has reached him concerning a clerk employed in the office of the Lieutenant-Governor of Shansi, named Kiang She-hao, who has filled the post he occupies for several years, and has come to be known as "Lieutenant-Governor Kiang." Availing himself of his position, he has engrossed authority in his own hands. The clerks employed in the offices of all the Intendancies, Prefectures, and subordinate departments are invariably creatures of his own, and connected with him either by blood or marriage, thus constituting an association for mutual assistance, by the agency of which numerous abuses are made practicable. Dishonest officials league themselves with him, and are thus encouraged to look upon intrigue for the purpose of obtaining preferment as the main requisite towards success. Individuals who receive appointment to any official post are compelled, through dread of the influence he could exert on their prospects, to take confederates of his own into their employ as clerks, so that his door is ever besieged by disengaged candidates for employment. It has further to be pointed out that a son of this man has purchased the official rank of Prefectural Commissary, and has been appointed to serve in Shansi, where, trusting to his father's influence, he has been guilty of undue assumption, and has excited much complaint by the appointments he has received on the most preferable forms of service. (N.B.—From the following memorial, it is apparent that the above document

has been withheld from publication until the receipt of the reply which ensues below.)

(3) Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, memorializes acknowledging the receipt, on the 28th September last, of a Council despatch enclosing an Imperial decree dated the 23rd September, to the effect that "some one has memorialized Us with reference to a clerk employed in the Lieutenant-Governor's office in the province of Shansi, etc., etc." The Governor goes on to state that at the time of the receipt of this decree he was shut up in the Examination Hall; but he gave confidential instructions forthwith to the Prefect of T'ai-yüan Fu to place the incriminated person under the surveillance of an official, and at the same time to institute an enquiry into the various particulars alleged in the accusation. The result of this enquiry is now set forth, disproving the charges brought by the Censor against Kiang She-hao in every particular. He is a native of Chêhkiang, and has been but two years in his present employ. He is known by no such nickname as "Lieutenant-Governor Kiang." As the Lieutenant-Governor attends personally to the transaction of all his business affairs, the clerk has no opportunity of abusing authority. Only two connections of his are employed as clerks by subordinate Magistrates, and these were engaged without interference on his part. Two other relatives of his are unemployed at this moment. His son was adopted many years ago by a maternal uncle, and no improper influence has been exerted on his behalf in connection with his position in the Government service. Inasmuch, however, as the son has done wrong in contriving to hold office in the same province in which his father is employed as a Government clerk, and as the father has failed to regulate his son's conduct properly in this respect, it is recommended by the commission of enquiry that the father be expelled from the province and the son deprived of his purchased rank as Prefectural Commissary. This recommendation is approved and supported by the Governor.—Rescript: Be it as is proposed.

May 3rd.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Têng Hwa-hi, who has represented that an official underling of menial degree, employed for years as a servitor in different district yamêns in the Canton province, has had the audacity to send up his two sons to the Literary Examinations, where one of them has taken the *küjên* degree, the other having further acquired by purchase the

rank of Secretary to a Board. It is commanded, hereupon, that the two individuals in question be deprived of their rank and degree, and that their father, Ho Ping-nan, *alias* Ho K'ü-p'ing, be punished according to law by the provincial authorities.

(2) The Governor-General of Shêng-king and his colleagues memorialize reporting the decease, on the 4th April, of the Vice-Governor of Fêng-t'ien, Yang Shu-hiang, and soliciting the speedy appointment of a successor, in view of the approach of the period for the local primary examinations, over which it is his duty to preside.—See *Gazette* of April 10th.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes reporting the results of his tour of military inspection in the south of that province. The garrisons of the Chêng-ting and Tai-ming prefectures having been paraded for review, their performances at archery and gíngal practice were found to yield satisfactory results, the proportion of hits at target practice being recorded at from 60 to 80 per cent. in different cases. The cavalry, infantry, and artillery of the army of irregulars under General Chow Shêng-ch'wan, stationed at Ma Ch'ang and Sin Ch'êng, were also inspected, and the performances of the various arms are reported as highly satisfactory. It is recorded that the troops, who have heretofore been armed and drilled in the European fashion, have of late been further supplied with a new pattern of breech-loading weapon (converted Martini-Henry rifles), in order to fit them for any emergency. The practice of the artillery, supplied with Krupp field-pieces, was fairly good. After the inspection, the troops were ordered back to their cantonments at Sin-ch'êng, to continue the active discharge of their duties; and the Governor-General himself reached Tientsin on the 3rd April.

(4) The same high official reports that it had been ascertained that the walls of the prefectural city of Yung-p'ing Fu, which were last repaired at the cost of the Imperial Exchequer in 1817 were in a ruinous condition, and that an outlay of Tls. 28,000 would be required for their restoration, whereupon, as public funds could not be spared for this purpose, it had been determined to execute the work by subscription on the part of the local notables, giving employment at the same time to the famine-stricken population on the system of relief works. The undertaking is now reported as completed; and honorary rewards will be solicited on behalf of the contributors to the fund.

May 4th.—A decree based upon the recommendations submitted by the Governor General Tso Tsung-t'ang with reference to an act of mutiny and attempted desertion on the part of certain Manchu high officials and the troops under their command in the army of Sungaria. A Brigadier-general named Kirhungêh had refused to give up at once the command of his force to the officer sent by General Kin Shun to relieve him, and instead of exhorting his men to prompt obedience had allowed them to mutiny and disband themselves, he himself following them on their way northward. Although he afterwards endeavoured to recall his men to their duty, this was only after a decree had been issued conveying stringent instructions for his arrest. His subordinates Ilêhopu and Yung Ch'êng have been equally guilty with himself, in their failure to maintain discipline and in joining the soldiery in their flight, although they may not be chargeable with having instigated the outbreak. All are pronounced liable to the penalty of death; but the extreme sentence is commuted into banishment, to take effect, as regards Kir-hungêh, in the province of Fuhkien, and, as regards the other offenders, in the province of Kwangtung.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with the report of an unimportant trial in the province of Kiangsi.

May 5th.—(1) The Governor of Nganhwei memorializes reporting the steps that have been taken in that province to fulfil the Imperial commands for the issue of relief to the population rendered destitute by the recent drought, as solicited by the Vice-President Hia T'ung-shan. As already reported to the Throne, the Governor had set aside a sum of Tael 25,000 from the provincial land revenue, which had been issued to the Intendants of the Ngan-Lu and Fêng-ying circuits for distribution according to the necessities of the case. The Governor is now able to report that, thanks to the abundant snowfall during the winter, the early crops are promising, and the population is no longer in straits for employment and food.

(2) The Governor of Honan memorializes reporting the state of affairs in that province with reference to the prevailing scarcity. Owing to drought in the greater part of the province, with floods in certain places, the crops of last year presented on the whole a serious deficiency, the general average being however in excess of 50 per cent. of a full harvest. In consequence of the measures adopted by the late Governor, Ts'ien Ting-ming, there were some 930,000

piculs of grain laid up in the various district granaries as a reserve in case of need ; and orders were issued to the local authorities, in the first instance, to make sales and advances from this stock at low rates ; and at a later period, gratuitous distributions were ordered, in accordance with the wants of each locality. In the neighbourhood of the provincial capital, where a multitude of famine refugees have collected, agencies for the distribution of relief had been set on foot. The number of distressed persons who had thus congregated was 20,065 in the first instance, but the numbers eventually rose to upwards of 70,000, as the news spread that relief was to be obtained. A subscription of Tls. 21,000 has been raised among the officials of the province, toward the cost of providing food for the destitute, and should this sum not be found sufficient, the Governor will lead the way again in obtaining further contributions. At a time of financial exigency such as the present, he could on no account think of asking for supplies from the public exchequer for the purpose.

May 6th.—The acting Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan memorializes reporting the result of an enquiry instituted into the facts of an appeal case referred back from Peking by a Decree dated 29th April, 1875. The complainant, named Wu Ch'êng-yeo, had appealed, accusing a relative of his and certain others, of the murder of one Chao Pi-shang, in consequence of a quarrel ; and had further complained that the actual offenders had not been brought to justice. On the case being referred back to the province, it was ascertained by the Prefect of Ch'êng-tu Fu that the complaint had been instigated by a certain professional fomentor of litigation named Yang Lien-yeo, who was thereupon apprehended, and in whose possession was found an account book, shewing an entry of the receipt of Tls. 80 from the complainant, and also a draught of the petition of appeal. As the circumstances alleged are disproved, the guilt of the transaction, especially that of endeavouring to implicate a number of innocent persons, recoils according to law upon Yang Lien-yeo, who is consequently sentenced to transportation into military servitude on the nearer frontier, to be branded, and to receive 100 blows, commuted according to law, on arrival at the place of detention.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Punishments.

May 7th.—The Court of Censors memorializes forwarding an appeal lodged on

behalf of a number of titular licentiates and others, inhabitants of the Tsing-loh district in Shansi, who complain that a military licentiate of the same district, with brevet rank as a captain, is in league with a number of official underlings to commit a variety of malpractices, first and foremost among which they specify the levy of the equivalent of $2\frac{1}{2}$ piculs of grain, calculating at the prices current in 1874, for every picul leviable according to law. The district, they state, is divided into eight townships or *tu* 都, and each *tu* into ten *kia*

甲 or sections, in each of which several *kia chang* 甲長 or village headmen are recognized, who take by turns the duty of collecting the taxes in their respective sections. Any defaulters are personally summoned and held to payment, the headman not being held responsible. Of late years, however, certain unscrupulous underlings of the Magistracy have ignored this practice, setting aside the rule as regards rotation, and harassing the headmen with demands for the payment of taxes due by others. The "squeezes" to which they have been subjected by the individuals complained of, amount to several thousands of strings of *cash* annually. Another subject of complaint is connected with the assessment levied to meet the expenses of the military and Government messengers, &c. passing through the district. By a regulation framed in 1849, it is provided that an annual tax shall be paid of 2 *cash* for every mule, and 1 *cash* on the sale of every *tow* (bushel) of rice. This produces an annual revenue of three or four hundred strings, amply sufficing to meet all requirements. A tablet is set up in front of the Magistrate's *yamén*, moreover, forbidding the seizure of mules or the levy of forced assessments. Under the influence, however, of the military licentiate complained against, the official underlings took advantage of the passage of a body of troops, 300 in number, through the district in 1874, to assess the four communes of the district with a forced contribution of 1,300 strings, followed by another demand in the following year of 200 strings, and in the third year again of 500 strings, thus establishing the levy as a standing usage. Official receipts for the amounts may be adduced in proof. [As regards the local constabulary arrangements] the four communes are organized into $28\frac{1}{2}$ policies 約, the duties of which are discharged in rotation by the people of the commune 鄉. The villainous

underlings have invented a number of exactions in connection with these organizations, to which a variety of names are given, such as "ticket fees," "customary fees," "gate fees," "fees for the surveillance of pseudo-religious societies," "tax-payers' fees," "calendar fees," "tea-money," and four or five other denominations, amounting to a total exaction from the communes of not less than 3,000 and odd strings. The notables made an appeal on the subject to the District Magistrate in 1874, but their application was ignored; and on their addressing the Department Magistrate, his Superior, in 1875, the underlings refused to answer the summons to appear before him. Petitions were subsequently addressed to the provincial Lieutenant-Governor and Governor, when officials were sent to investigate the matter, but Wang K'ing-ch'eng, the military licentiate complained against, found means to defeat the enquiry. The present petitioners were waiting at the provincial capital to give their evidence, and on one of their number being sent back to the district for a supply of funds he was seized by the underlings and imprisoned for six weeks, at the end of which time he was sent back in custody. Finding themselves unable to secure a hearing for their complaints, they have forwarded the present appeal to Peking.—The Censorate having submitted the petition with the accustomed résumé, a rescript has been issued referring the appeal, as usual, to be investigated by the provincial government.

May 8th.—(1) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, memorializes referring to the extension of sick leave granted to him in March last, by an exercise of the Imperial grace which has but added to his feeling of unworthiness; and he has to state that, on a visit having been paid to him at Nanking about the beginning of April by a German naval officer, he made an effort to receive him, the consequence being, however, an aggravation of his pulmonary disorder. In his anxiety to restore his health as rapidly as possible, he had recourse hereupon to powerful remedies, which indeed eased his breathing, but were followed by such profuse perspiration that he was unable to sleep at night, and for ten days he remained utterly prostrate. It is only of late that he has been able to obtain a few short snatches of sleep. With the advancing Spring, with its preponderance of dry weather and high winds, he feels that a constitution racked with chronic ailment is

little likely to endure the strain upon it; but to be a source of anxiety and trouble to the Imperial benevolence is more than a servant of Their Majesties could venture to dream of. The only course open to the memorialist is to conclude his period of congé, and to continue to attend to public business within the limits of his apartments, thus avoiding the risk of exposure to cold and winds.—In reply, the Grand Council has received the rescript: "It is noted."

(2) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, reports that brigandage and robbery are found to have long been rife in the Chang-hwa district in Formosa, the audacity of the lawbreakers being encouraged by the supine neglect of the local civil and military authorities. The officers in charge of the military guard-stations have occupied themselves with absolutely nothing but the levying of illegal fees and fraudulent appropriation of the pay of their soldiery. When passing through the district in January last, the Governor inspected the forces, and found the men composing them to be without exception old and worn-out, and the spears with which they were armed decayed and blunt with age. He administered at the time a severe reprimand to the officers in command, warning them that if they continued to neglect the condition of the country and if cases of brigandage were repeated, he would inflict capital punishment upon them according to military law. Notwithstanding his expectations that his warnings would suffice to bring about a better state of affairs, reports have now been received from the acting Commander of the North division, Loh Wêng-siang, and the Magistrate of Chang-hwa district, stating that burglaries had occurred at two places on the night of February 10th; and that although the amount of loss had not been considerable, the corporal in charge of the military station, and the corporal in command of the body of drilled troops at the same point, had both been absent from their posts, thus enabling the robbers to carry their designs into effect with impunity. The two officers incriminated were hereupon summoned for trial, when the explanation they had to give of their absence was unsatisfactory, especially in the case of the second individual, who had been specially sent only a few days before the occurrence in charge of a party of 33 men to mount guard at the spot, and who had absented himself from his post without leave. The Governor has accordingly caused this man, Wu Pa-kao by name, to be decapitated at the scene of the burglary. The other

offender, who had but five men under his orders, was less directly to blame, and he has been punished by deprivation of his rank. Temporary deprivation of their rank is also proposed as a punishment to the superior officers, civil and military, of the district.—Approved by rescript.

(3) In a supplementary memorial, Ting Jih-chang dwells upon the ineffable corruption prevailing in the civil administration of Formosa. Encouraged by the support of their official employers, the yamèn underlings are accustomed to oppress the people at large with exactions, which, if not submitted to, they enforce by arbitrary arrests and imprisonment. It constantly happens that their victims are plunged into absolute ruin, and compelled to make sale of wife and children in order to find the wherewithal to satisfy their demands. The Governor having learnt, during his tour in South Formosa, that a certain underling of the T'ai-wan Magistracy, named Lin Shêng, who had been a member of a gang of thieves before entering on his position as a servant of the Magistracy, was notorious for his acts of villainy and oppression, he required the Magistrate to make this man a prisoner and place him on trial. It was subsequently reported by the acting-Prefect of T'ai-wan Fu that Lin Shêng had been guilty of innumerable acts of extortion toward the people of the district during the years that he had been in employ, and that he had accumulated a large amount of property, the result, there could be no doubt, of his lawless exactions. The Governor gave orders, hereupon, to the Taotai of T'ai-wan to arraign this man before him, and, after eliciting a full statement of the case, to have him forthwith beaten to death. Universal rejoicing was expressed hereupon by the multitude, who declared with one voice that the district was at last delivered of a very scourge. As the Magistrate of T'ai-wan has held his office for upwards of ten years, without making any approach to discovery of the villainy practised by his underlings, the Governor considers that he should be removed from his post, and be impeached in case discovery be made of criminal laxity or collusion on his part. The Magistrate has accordingly been removed.—Rescript: It is noted.

Other memorials of a similar character, but of minor importance, follow from the same quarter.

May 9th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, who has drawn attention to a case of miraculous interposition and solicited

the donation of a memorial tablet. He states that when, in the years 1844 and 1853, the district city of Kieh-yang in Kwangtung was placed in imminent peril through attacks by banditti, the divine powers and unseen protection of the God of War were manifested on behalf of the city, which passed unharmed through its ordeal. We are penetrated with a feeling of devout veneration on receipt of this report; and We command the officials of the Imperial studio and the Han-lin Yüan to prepare a tablet with a memorial inscription, which is to be sent to the Governor-General Liu Kw'ên-yih and the Governor of Kwangtung, Chang Chao-tung, to be reverently suspended in the temple of Kwan Ti (the God of War) at Kieh-yang, in token of Our gratitude for the divine protection vouchsafed.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ting Jih-chang, Governor of Fuhkien, who has forwarded a list of sundry miscellaneous taxes which have long been levied in the neighbourhood of T'ai-wan Fu, the collection being attended with many abuses, and giving rise to much suffering on the part of the people. He requests that, from the beginning of the 3rd year of Kwang-sü (February, 1877), these taxes, amounting in the aggregate to a sum of Tls. 5,223, may be permanently abolished. A proclamation will be issued by the Governor-General and the Governor, setting forth the particulars of the taxes to be done away with, and the actual amount of those legally leviable, which shall be posted far and near, in order that the Imperial bounty may not fail to reach the actual population, and may not be intercepted by the official clerks and underlings. The proposal is sanctioned.

(3) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Imperial Clan Court, with reference to the establishment of official retainers whom it is expedient, in conformity with precedent, to assign to the newly adopted heir to the deceased Prince of Fu (see *Gazette* of April 30th.) Sanction is given to the apportionment of an establishment on the footing of the rank of *bei-lêh*.

(4) A Decree, announcing the numbers of the successful candidates at the recent metropolitan Examinations. They are as follows:—

(From Peking)	Manchus.....	8
"	Mongolians.....	3
"	Chinese Bannermen.....	6
Province of	Chihli	24
"	" Fêng-t'ien	3
"	" Shantung	21
"	" Shansi.....	10

Province	of	Honan.....	17
"	"	Shensi.....	15
"	"	Kansuh.....	9
"	"	Kiangsu.....	26
"	"	Ngan-hwei.....	18
"	"	Chêhkiang.....	25
"	"	Kiangsi.....	22
"	"	Hupei.....	14
"	"	Hunan.....	14
"	"	Szech'wan.....	14
"	"	Fuhkien.....	20
Formosa		2
Province	of	Kwangtung.....	16
"	"	Kwangsi.....	13
"	"	Yünnan.....	12
"	"	Kweichow.....	11
Total.....			323

(N.B.—The number given above is sixteen less than at the corresponding Examinations held by special Act of Grace last year—see *Gazette* of 20th April, 1876. The number of candidates who came forward this year was considerably less than in the previous year. In 1874, the number of successful competitors was 345—see *Gazette* of 11th May, 1874.)

(5) The Governor of Kweichow presents a long memorial in conformity with directions received from the Board of Revenue on the subject of the arrears of pay still remaining unsettled on account of the various bodies of troops employed in the province in coping with insurgent movements from 1854 down to the summer of 1874, constituting an aggregate of Taels 8,060,141. The Board has decided, with regard to the sum of Taels 6,835,079, forming part of this total, that none of it shall be paid in money, or by a commutation of taxes due under present incumbents of office; but that permission shall be granted for the conversion of this sum to purposes of reward on the principle of the purchase of office or augmentation of literary degrees on behalf of individual claimants or districts. Any individual having a claim to a sum not exceeding Tls. 10,000 in amount, may make application in the proper form to the Lieutenant-governor, who will include his name in a general list, with an application for rank or brevet promotion for the individual himself, honorary rank conferred on his progenitors, or substitution in favour of his younger relatives, as he may solicit. Where amounts in excess of Tls. 10,000 are involved, 30 per cent. will be counted toward personal forms of reward, and 70 per cent. be credited to an aggregate sum upon the amount of which an augmentation in the number of literary degrees is to be

accorded, unless the applicant prefers to contribute his entire claim to this last-named object. All amounts of pay due for the period subsequent to July, 1873, are to be cleared off by instalments. The arrangements proposed are submitted for the Imperial sanction and referred for the consideration of the Boards concerned.

May 10th.—The Prince of Tun (President of the Imperial Clan Court, and of the Special Commission lately appointed for deliberation on the enshrinement of the tablets of Their late Majesties) memorializes, with his colleagues, giving the result of the consultation held upon the subject of the Imperial decree, bearing date the 15th February last.—(The memorial, enumerating all the tablets of the line of Imperial ancestry, both male and female, from the first acknowledged founders of the dynasty, although historically interesting, is a mere list of canonical titles. These typify, in their arrangement on the page, one of the most marked peculiarities of the Chinese written style, in respect of the "elevation" of characters in token of respect).

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, reports the result of a trial held in consequence of the escape of certain prisoners from the jail of the Hing-t'ang district in Chihli. The Magistrate of the District, it appears, had proceeded on the first day of the Chinese New Year to the prefectural city, to make a personal report on the state of his district; and on the following day he received a report from his deputy, the jail-warden, informing him that four prisoners in the district jail, named Wang S'ieh-tsai, Tan Sze, Chang Po-tsze, and Kwoh Hêh-tsze (the majority of these being partially nicknames, such as "Whitey" and "Blackman"), had wrenched off their fetters and the lock of the cage in which they were confined, had burst open the doors, had murdered two of their fellow prisoners, and, after inflicting injuries upon the jailer and watchman, which left them at the point of death, had climbed over the wall of the prison and effected their escape. The Magistrate forthwith returned to his yanên and took measures for the apprehension of the fugitives, of whom, however, only one, the first-named, has been recaptured up to the present time. He had been imprisoned under sentence of transportation as an accomplice in an act of highway robbery. The three other prisoners were under sentence of death for various acts of robbery with violence. The

case is one which far exceeds in gravity any ordinary case of negligence, and a trial of the parties implicated is to be instituted therefore at the provincial capital. The jailwarden has already been superseded, and it is requested that he may be stripped of his rank in order that he may be placed on trial: as also that the name of the Magistrate may be handed over to the Board for the adjudication of a penalty, and he be held bound to effect the apprehension of the criminals still at large.—Sanctioned by rescript, 28th April.

May 11th.—(Court Circular.)—Wên Yih, Manchu General-in-chief at Foochow, paid his respects on arrival at Peking; and had audience.—His Majesty will proceed to-morrow at 6 a.m. to offer worship in the Great Ancestral Temple (*T'ai Miao*.)

(1) A Decree. On receipt of a report, some time since, from the office of the Field Force, to the effect that a Colonel of the force, named Shwang Hi, having ascertained in the province of Kirin that [the leader of] the lawless gold-hunters, Han Pien-Wai (Han of the Marches, or beyond the Border), had assembled a band of followers to dig for gold, and had organized a band of desperadoes with intent to commit acts of brigandage, he had effected the apprehension, hereupon, of one How Yü-k'i and four other members of the band. This statement of the case proved to be at variance with the report received from the acting Military Governor of Kirin, Kuni-yinpu, who had written to state that How Yü-k'i and his comrades had visited the provincial capital to make purchases of goods, whereupon Shwang Hi carried off their account books and other effects. We hereupon commanded Ming Ngan (Vice-president of the Moukden Board of Punishments) to investigate the circumstances of the case, and he has now reported as follows:—"It appears that Han Hien-

tsung 韓現琮, otherwise called Han Pien-Wai, was in the first instance the head of a gold-mining concern, in which capacity he was ordered by the former Military Governor Fu-ming-ah to provide settlements for the wandering immigrants, and to take command of a body of braves for the defence of the city (near which he was established?) He was also recommended for the button of the sixth rank. No authentic evidence of criminal conduct on his part subsequently to this date has been adduced. Neither How Yü-k'i nor his comrades were of the class of lawless gold-hunters; and the case having been judicially investigated, a

finding is submitted." With reference to this affair, let the Board of Punishment consider and report to Us as to the sentence that should be passed upon How Yü-k'i and those with him; and let the Governor-General of Chihli cause active measures to be taken for the apprehension of the two men, Chang Li and Li Têh-kwei, who are still at large. Let the Military Governor of Kirin be at all times watchful to observe whether Han Pien-Wai conducts himself in an orderly manner, and keep him under stringent control. We likewise command the said high officer to despatch an efficient officer with the proper force of troops to take active measures for the apprehension of the lawless gold-hunters, allowing no laxity or negligence to be shown in the measures adopted. Inasmuch as the statements made in the report presented by Colonel Shwang Hi were not without foundation, and as his apprehension of How Yü-k'i and his comrades was actuated by the belief that it was done in the discharge of his duty, we command that exemption from further proceedings be granted in his case. For the rest, be it as is proposed.

(N.B.—There is perhaps, in this Decree, somewhat "more than meets the eye." The power of the squatter king, Han, in the wild region on the borders of Kirin and Fêng-t'ien, has long been a matter of common repute, although his name now appears for the first time in the *Gazette*. It is alleged that a compact exists between this potentate of the gold-diggers and the Military Governor of Manchuria, which the act of the Colonel of the Peking Field Force, recorded above, may perhaps have violated.)

(2) The Governor of Yunnan memorializes with reference to the repairs of the walls, public buildings, and temples of the cities, some fifty or sixty in number, throughout the province, which have fallen into ruins in consequence of the protracted warfare during the rebellion. A report on the subject has been drawn up by the provincial Board of Administration, the result of which is that all that is feasible shall be done by degrees with the aid of the subsidies contributed from other provinces toward the expenses of the Government of Yunnan, and by means of local contributions.

(3) Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien, memorializes with reference to the means by which, as desired by the Board of Revenue, the provincial receipts may be made to suffice for the military expenditure, the deficiency in which, to the amount of

Taels 240,000, is for the time being met by subsidies from other provinces. He represents that his predecessors in office have at various times introduced *likin* taxes upon merchandize and upon salt, beside which the appointment of a High Commissioner was solicited, for the purpose of determinating the amount that should be levied by way of shipping fees 船規; and the collection

obtained during the first few years under the new system was considerable, although it suffered a notable diminution in the course of time. From enquiries instituted at the various salt-producing places on the sea-coast, the memorialist has ascertained that the quantity manufactured in Fêng-tien is larger, in fact, than that produced within the Ch'ang-lu (Tientsin) area. The total amount yielded per annum would be from 400,000 to 500,000 piculs—and this, moreover, stated by the unauthorized weight and measure current among the people, which would represent a larger quantity than if the calculation were according to the official standard. The revenue that might be obtained from this source, were the gabelle in vogue throughout the Empire generally to be introduced here, would be very large; but as no tax upon salt has been levied in the three provinces of Manchuria since the first foundation of the dynasty, the imposition of a regular tax at present would act prejudicially by adding to the cost of living. It is proposed to levy a *likin* tax upon sales at the place of production, as the only alternative. Measures are also under consideration for making the collection of the taxes upon merchandize and upon shipping more effective, as also with regard to the "bushel-tax" (a percentage upon sales of grain?), with the object always in view of adding what is possible to the means available for the support of the troops.

(4) The Governor of Yunnan memorializes on the receipt of a despatch from the Superintendentcies of the Mint under the Boards of Revenue and Works, which have pointed out that in the consignment of copper forwarded last year from Yunnan, the regulation waste allowance of 8 per cent. in addition to the nominal quantity sent was not transmitted; and furthermore, that the slabs were not stamped according to regulation, with the date and place of casting. It is desired that these requirements be fulfilled in future. In reply, the Governor cites a report addressed to him on the subject by the proper

authorities, remarking that the late despatch of copper to Peking was the first attempt made, after years of desuetude; that the mercantile body who had undertaken to carry out the undertaking had done so by dint of great effort, without a literal adherence to the form of the ancient regulation,—to such an extent, indeed, that they had applied for no allowance for their personal expenses—and that they had sent forward a supplementary amount of 30,000 catties, in addition to the million catties forming the bulk of the consignment, to provide for wear and tear by the way; and that it is impossible to feel certain that they will be able to repeat their performance in this respect hereafter. To supply the regulation 8 per cent. of surplus copper would be entirely beyond their power. The slabs, moreover, instead of being cast at Government agencies, as the regulations contemplate, were obtained as best they could be, by purchase from the different private smelting-houses whose stamps they bear, as noted by the Mint Superintendentcies; and for this also indulgence is solicited. The Governor requests that the recommendations submitted by his subordinates be admitted, in favour of a departure from the letter of the ancient regulations.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned take note.

May 12th.—A Decree. The Examination of the passed Hanlin graduates shall be held on the 30th May in the Pao Ho Throne Hall.

No other documents of importance.

May 13th.—(1) A Decree. Let Kwang Ying 廣英 go to be Superintendent of the Manufactory at Soochow.

(2) The Governor of Kiangsu, who has already reported the despatch of the first squadron of grain-junks from Shanghai (see *Gazette* of April 17th), memorializes reporting the completion of the shipments of the season, by two succeeding squadrons of junks and the steamers of the China Merchants' Company, as follows:—

By the second detachment, consisting of 100 junks, which sailed on the 24th March, there were shipped 178,403 piculs of rice, plus a waste allowance of 14,272 piculs; and by the third detachment, consisting of 34 junks, the amount of 56,171 piculs, with 4,493 piculs of waste allowance, was sent off, the squadron sailing on the 12th April. The amount of pls. 112,000 has furthermore been handed over to the C. M. S. N. Co. for shipment, making a total despatch for the current season of 672,540 odd piculs of rice of the various regulation qualities. In

addition to this, 10,000 piculs of rice have been purchased on Government account in lieu of levy in kind, and this quantity will be transmitted to Tientsin partly by junk and partly by the C. M. S. N. Co.'s steamers.

May 14th.—(1) A decree, in answer to a memorial from the Governor-General and Governor of Kwangtung, impeaching certain officials for divers forms of shortcoming. It is decreed that Liu Tso-tung, Sub-Prefect at Fatshan, who has been denounced for self-seeking endeavours and a covetous spirit, whereby he has incurred much popular odium: an assistant Department Magistrate named Ho Han-chang, accused of contemptible and unworthy conduct: and another officer of the same rank, named Yen Ying-ho, described as foolish in mind and iniquitous in his actions, be forthwith stripped of their rank, in order to the due maintenance of the standard of official behaviour.

(2) A decree, issued in conformity with the benign Mandate of Their Majesties the Empresses Regent, commanding that, as the Imperial noble Yih Sun has not as yet had an heir by adoption assigned to him, the son of Yih Chang, named Tsai Tsiao, ranking as a *tsung-shih*, or Imperial clansman, be assigned as heir to Yih Chang, and that his name be changed to Tsai Tséh 載澤. He is at the same time raised to the rank of Imperial Duke of the 2nd degree (*Fêng Ngén Fu Kwoh Kung*.)

(3) A decree, based upon a memorial from Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien, ordering that a Manchu *tso-ling* named Kwan Shêng, who is charged with converting to his own use certain monies placed in his hands for the relief of the distressed population, be stripped of his rank and placed on trial for the offence.

(5) Ku-ni-yin-pu, acting Military Governor of Kirin, memorializes reporting that in January last a prisoner named Kin Ch'êng was forwarded to him by the Military Lieutenant-Governor at San Sing, with the statement that the man had been apprehended in the course of a military reconnaissance,—that he had been made to join a body of banditti by force, and that he had given information of the whereabouts of three brigands, against whom a party of troops was despatched, the three outlaws being slain, thereupon, in attempting to resist capture. On examination, the prisoner, Kin Ch'êng proved to be a native of Corea, who stated that he had left his own country in 1859, owing to the scarcity

prevailing in that year, and had wandered as far as Ningutá, where he obtained employment. Having proceeded in September last to the gold-mining region with a pack-load of turnips, etc., for sale, he was plundered of all his belongings by the leader of a band of 30 or more mounted robbers, who compelled him to join their numbers. He accompanied the party on a foray, in the course of which he managed to slip away from the main body, and he took to hiding in a hut among the mountains, where he was joined by three others of the party. It having been resolved upon that he should go out in search of food he fell into the hands of the soldiery, and thereupon revealed the whereabouts of his three companions. It is ruled that, as a Corean subject, the proper course to be pursued with this man is to surrender him to his own Government to be dealt with. He has accordingly been forwarded, in charge of an official appointed for the purpose, to the Board of Ceremonies at Moukden, to be sent on in accordance with precedents to his native country.—Rescript: It is noted.

(6) In a postscript Memorial, Ku-ni-yin-pu represents that the funds required for the pay of the field force of cavalry and infantry employed in the province of Kirin has hitherto been provided by subsidies received, under directions of the Board of Revenue, from Shantung, Honan and Nganhwei, each of these provinces forwarding Taels 5,000 per mensem to the Board of Revenue at Moukden, whence the remittances are fetched by officials sent from Kirin for the purpose. The amounts forwarded from the various provinces are always in Treasury weight, but it has been customary, on the receipt of the funds by the provincial Government of Kirin through the authorities at Moukden, to issue the pay at the ordinary commercial weight, a stoppage of Tls. 32 in every thousand being consequently made. The ration allowance (*lit.* salt and provision money) to a private of the cavalry force amounts to no more than Tls. 4 per mensem, and to a private of the infantry, the allowance is only Tls. 3 for the same period. Much suffering has of late been entailed upon the soldiery by the depreciation in the value of silver and the rise in the cost of the necessaries of life; and as a distinction may legitimately be drawn between the batta allowance in question and the regular pay of the troops, it is solicited that for the future the payments may be made at Treasury weight, and that orders be issued to the Board of Revenue to cease

henceforward from deducting the percentage referred to above. This will give some measure of relief to the soldiery without entailing an additional outlay of Imperial funds.—Rescript: Be it as is proposed. Let the Board of Revenue at Moukden take action accordingly.

May 15th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ho King, Governor-General of Min-chêh, who has requested that the newly appointed Judicial Commissioner of Fuhkien be desired to hasten to his post. Li Ming-ch'ih, the officer in question, has already left Peking. The high authorities of whatever province he may be in are commanded to direct him to proceed as promptly as possible to assume the duties of his post.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from Wên Pin, Director General of the Grain Transport, who has represented that the lately deceased Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, Wu T'ang, has left a high reputation behind him in the region of Kiang Peh, where he served for many years in various offices before rising to that of Director-General of the Grain Transport. In this capacity he earned the public gratitude by his achievements in command of troops operating against the rebels; and it is requested that his biography may be enrolled in the State Annals, and that memorial temples may be erected in his honour at Ts'ing-kiang, Hwai-ngan, and Sü Chow. All of this is assented to.

(3) Ho King, newly appointed Governor-General of Min-chêh, reports his having taken over the seal of office on the 15th March, receiving at the same time the seals as acting Manchu General-in-chief and Superintendent of Customs from Wên Yih, the departing incumbent of these offices.

(4) Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General (titular Military Governor) of Fêng-t'ien and his colleague, the Civil Governor, Ngên Fuh, memorialize submitting propositions in connection with the excessive amount of judicial arrears pending throughout the Province. The memorialists, after referring to the number of unsettled cases, most of which are of many years standing, which are pending in various Courts, and dwelling upon the excuses for delay, such as the recent prevalence of brigandage, which may be alleged for this state of affairs, declare that the true reason to be assigned for it is the supine neglect of duty which has become a settled habit. They now propose that the period of six months shall be assigned for clearing off all outstanding cases, with special exemption granted for this purpose

from the standing rules in respect of time; all cases arising subsequently to April, 1877, being made subject to the ordinary regulations.—Assented to by rescript.

(6) The acting Governor-General of Fuhkien, Wen Yih, memorializes reporting the result of a trial instituted in the case of an officer of the rank of Colonel, Yang Tsai-yün by name, who had been stripped of his rank and arraigned on charges of peculation and malversation during his acting incumbency of the office of Brigadier-General of T'ai-wan. He had been accused of withholding various sums of the pay due to the soldiery, amounting in one instance to Tael 6,362, and in another to Tael 7,442. He has succeeded in clearing himself of the greater part of the charges brought against him, shewing, in particular, with reference to one specified amount, that he converted it to public purposes on the receipt of instructions in 1870, in consequence of the foreign question which had arisen at Tientsin (the Massacre), to the furnishing up of the arms of the force and to providing a fresh supply of spears and other weapons, defensive precautions being urgently required. Having no other funds at his disposal, he made use of the sum in question in the emergency. Although guilty of irregularity in connection with an acting appointment made by him, he is acquitted on the more serious charges.

May 16th.—(1) A Decree. Li Han-chang and his colleague (the Governor of Hupeh) have memorialized Us, requesting that an official be placed under their orders. Let the Governor of Chêhkiang direct Shêng Yü-hwai 盛宇懷, an expectant District Magistrate of the province of Chêhkiang, to proceed without delay to Hupeh, and place himself under the orders of the Provincial Government.

(2) The Office of Gendarmerie memorializes, forwarding an appeal lodged by Wu-chih-tao, a native of the Chu-ki district in Hupeh, who complains of the murder of his father. Certain individuals, whose names are given, having attempted to extort a sum of money from his father, complainant proceeded to the District Magistracy to lodge a petition against them. Upon this the individuals in question came, in October last, with certain of the police of the Magistracy, seized complainant's father, and beat him so cruelly that death ensued. The District Magistrate refused to hold an inquest, and on complainant lodging a petition at the Prefecture, an officer was sent to enquire into the matter in concert with the Magistrate. This officer,

in lieu of holding an inquest, compelled complainant to take charge of the remains. The law-clerk, Ch'ên Yü-fêng, drew up a declaration [of acquiescence], to which he himself affixed signature, and proceeded to effect by force the interment of the remains. No redress having been obtainable, complainant has come to Peking with his appeal.—Referred in the usual manner.

(3) The Office of Gendarmerie further presents an appeal lodged by Wu Ch'êng-hün, a native of the Han-yin Sub-Prefecture in Shensi, who represents that a distant kinsman named Liu Ta-hwa had forcibly insisted on marrying the daughter, named Siu Lien (Pretty Lily), of his maternal uncle to one Fêng Yung-kan, the son of a local bully named Fêng Ts'un-hwai. On complainant's uncle going to the residence of these people to remonstrate, he disappeared, and all trace of him was lost, until a labourer in the Fêng's employ, named T'êng Tao-yüan, with another man, discovered a heap of bones in a cavity among the rocks near their place. Complainant, having heard of this, on proceeding to look at the remains, recognized articles of clothing, &c., belonging to his uncle, and he lodged a complaint, hereupon, at the Magistracy. The law-clerk, Liu K'êh-jang, and others, succeeded by dint of bribery in putting off an inquest, and T'êng Tao-yüan and his companion were compelled under illegal forms of torture to make confession [upsetting their previous statements.] The complainant admits, on being questioned in the statutory manner, that he has not appealed in the higher provincial courts.—Referred in the usual manner.

(4) Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien, memorializes stating that he has discovered an abuse which is prevalent throughout all the districts of the province, in the shape of an illegal fee demanded by the official clerks and yamên police whenever report is lodged of a case of homicide by the relatives of the deceased. This fee is designated *Ch'ang Kwei* 場規, and it amounts, according to the means of the individuals from whom it is demanded, to a sum varying from a few taels to hundreds of taels as the case may be. If payment is refused, a variety of means are employed to extort it, even to the extent of preventing the presentation of the petition and thus delaying or frustrating the holding of the inquest. Stringent instructions have been issued for the prevention of such malpractices, and the Taotais and Prefects concerned have been desired to set persons

secretly on the watch for any cases of disobedience, which, should any such be discovered, shall be severely dealt with. It is further solicited that an additional enactment may be added to the statute book, declaring that in the event of any future occurrence of the nature described, the guilty parties shall be sentenced in accordance with the most severe provisions of the law relating to extortions perpetrated by dishonest official underlings, and that the functionaries chargeable with failure to detect the abuses practised by their employés shall be at the same time exposed to severe penalties.—Referred by rescript to the Boards concerned for deliberation.

March 17th.—(Court Circular.) The Office of Gendarmerie reported the arrest of Yüan Sze-hi and others, charged with the kidnapping of certain children.

A Decree. Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Heh-lung-kiang, has memorialized Us, stating that in the case in which the licentiate Wang King-tien has appealed at Peking, accusing one Ts'ui Chên-fuh of combining with an official named T'o Shan to subject his brother, Wang King-shun, to personal ill-usage, thereby causing his death, whereupon it was alleged that the deceased had committed suicide by hanging, the said appellant having presented a renewed complaint, it is requested that an official versed in the criminal law may be sent, accompanied by an examiner of corpses, to hold a fresh inquest. We command the Board of Punishments at Moukden to make appointment of one of its Secretaries to proceed, accompanied by an examiner of corpses, to the province of Heh-lung-kiang to hold a fresh inquest, to the end that the due performance of justice may be secured.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials on judicial questions of minor importance from Shansi and Fêng-t'ien.

May 18th.—(1) A decree, issued in obedience to a mandate of Their Majesties the Empresses Regent, directing the Ministers of the Council and the members of the Grand Secretariat to associate themselves with the President of the Office of the Imperial Genealogical Register, for the purpose of deciding upon the order of arrangement to be pursued in the revision now about to be undertaken. This is in consequence of the Prince of Tun and his colleagues having solicited instructions, as they do not venture to act without authority in the matter. (N.B.—The question which has arisen is understood to have

reference to the place to be assigned in the Genealogical Record 玉牒 to the name of the present Emperor, the fact of whose succession being due to an act of adoption, the first on record in the history of the present dynasty, produces a complication in the important matter. His name should naturally follow that of his predecessor on the Throne; but since, by the terms of the act of adoption, he was raised to an equality with the late Emperor, by being declared his adoptive brother, a doubt has arisen with regard to the proper place to be assigned to his name in the Record.)

(2) The Censor T'êng Hwa-hi memorializes exposing a case in which a certain individual, son of a low-placed menial in official employ, has obtained a literary degree under false pretences. He premises by observing that he had perused with reverence a decree issued on the 8th August, 1874, to the following effect:—"The expectant Department Magistrate Hwang t'ien-si, *alias* Hwang Han-chai, *alias* Hwang Show-t'ien, has filled the position of one of the gate-keepers in the yamèn of the Governor-General of the Two Kwang. Having transferred himself by false pretences to the register of the P'an-yü District, he purchased an official position for himself under an assumed name, and obtained admission for his son to the literary examination, where he succeeded in taking a degree as licentiate. That a low-placed menial should, under false pretences, purchase official rank and gain admission in defiance of law to the examinations, is an offence which calls for severe punishment. We command that Hwang T'ien-si, together with his Son Hwang Chang-tsun, be forthwith stripped of their rank and degree respectively, and be handed over to the Governor-General of the Two Kwang and the Governor of Kwangtung, by whom let orders be issued to the local authorities to recover from the said delinquents their official certificates and to punish them according to law." The memorialist learns that no punishment has been inflicted on the individuals in question since the issue of the decree he has reverently quoted; and the result has been that persons of the same class have been encouraged to follow the example set them. Another native of the P'an-yü district, at present filling the position of underling in a yamèn, Ho Ping-nan by name, *alias* Ho K'ü-p'ing, who has at various times served as *mên-ting* in different magistracies, had made his son, Ho

Peh-lin, enter under false pretences as student for the examinations, and had purchased for him the rank of *chu she* (Secretary to a metropolitan Board.) He even went so far as to endeavour to obtain for him a nomination to actual service in a Board, but the outcry raised upon this among the literary class was such that the necessary bondsmen were not forthcoming. In 1875, this man caused his second son, Ho Tsün-shêng, to enter, under false pretences, at the examinations held at Peking for the *Kü-jên* degree, but, the fact being discovered by officials at the capital, he was refused admission to the examination. Ho Tsün-shêng thereupon changed his name to Ho Jui-yung, and obtained admission under cover of this misrepresentation to the register of the metropolitan department, thus succeeding, through fraud, in obtaining the degree of *Kü-jên* at the examination of 1876. It is solicited that the punishment of the individuals in question may be decreed and their rank and degree be cancelled.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 3rd inst.

May 19th.—(1) A Decree. Let Wên Yih remain at Peking to discharge his duties. Let K'ing Ch'un 慶春 be transferred to fill the office of Manchu General-in-chief at Foochow. Let Jui Lien 瑞聯 succeed to the post of Manchu General-in-chief at Sui-yüan; and let Ch'un Fuh 春福 succeed him as Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar.

(2) A decree, in answer to a memorial from Liu Kwên-yih, Governor-General of the Two Kwang. In accordance with the request preferred, Brigadier-General Wei Tso-pang (who has lately been superseded in the post of acting Commander-in-chief in Kwangtung by Brigadier-General Fang Yao) is allowed to resign his office as Brigadier-General of Yang Kiang and to retire to his native place for the benefit of his health. Ma Fu-chên 馬復宸 is the officer appointed to succeed him.

(3) A Decree. Let Mên Lung-tao 麥龍韜 succeed to the post of Brigadier-General of the Yeo-kiang command in Kwangsi.

(4) The Governor of Hupeh reports the result of a trial for wholesale murder. The guilty party, a young man named Chang Mo-urh, was the son of an individual named Chang Ta-ch'êng, who, in consequence of his son's idle disposition and aversion from regular habits of study, had looked about for a severe disciplinarian under whom to

place him for education and due restraint. Hearing a good character in this respect of a licentiate named Chang She-hün, he accordingly placed his son under this person's charge on the 30th January, 1876, leaving him as a boarder at the school, and forbidding him to visit his home with any frequency. The master's fourth son, Chang Hi-urh, with four other youths, were also members of the school, and each of the scholars took it in turn to act as cook for the master. Chang Mo-urh, the criminal in the present instance, having but lately been married, felt very homesick, but, owing to the stringent discipline enforced by the master, he was unable to get away to his father's house, and he cherished a grudge on this account. On the 28th February following his admission into the school, it was the turn of one of the scholars, named Chang She-ts'ai, to act as cook, and he asked Chang Mo-urh to help him, which the latter refused to do. An altercation ensued, and on the schoolmaster ordering the two to be quiet, he disobeyed the order and was subjected to chastisement in consequence. In his anger at this, Chang Mo-urh made up his mind to avenge himself by poisoning his master, and on the following day, it being his turn to take the cooking, he availed himself of the opportunity afforded by his going to market for provisions, to buy a packet of rat-poison from a pedlar. As the schoolmaster was daily in the habit of taking a basin of egg-broth, Chang Mo-urh put the powder he had bought into a saucepan in which he boiled the water to prepare the broth for his master. The latter consumed only one-half of the portion, giving the remainder to his son, Chang Hi-urh. Meanwhile the four other scholars, wanting to make themselves some tea, had taken the remainder of the water left in the saucepan used by Chang Mo-urh, which he had not thrown away, and in a short time they were all seized with vomiting from the effects of the poison. They looked for Chang Mo-urh to make enquiries of him, but he had run away, and Chang She-ts'ai, hereupon, on whom the poison had taken the least effect, went to examine the kitchen utensils, and found some powder in the saucepan, which convinced him that poison had been employed. He immediately called in assistance, but in vain. The four other scholars died from the effect of the poison on the following day, and the schoolmaster, after lingering for some days longer, at length shared the same fate. Chang Mo-urh having been apprehended, and on trial being held, is sentenced to the penalty of

death by *ling-ch'e* (the "slicing" process), in conformity with the statute relating to the murder of kinsfolk or those whose position is one entitling them to respect. This sentence being submitted for approval, is referred by rescript for the decision of the Board of Punishments.

May 20th.—(1) A Decree. Let Mu-t'u-shen 穆圖善 succeed to the post of Manchu Lieutenant-General at Ts'ing-chow (in Shantung). N.B.—Mu-t'u-shen, formerly General-in-chief at Ninghia, is the official who was cashiered and removed from the post of acting Military Governor of Kirin by decree dated 12th May, 1876, for improperly recommending the employment of an officer who had been sentenced, for misconduct, to exclusion for ever from the public service.

(2) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, memorializes reporting the result of the trial instituted in the case of the Manchu Lieutenant-General Kirhungeh, and other officers, for encouraging the troops under their command to mutiny and disband, early in 1875, on an officer being sent to supersede Kirhungeh in his post.—See rescript in *Gazette* of 4th inst.

(3) The same authority reports the steps that have been taken toward repairing the walls of Lan-chow Fu, the provincial capital of Kansuh, which are in a ruinous condition from age, and which imperatively need repairs now that peace and order have been reestablished throughout the province. To build up a new concrete backing for the existing walls, if carried to the proper height, would in itself require an outlay of upwards of Tls. 100,000; and as the requisite funds are not forthcoming, the work is confided to the care of the provincial board of administration, by whom means are to be devised for executing it with the assistance of the troops, numbering some 4,000 to 5,000 men (ten *ying*) who are quartered in the neighbourhood. Between July last, when operations were commenced, and November, when they were suspended on the approach of the cold weather, about one-third of the work was completed. The foundations are carried to the depth of 11 feet odd, with a width of 11 feet (1 *chang*); and the height of the walls is 3 *chang* 7 *ch'ih* (about 42 feet), with a width of 8 *ch'ih*.

(4) Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, reports that the fleet of grain-junks with the inland portion of the rice tribute of the current year, 430 in number, conveying 88,500 piculs of grain,

and divided into ten squadrons, had assembled at Ts'ing-kiang P'u by the 11th April last, when they were passed under inspection, and, on the 20th the process of hauling over the weir at Ts'ing-kiang P'u was effected. By the 26th, all the junks had been hauled over the Fuh-king, T'ung-tsi, and Hwei-tsi weirs, and were in full sail for the north. Measures have been taken for dredging out the bed of the Canal in the shoalest parts, in order to facilitate the progress of the fleet toward the Yellow River.—(For reports of the corresponding operations last year, see *Gazettes* of 23rd April and 30th June, 1876.)

May 21st.—No documents of importance.

May 22nd.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Imperial Clan Court, which has requested instructions with reference to the official establishment 甲 which should be assigned to the newly created Imperial noble (*Fêng-ngên Fu-kwo Kung*) Tsai Tséh, on his adoption as heir to the Imperial noble Yih Sün. It is commanded that the establishment prescribed by regulation for his rank be allotted to him. (See *Gazette* of 14th inst.)

(2 and 3) Ts'ing Ngan, the Brigadier-General of T'ai Ning, in his capacity as permanent Superintendent of the Western Mausolea, memorializes requesting that orders may be given for the manufacture and issue of three new sets of the instruments and vessels required for the services performed by the *lamas* stationed at the Imperial tombs and at the lamasery in their neighbourhood, on the different anniversaries of decease. The Imperial Household is directed to take note accordingly. He also represents that he has been in correspondence with the Imperial Household with reference to the *Témuk'i* 得木奇 or Superior of the lamasery under his control, the last incumbent of this office having died in 1875, and the two preceptors who are on the spot being both unequal to the discharge of the duties of the post. He requests that a suitable person be sent from the palace lamasery to undertake the office; and he likewise requests that the present Bandi lama, or chief preceptor, who is upwards of 70 years of age and consequently failing in strength, may be replaced by a younger dignitary of the same rank.

May 23rd.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the acting Governor of Shantung, who has reported that an ex-Department Magistrate, who was dismissed from public employ while holding office some time ago in the province of Shansi, has obtained a position under an assumed

name as a clerk in the Lieutenant-Governor's yamén in Shantung, with intent to turn this opportunity to account for improper ends. As solicited, it is decreed that he be expelled from his employ and sent back to his native place without any delay.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Governor of Hunan, who has requested certain remissions of taxation on behalf of a district which suffered from floods last year. As solicited, remissions of land-tax to the amount of about Tls. 450 are granted in this instance.

(3) The Governor of Kweichow memorializes asking that a penalty be noted against a District Magistrate and an acting Prefectural Secretary, for their negligence in the appointment of police charged with the conveyance of a prisoner to the provincial capital, the consequence being that the prisoner effected his escape. The individual in question was under sentence of death by strangulation for manslaughter, and was confined in a wooden cage which was wheeled along the road under the care of two police detailed for this purpose by the officials now accused, guarded at the same time from stage to stage by a couple of soldiers. On arriving at a certain village one night, the police proceeded with their charge to an inn, and applied at the local guard-station for two soldiers, who were accordingly detailed, to relieve the escort from the previous stage. The two men thus relieved of duty returned to their post, but the reliefs did not make their appearance; and the police, after watching the prisoner till midnight, at which time a heavy rainstorm came on, fell fast asleep. The prisoner seized the opportunity to break his fetters, wrench asunder the bars of the cage, and escape through a window. The efforts of the police, when they became aware of his disappearance, to discover his whereabouts, proved unsuccessful; and they have been brought up to the provincial capital as prisoners, together with the soldiers, inn-keeper, and others responsible for the safekeeping of the prisoner.—The accused officials are relegated by rescript to the Board of Civil Office for the award of a penalty.

May 24th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the two Kiang, who has impeached a deceased District Magistrate named Kung Yüan-yüeh for defalcations in his accounts of revenue collected, whilst holding office in the Shuh-yang district, to the amount of upwards of Tls. 9,000; and an ex-Department Magistrate named Wang Ngên-k'ing as a defaulter to the amount of

Tls. 2,500. It is commanded, hereupon, that the deceased Magistrate be stripped of his rank, and that his family, as well as the other individual separately denounced, be brought to Nanking and committed to prison, whilst proceedings are taken for the recovery of the amounts due. Stringent perquisitions are at the same time ordered to be made at the homes of the defaulters, and at the places where they have held office, for the discovery of any property they may have possessed, which is forthwith to be sequestered.

(2) The Imperial Clan Court memorializes with reference to the establishment to be assigned to the heir recently provided by adoption for the deceased Prince of Fu, setting forth the regulations heretofore instituted on this subject, with reference to the different degrees of princely rank. A Prince of the second order (*Kün Wang*) is entitled to a household composed of the following officials:—1 recorder, 3 equestrians, 6 first-class, 4 second-class, and 5 third-class officers of the bodyguard, 4 chamberlains, and 8 captains of Banner-men, and to draw pay for 30 non-commissioned officers, and 120 soldiers, making in all the pay of 150 rank and file. This scale is somewhat reduced in the next rank (*bei-léh*); and the question is submitted by the Clan Court as to the scale upon which the establishment of the newly-created Prince shall be formed.—(For rescript see *Gazette* of 9th inst.)

(3) Ngéh-léh-ho-pu, the Lieutenant-General commanding at Uliasutai (who has in a separate memorial, published in this day's issue, solicited leave to retire on the ground of chronic ill-health, which, however, has been refused him), reports that one of the nobles of the Khalkhas has contributed 2,000 catties of flour, amounting to a money value of Tls. 200, toward the cost of rebuilding the walls (of Uliasutai); and, although all desire of reward is repudiated by the donor, the memorialist feels bound to solicit on his behalf a token of the Imperial approbation. The same individual has built a temple within his own region of the nomad territory, where he daily chants a service from the *Prajna Paramita sutra*, and prays for the everlasting life of His Imperial Majesty.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the departments concerned.

May 25th.—(Court Circular.) The Examiners-in-chief of the recent Examination for the *tsin she* degree reported on the conclusion of their labours.—King Lien and Yü Ling-ch'ên returned thanks for the

Imperial grace, on their sons having attained the *Kung she* (preliminary *tsin she*) degree.—The Board of Ceremonies reported the arrival of the Envoys from Yüeh Nan (Anam.)

(1-4) Decrees appointing Examiners and assistants, &c., for the Manchu Examinations now about to commence. The Grand Secretary Ying Kwei is appointed principal, and the Minister King Lien assistant, Examiner-in-chief.

(5) The Governor-General of Chihli reports the conclusion of a trial held in consequence of an appeal to Peking, the complainant having accused an individual named Luh Pu-yün of combining with police of the District Magistracy of K'ü-chow to cause his father's apprehension, as a result of which his father died in prison from the effects of ill-treatment. On the rehearing that has been held, it has been proved that the deceased was arrested in consequence of a brawl which grew out of an act of robbery committed by one of his sons, and that he died from natural causes. The statements in the appeal lodged at Peking were either mere falsehoods or distorted exaggerations, and the complainant is sentenced to the penalty of 80 blows under the statute against general wrongdoing.

(6) The same high authority further memorializes forwarding a statement laid before him by the Department Magistrate of Choh Chow, to the following effect:—“He has to call attention to the filial virtue displayed by a lady named Wang, daughter of a former Taotai at Hankow and grand-daughter of a former President of the Board of Works, a native of the Kao-yeo district in Kiangsu, the family having, however, resided at Choh Chow for a number of years past. From her earliest youth, Miss Wang exhibited a decorous propriety of conduct and a love of study. She was a diligent reader of Liu Hiang's *Lives of Virtuous Women*, and the poems of Muh Lan. At the age of 13, when it was proposed to betroth her, at the first hint of this reaching her ears, she retired to her room, and drew with a pointed instrument blood from her arm, with which she wrote a sentence declaring her intention to remain single in order to devote herself to the care of her parents. At the age of 18 she refused in like manner; and when, in 1852, her father and her second brother perished at the taking of Wu-ch'ang by the rebels, on the remains of the deceased being brought back to Kao-yeo, she exclaimed, amid her tears, that since she could not

follow her father to the tomb, her mother being still alive, her blood should at least serve to varnish his coffin; and she gashed her arm, hereupon, with a knife, allowing a stream of blood to mingle with the lacquer of the coffin. She had reached the age of 26 when her father's obsequies were completed, and her mother and elder brother were anxious that she should marry; but she steadfastly refused to do so, and devoted herself to attention upon her mother, with whom she shortly afterwards removed to Choh Chow, on her brother receiving an appointment, as a reward for his father's services, at Peking. She allowed no other hands but her own to wait upon her mother, and when, in 1862, her mother was attacked with dangerous illness, she cut a piece of flesh from her left thigh to be administered as a remedy. In less than a year, a fresh attack of illness supervened, and she cut a piece of flesh from the right thigh on this occasion, recovery ensuing as before. On subsequent occasions, when her parent was attacked with slight ailments, she applied burning incense-stick to her arms, and used the calcined flesh to mingle with the remedies prescribed, with invariably successful results. After her mother's death, in 1872, she refused all sustenance during a period of three days, and was with difficulty persuaded at length to taste food. Her brother shortly afterwards died, whereupon she escorted his remains to the ancestral home at Kao-yeo, and afterwards, returning thence, performed the same journey once more in attendance on her mother's coffin." The devotion and energy she has displayed exceed what might be expected from one of the opposite sex, and it is solicited, in view of the wide repute which has been gained by her virtues at Choh Chow, that a monument may be erected in her honour under Imperial sanction.—Granted by rescript.

May 26th.—No documents of importance.

May 27th.—(1) Yang Yoh-pin, formerly Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, now holding office as Joint Inspector-General of the naval forces on the Yangtze, memorializes soliciting an extension of his sick leave for three months, to enable him at once to attend to the care of his own health, and to wait upon his aged and bed-ridden parents. He observes that he obtained the Imperial license to resign his office in 1867, in order to devote himself to the care of his parents, who were at that time upwards of 80 years of age; and having received their tearful commands in

the beginning of 1875, on receipt of intelligence of the decease of his late Majesty, to hasten to Peking and obtain a sight of the Celestial countenance of the reigning sovereign, he had obeyed these injunctions, and had thereupon, notwithstanding his solicitation to be allowed to return to his home, been appointed to the office he at present holds.—Rescript, granting the memorialist three months' additional leave.

(2) The Governor of Honan memorializes reporting the arrival of the Anamese tribute mission in his province. He had been informed by the Governor of Hupeh that the mission had crossed the border of that province on its way from Kwangsi on the 14th March, and had arrived on the 19th at the provincial capital, Wu-ch'ang. On the 27th, the journey was resumed by land viâ Hankow, the route by water being too slow, and on the 6th April the mission entered the territory of Honan, in the Sin-yang district. All necessary arrangements for its further progress should be duly made.

May 28th.—(1) A Decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang memorializes Us requesting permission on behalf of an acting General to retire from his post on account of ill-health. We grant permission to Ch'êng Jui to vacate his acting appointment and to return to his banner for the care of his health. Let Poh Ch'ang 博昌 succeed to the appointment of General commanding the Chinese division (*t'i-tuh*) of Urumtsi.

(2) The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is devoted to the first portion of the voluminous report presented by Ming Ngan, Vice-President at the head of the Board of Punishments at Moukden, on the result of the inquiry instituted by him, in obedience to a confidential Decree dated the 3rd March last, with reference to the allegations made by a lieutenant-colonel of the Peking field force, Shwang Hi, respecting the state of affairs among the gold-hunters on the Eastern frontier (as summarised in the Rescript already published in the *Gazette* of 11th inst.) Shwang Hi, it is represented, had in the first instance forced himself upon upon the memorialist, whilst proceeding from Moukden to Kirin as a special Commissioner to hold enquiry into other subjects, and had handed him a statement which the acting Military Governor of Kirin had declined to receive. Hastening, afterwards, to Peking, Shwang Hi had obtained through his superiors of the field force the transmission of his statements to the Throne, upon which the decree

ordering enquiry was issued. The result, as now presented, discredits his allegations and tends to convert into a "mare's nest" his account of the power and pretensions of the squatter King, Han of the Marches. The trader, How Yü-K'i, upon whose arrest as a confederate of the lawless gold hunters Shwang Hi had plumed himself, is shewn to be a native of Kirin, who obtained employment in the course of last year as a gold shroff 勞金 in a shop carried on by Han in the "Birch Forest." He had come in the spring to Kirin, where he appears—from the statements set forth—to have acted as agent for Han, disposing of the gold secretly brought into town to various shops in the place, and sending back merchandize of different kinds for the supply of the miners. The price he received for the gold dust is stated as ranging from 39 *tiao* to 32½ *tiao* per *liang* (tael weight). Kwoh Wei, the informant whose tale-bearing to Shwang Hi led that officer to take the steps he did, understood in conversation with How Yü-K'i on one occasion, that things were not now so flourishing as they used to be at the diggings, when 100 taels weight and upwards used to be cleared at the diggings, which, with payments to the Customs' office, frontier guardstation, etc., made up a total of 267 taels' weight of gold. He further stated that there were upwards of 30,000 men at the diggings. Lieutenant-Colonel Shwang Hi reported, in addition, from what he had heard, that in Han's retreat in the birch forest he had an armed guard of upwards of 1,000 strong, that he had a fortified stockade, a manufactory of cannon, small-arms, and gunpowder, and artisans without number. Furthermore, that he had built up a large and populous town, that some 30,000 goldminers were at work in a certain valley, and that Han Hien-tsung himself exercised absolute authority, including the power of life and death. All these statements are declared to be immensely exaggerated. Although there are some 70 odd wooden huts at the locality indicated, the number of inhabitants is not much more than 100, and the fortifications are of the most elementary character. No manufactory of firearms or gunpowder exists at the spot; nor does Han wield the authority attributed to him.

May 29th.—(1) A Decree. Let Tso K'i-lung 左啟龍 succeed to the post of Brigadier-General of the P'u-urh command in Yünnan.

(2) Continuation and completion of the memorial from Ming Ngan, commenced in yesterday's *Gazette*, on the case of How

Yü-k'i and the gold-hunters flourishing on the Eastern frontier. With reference to Han Hien-tsung, the squatter sovereign, it is stated that in 1866, he being at that time at the head of a body of miners, he was employed by the then Military Governor of Kirin, Fu-ming-ah, to make arrangements for allotting places of residence to the immigrants attracted by the search for gold, and the same high authority asked permission from the Throne to assign to him on lease certain waste lands in the neighbourhood of the Birch-bark Lakes. In the spring of the same year, at a time when the mounted brigands were meditating a raid upon the provincial capital, he came forward with a body of braves, equipped at his own expense, to protect the city. For the service he undeniably rendered he was rewarded, with the Imperial sanction, with the button of the sixth rank. The allegation made by Lieutenant Colonel Shwang Hi, to the effect that Han was a leader of the lawless gold hunters, had, therefore, some degree of foundation in fact; and the key to the whole of the present case is to be found in the question whether or no any act of a criminal or lawless character can be traced home to Han since this bestowal of rank took place. The result of the present enquiry proves that nothing of the kind can be alleged against him. In none of the confessions made by prisoners charged since 1866 with unauthorized gold-digging, does the name of Han Hien-tsung appear as their leader, nor has any evidence against him been elicited by means of the secret enquiries set on foot. The remaining statements contained in Lieutenant Colonel Shwang Hi's report are similarly disposed of.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 11th inst.

May 30th.—(1) A Decree. Let the privilege of competing (for honours) at the Palace Examination be extended to the *kung she* who have graduated at the late Examination, to wit: of the first class in order of merit, 52; of the second-class, 118; and of the third-class, 153 (making a total of 323), as classed by the revising Examiners. Let Sun Hung-tséh, Ch'ên Siang-jên, and Chow Têh-ch'êng, who have been placed in the fourth-class, be debarred from competition until the next occasion.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor T'ang Shu-nan, who has represented that the official clerks and underlings in the famine-stricken districts are guilty of divers malpractices, by means of which they turn the Imperial bounty in the way of remissions of taxation, to their own profit, owing to neglect on the

part of their superiors, the Prefects and Magistrates; and thus debar the people from enjoying the advantage of the Imperial benevolence. He requests that commands be laid, in particular, upon the provincial Government of Hunan to guard against this evil. The practices in question are hereupon energetically reprobated, and, in the apprehension that Hunan may not stand alone among the provinces as regards actions of the kind referred to, the provincial Governments throughout the Empire are commanded to be constantly on the alert to check abuses such as these, in furtherance of the Imperial intentions for the good of the people.

(3) P'êng Yü-lin, Joint Inspector-General of the Naval forces on the Yangtsze, memorializes referring to the period of repose he had taken, with Imperial sanction, after completing his tour of inspection last year, having taken up his abode at a monastery at Hangchow in order to devote himself to the care of his greatly impaired health. He suffers under a complication of disorders, including liver complaint, spitting of blood, chronic rheumatism, and incipient paralysis of the left arm; but notwithstanding this, his sense of the deep obligation with which he is loaded, for the favours shewn him during a succession of reigns, inspires him with resolution to do his duty to the death. It was his intention to leave Chekiang on the 10th May, and to proceed by sea to commence his inspection of the Yangtsze, going upstream.

(4) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., and Yü She, Imperial Agent at Si-ning, memorialize reporting the progress of the commissioner sent in 1874 with tribute from Tibet, on his journey homeward by way of Kokonor. The tribute mission reached Si-ning, returning from the capital, on the 6th September last, and orders were thereupon given to the local authorities to provide proper escort for the party as far as Tan-ko-rh-t'ing 丹葛爾廳, where they rested and made arrangements for the supply of the necessary baggage animals. On the 1st of February last they proceeded on their journey, inspection being made at the barrier-station to verify the list of persons returning to Tibet, and to see that there were neither any persons of a criminal character concealed among the party nor articles of a contraband nature smuggled among their effects. The Imperial Agent had detailed, in accordance with precedent, a guard of 100 Mongol soldiers of Kokonor and 200 Tangutan soldiers, supplied with

the necessary rations, to act as escort; and report has now been received from the captain-generals of the two wings of the Banners of Kokonor stating that the party arrived in safety on the 9th of March at the Tsaidam frontier, whence they continued their journey into Tibet.

May 31st.—(1) A Decree. Let Ku-ni yin-pu (acting Military Governor of the province of Kirin) return to his proper post of Brigadier General of Kin Chow (in Shêng King). Let Ming Ngan 銘安 become acting Military Governor of Kirin, and let Ki Kêh 繼格 act in his stead as Vice President at the head of the Board of Punishments at Moukden.

(2) A Decree. Let Lin Che receive the rank of officer of the Guards of the first class, and do duty at the Great Gate, (N.B. Lin Che is a Manchu officer who returned in 1875 from a Colonel's command in Yünnan).

(3) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuh-kien, memorializes at the instance of certain retired officials, notables of the District of Kieh-yang in Kwangtung, who have addressed him with reference to the miraculous interpositions of the God of War, a temple in whose honour has long stood outside the North gate of the district city, in times of imminent danger. In 1844, when the city was threatened with capture by the leader of a secret association, the banditti were affrighted and dispersed by means of a visible manifestation of the spirit of this deity 神靈; and the efforts of the Government troops in coping with the insurgents again in 1853 were similarly aided by the appearance of supernatural phenomena. These are facts which were witnessed by multitudes of persons. They were not reported officially at the time, and the matter consequently failed to reach the Imperial ear; but the applicants are unwilling to allow them to fall into oblivion, and as the temple is now about to be re-embellished, they beg that a memorial may be addressed to the Throne on the subject. The Governor supports the entreaty thus presented, and begs that a memorial tablet may be bestowed upon the Temple at Kieh-yang, in token of gratitude for the protection that has been afforded. He is made the vehicle of the application, being a native of the district of F'êng-shun and a denizen of Kieh-yang himself. (For rescript see *Gazette* of 9th instant.)

(2) Ting Jih-ch'ang farther memorializes setting forth an outline of the measures of

relief which he proposes instituting on behalf of the owners of certain tracts of land in Formosa, assessed with taxes to the amount of Taels 53,830 per annum, which amount, owing to changes in the area and nature of the soil, produced by floods, inroads of the sea, and other natural causes, has come in process of time to be very inequitably distributed.

(3) In a separate memorial, Ting Jih-ch'ang submits a proposal for the abolition of a host of "miscellaneous taxes" which he finds weighing upon the population of Formosa, the revenue derived from which amounts in all to Tls. 5,223 per annum. These taxes are a legacy of the administration of the island during the seventeenth century by the family of Chêng Ch'êng-kung (Koxinga). At the time of the surrender of the island by its last independent ruler, Chêng K'eh-shwang, only three districts had been established, to wit, those of T'ai-wan, Fêng-shan, and Kia-i. The Changhwa District and the two sub-prefectures of Tamsui and Komalan were called into existence at a subsequent period. The three older divisions, extending 290 *li* in length from North to South, yield a revenue of 130,000 piculs of rice, whilst the three newer divisions, with a length of 580 *li* of territory, are assessed at no more than 56,000 piculs, that is to say, 50 per cent. less than what is levied from a territory equal to only half their aggregate dimensions. The miscellaneous taxes which are imposed, in addition, in the older districts, are of the most varied kind. Among them is an impost levied from the wild aborigines who acknowledge their subjection to the Chinese Sovereignty, and who, as they cultivate no rice-lands, cannot be called upon to pay the grain tax. Their avocations are confined to deer hunting and wheat (or barley) planting, and they accordingly pay a tax called the "deer-skin and small-rice levy." The salt-tax is collected from the localities where fishing-pools are owned; and another impost is known as the sugar-mill and plantation tax. These, though of a somewhat petty and inquisitorial character, have nevertheless the justification of being assessed upon actual sources of gain, in the ratio of some 10 or 20 per cent., and they may be compared with the grit-stone tax in Sze-ch'wan, and the hazel-nut and chestnut taxes in Chihli. The imposts which are most objectionable are a multitude of petty levies on the value of each utensil employed by the fishing population along the coast, such as landing or deep sea nets, ropes, bamboos

fishing-stakes, etc., etc., the oppressiveness of which is enhanced by their being levied through middlemen, persons of some local influence, who add heavy percentages on their own account to the sums which they pay into the hands of the official collectors, whom they are obliged to fee handsomely, in the first instance, to obtain the privilege of thus acting. In order to free the lower classes of the population from the suffering entailed upon them in this manner, the Governor solicits permission to sweep away the whole of these miscellaneous taxes from and after the commencement of the present year, with exception of the deerskin tax on the aborigines, which partakes of the nature of a tribute paid to the lord of the soil, and the salt and sugar-mill taxes, any irregularities connected with which may be removed with comparative ease. He observes that the increasing revenue from *likin* and Customs' duties on the tea and camphor production which has sprung up of late years, may be relied upon to compensate for the loss entailed upon the local exchequer, whilst the development of the mining industry in the north of the island, now in progress, will also add considerably to the local resources.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 9th inst.

June 1st.—(1) A Decree. Let the Palace Examination of the newly graduated *tsin-sze* be held in the Pao Ho Throne Hall on the 9th inst.

(2) Yang Ch'ang-sün, Governor (now removed) of Chêh-kiang, memorializes requesting sanction for an exchange of offices between two District Magistrates, in view of the fact that Wên-chow Fu, at which one of the functionaries in question is stationed, is now opened as a port of foreign trade. The district of Yung-Kia, he observes, lying in proximity to the seacoast, has a population of a turbulent character, and being the principal district of the prefecture, in the chief city of which its seat of Government is placed, the duties of the Magistracy are the more numerous and important. With the foreign relations which are now about to be introduced, the conduct of affairs in a suitable manner becomes doubly desirable. The official who is at present invested with the Magistracy at this point, Ch'ên Yih by name, a *K'ü-jên* graduate, native of Foochow, is honest and experienced, but he has no insight into foreign affairs; and it is consequently proposed that he shall exchange posts with Chang Pao-lin, a native of Kiangsi, who has attained the rank of District Magistrate by purchase, and who

is at present incumbent of the Magistracy of Kiang-shan. He is a man of superior intelligence, and equal to the discharge of difficult duties. There is nothing in the official antecedents on either side, or in the conditions of the two districts, to make the exchange irregular.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Civil Office.

June 2nd.—(1) A Decree. Let Liu Sihung succeed to the vacant post of sub-Director of the Banqueting Court.

(2) A Decree. Let Hi Yüan, Manchu General-in-chief of King-chow Fu, and Kwo-lê-min, Manchu General-in-chief of Hangchow, enjoy the privilege of riding within the precincts of the Forbidden City.

(3) Pao Yüan-shên, Governor of Shansi, memorializes with reference to the suffering entailed by the recent drought in that province, the proposed measures of relief, and the apprehensions felt with regard to the future. Shansi, he represents, is commonly described as a wealthy province, the fact being, however, that a large proportion of its natives, having no settled interests within its limits, have migrated with their capital to other parts of the Empire to trade. Since the rebellion, commercial prosperity has declined, and ruin has overtaken the most wealthy. Not more than 20 or 30 per cent. of the population gains its living by agricultural pursuits; and as the soil, moreover, is not naturally of a productive character, the yield of cereals is small. Even in years of good harvests, it is necessary to import breadstuffs from the neighbouring provinces to meet the wants of the population; and for some years past the harvests have been by no means prosperous. The spring and autumn of last year were seasons of severe drought, and in the districts severely affected great difficulty was experienced in the provision of means of subsistence for the people, whilst scarcity was felt even in those districts which had not specially suffered. There has been no rain to speak of since the commencement of spring this year, and whilst in the North of the province, where, owing to the difference of climate, the season of sowing is somewhat later, the anxiety felt is not so overpowering, in the South, on the contrary, the utmost alarm prevails at the prospect of a failure of the crops. In this section of the province, with its very mild climate, wheat is always sown after the autumn harvest; and at the present moment, when the crop should be well grown, the shoots are but an inch or two high, and appear

already withered and dried up. The administrative divisions most severely affected by the prevailing drought are T'ai-yüan Fu, Fên Chow, P'ing-yang Fu, Hoh Chow, and She Chow; the P'u-chow Fu, Kiei Chow, and Kiang Chow divisions being somewhat better off. Throughout the winter and spring the local authorities of all the districts affected have been collecting subscriptions for the relief of the distressed, and have called upon the wealthier inhabitants to distribute supplies of food in their several neighbourhoods, the hope being that rain would fall at the accustomed time in spring, and thus enable the wheat to ripen. With the protracted drought, however, the means of both the authorities and the people have become exhausted, and the land has come to resound with the lamentations of the famine-stricken multitude. Beginning with the sale of their children, of either sex, in order to eke out the means of subsistence, the people have been farther reduced to dig up roots and to strip trees of their bark in order to provide themselves with another meal. The bark of the trees having come to an end, and even the wild herbs ceasing to spring up in consequence of the drought, recourse has been had to such expedients as the manufacture of pellets of earth mingled with stone ground into powder. The maintenance of life is barely conceivable when famine has reached such a stage as this. Not a day passes, consequently, without deaths occurring upon the public highways, and tears can scarcely be repressed in attempting to describe the miseries that are witnessed and the sorrow with which the mind is laden. At such a time as this, to adhere too strictly to the letter of the regulations and to await Imperial sanction before granting relief from the public funds, would be to ignore the immediate necessity of food for starving myriads. The Governor has not shrunk from the responsibility of instructing the departmental authorities to make issues of grain from the local storehouses, and to establish relief depôts at eligible points, taking care that the distribution be kept out of the hands of the yamên underlings, in order that it may not be diverted from its proper objects. At the same time, what is now being done is but a temporary expedient. Should the distress continue for any length of time, the provincial granaries will be exhausted. There is reason to be anxious for the speedy downpour of fertilizing showers, thanks to the god-like good fortune of the Sacred Ruler, when, if the early wheaterop can

to any extent be saved and the rice-fields be sown for the autumn, the Southern half of the Province will be rescued from danger and the Northern half be exempt from harm. In the event, however, of the drought being still farther protracted, famine must become universal, and the consequent state of affairs is too terrible to contemplate. Not only will it be out of the question to collect the first half-year's revenue, but it will be necessary to devise further measures for the distribution of relief. In the present exhausted state of the Imperial Exchequer, the Governor could not venture to solicit an appropriation of funds from the treasury at Peking; and he proposes, in order to provide the wherewithal for purchases of grain in the neighbouring provinces, to make use of a balance of about Taels 40,000 remaining in the provincial treasury as part of the last half-year's revenue collection. So small an amount as this will go but a little way toward meeting the requirements of the occasion; and the Governor, oppressed with grief which robs him of both rest and appetite, has no resource but to take the lead in instituting with subordinates the observance of penitential fasts, and in offering up reverent entreaties, morning and night. He has furthermore issued general orders to clear off judicial arrears and to lighten the burthens of State-service upon the people, in the hope of thus inviting the beneficent harmony of the powers of nature, to the end that the fate of the people may be alleviated.—Rescript: It is noted.

June 3rd.—No documents of importance.

June 4th.—(1) A Decree. Let Kwang K'o 廣科 succeed to the vacant post of Manchu General-in-chief at Si-ngan. (N.B. This appointment is made in succession to K'ê-mêng-êh, who was transferred on the 12th May, 1876, to fill the post of General-in-chief at Ning-hia. The Lieutenant-General, T'u-ming-êh, has been acting in his stead for the last year.)

(2) A Decree. Let the two officers above the age of 65, Hai-lin, an officer of the Guards of the second class, and Mu-têng-nên-t'ai, commandant of a battalion of the Household brigade at Yüan-ming Yüan, who were presented in audience this day by the Military Inspection Commissioners, be required to take the retirement of their respective ranks.

(3) A decree referring to the rejection of the Manchu essay of one of the candidates approved by the Examiners at the pending examinations, of the

ground of an excessive number of errors and omissions, and accepting the essay which was submitted from another of the candidates. The names of the Examiner-in-chief, Ying Kwei (Grand Secretary, etc., etc.), and King Lien, the Assistant-Examiner (Member of the Grand Council, etc., etc.), are handed over to the Boards for the adjudication of a penalty for their remissness.

(4) The Governor-General of Min-chêh memorializes reporting the arrival at Foochow of a party of shipwrecked Liuch'ians who had been sent on to that place from Chefoo under the following circumstances, as narrated in a despatch from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Shantung:—"The Governor had received a report from the Taotai at Chefoo, stating that a Liuch'ian junk had been found in distress off the coast by the British vessel Lu-pi-kan (*Rubicon*), by which the crew were picked up, and conveyed to Chefoo. The British Consul, Chêh Mei-shen (Mr. Jamieson), had forwarded the party, eight in number, to the Taotai, together with 17,700 *cash* in the Kwan Yung currency (Nagasaki *cash*), which amount they had in their possession when rescued. They had been sent to Foochow by the Chinese steam gunvessel *Wan Nien Ts'ing*." (See *Gazette* of 7th Jan.) The Governor-General now reports that the party of shipwrecked mariners in question had reached Foochow on the 30th December, 1876, and were taken charge of by the authorities in the usual manner. In the statement taken down with reference to their shipwreck, they acknowledge the good fortune of their rescue by the British sailing vessel which picked them up at sea. They were to be returned to their native country at the first opportunity.

June 5th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Governor of Kwangsi, with reference to the permission recently granted to Fêng Tsze-ts'ai, the General-in-chief of that province, to visit Peking for audience. On the Governor's representation that, although the late insurgent outbreak in the district of Ma-p'ing has been suppressed, the General's services are still occupied in connection with the measures consequent upon this affair, and that he should be left for some little longer in the province, it is ordered that Fêng Tsze-ts'ai shall defer for a time his visit to Peking.

(2) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, denouncing an acting Commissary of the Mongol and Manchu garrison troops at Kagan, for wilfully delaying the issue of the monthly rations of millet to the

soldiery, and substituting a money allowance, of his own motion, for the distribution of the actual grain. The offender in question is deprived of his official button, and placed under stringent commands to issue the rations as they are due.

(3) The Governor of Kwangsi reports the result of a trial held with reference to the escape of a prisoner from jail at the provincial capital, Kwei-lin Fu, in September last (see *Gazette* of 14th December, 1876.) The prisoner has not been recaptured, and the jailers and others responsible for his safekeeping have now been sentenced to the customary penalties according to law.

June 6th.—(1) The Military Lieutenant-Governor of Jeh-ho memorializes reporting his intended departure on a personal tour through the Imperial hunting grounds, for purposes of inspection, on the 16th May, in order to examine the state of affairs with reference to the appointment of the lands occupied by cultivators.

(2) In a postscript memorial, the same authority reports that he finds it necessary to provide funds for the travelling allowances of the official staff that is to accompany him on his tour in the hunting grounds, in order that they may not become in the smallest degree a burden to the population. He proposes to devote to this purpose a sum of Tls. 2,000, taken from a balance of accrued interest on certain deposits which is in the treasury of his jurisdiction.—Rescript: It is noted.

June 7th.—The following is announced as the list of the highest graduates at the Palace examination of the successful competitors for the *tsin-sze* degree:—*Chwang-yüen* (optimus), Wang Jên-k'an, of Fuhkien. *Pang-yen* (secundus), Yü Lien-wan, of Hupeh. *T'an-hua* (tertius), Chu Kêng-yang, of Kiangsu. *Ch'wan-lu* (quartus), Sun Tsung-sih, of Hunan.

(1) A decree commanding the Governor of Shantung to select from among the Prefects on the provincial establishment, an incumbent for the post of Prefect of Tsi-nan-fu, an office of importance (in view of the city being the provincial capital.) To fill the vacancy that will thus be created in one of the provincial prefectures, Sih Ngên 錫恩 is nominated.

(2) A decree cashiering the Commissary in charge of the district of Petuna in Kirin, at the solicitation of the acting Military Governor Ku-ni-yin-pu, who has denounced the official in question for withholding all report of a crime committed within his jurisdiction, eleven members of one family

having been murdered by a native of the district named Kao Chên-ming.

(3) Ku-ni-yin-pu, acting Military Governor of Kirin, memorializes reporting the trial and execution by *ling-ch'e* of a criminal guilty of murder, under the following circumstances:—The criminal, Kwoh Hung, an immigrant from the province of Chihli, a carpenter by trade, is shewn to have sought occupation at a certain village in the Wu-ch'ang commune of the province; and he was employed there last year by an inhabitant of the place named Li Yeo-nien to make some repairs to his house. Becoming in this manner acquainted with Li's wife, whom he met without restriction, he conceived an unlawful passion for the woman, which, however, he found for a length of time no opportunity of indulging. He continued his acquaintance with Li Yeo-nien for some time after the job on which he had been employed was finished; and, having discovered, on the 4th of March last, that Li was absent from home, and no one left in charge of his family, he went at dead of night, taking a cudgel in his hand for his protection by the way, to Li's house, where he knocked at the door under pretence of asking for some oil for his lantern. Li's eldest girl was aroused and opened the door, whereupon he entered, and saw the woman, Liu-she, dressed and seated on the stove-bed, preparing to light a lamp. Kwoh advanced and endeavoured to effect his unlawful design, but Liu-she resisted and struck and scratched her assailant. Kwoh upon this dealt a blow at her upon the forehead with his stick, but she wrested the weapon from him and ran out of the house shouting for help. Kwoh, fearing that her outcry might bring persons to the rescue, determined to kill the woman, and thus satiate his desire to be avenged upon her. Groping about, he seized a vegetable-chopper from the block beside the door, and having rushed after the woman, he hacked her about the head, arms, throat, and body, and finally completed his bloody work by beating in his victim's skull with his bludgeon. Reëntering the house, he saw the four female children of Liu-she wailing upon the stove-bed, and, excited with rage and fearing also lest the alarm might be given to the neighbours, he made up his mind to put all the children beyond the possibility of giving evidence against him; and he proceeded hereupon to beat in the brains of each of the girls with his bludgeon. When his victims were all dead, he threw down the murderous weapon he had used, and made

off, carrying with him a deerskin waistcoat and another article of clothing which he found in a wardrobe. Having subsequently been captured and brought to trial, he has confessed the circumstances of the crime as above-stated. The sentence incurred is that of death by *ling-ch'e* (the "slicing" process), which has been carried into execution at the capital of the province. In consideration of the lamentable fate of the murdered woman, who, with her children, perished in defence of her wifely honour, it is solicited that an Imperial tablet may be erected to commemorate her virtuous conduct, and to further the cause of morality.—Referred for the consideration of the proper Board.

(4) Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Heh-lung Kiang, memorializes with reference to the proposed despatch of an examiner of corpses, to be borrowed from the province of Sheng-king, to institute a renewed inquest upon the remains of Wang King-shun, whose brother, Wang King-tien, has appealed at Peking declaring the deceased to have been done to death in prison, in despite of the evidence adduced at the former inquest to prove that he had committed suicide by hanging. (For rescript see *Gazette* of May 17th.)

(5) Fêng Shên, in a farther memorial, reports the arrival within his jurisdiction of Liu Fu-hing, the individual degraded from the rank of Brigadier-General, and sentenced to transportation to the Amur, in connection with the case of Brigadier-General Chan K'i-lun, convicted as instigator of the murder committed at Yangchow (see *Gazette* of 7th April, 1876.) The prisoner in question arrived on the 25th of April at the place of his destined residence in banishment, under custody of an official deputed for the purpose by the Brigadier of Petuna, and he has been placed under rigorous surveillance.

June 8th. (1) The Prince of Tun, as President of the Office of the Imperial Genealogical Record, memorializes soliciting instructions on a subject upon which the Prince does not venture to act on his own responsibility. The *Yü Tieh* (Tablet of Jade) or Genealogical Register of the Imperial family, the Prince remarks, of which he and his colleagues have now been commanded to undertake a revision, is subject to rules determined by the precedents of successive additions, the principle followed, from the period of Chao Tsu Yüan Hwang-ti (the most remote acknowledged ancestor of the reigning dynasty), to his Majesty the Emperor Muh Tsung I, (T'ung Che), being the assignment of a separate page to each

Sovereign, whose name occupies the central station, and from whom the line of descent of each of his offspring, denoting the derivation of each on the mother's side, arranged according to the order of seniority of birth, is duly set forth. The scions of the Imperial line, from his Majesty the Emperor down to descendants below the twelfth degree, with the sons and daughters born to them within [each] period of ten years, and the adoptions that have taken place, are farther exhibited in tables of columns and cross-columns, each line of descent being traced to the sovereign with whom it commences. The question which is now submitted is the method in which the name of "His Majesty the Present Emperor, Kwang Sü, for ten thousand times ten thousand years," shall be inserted in the Record, in connection with the members of the Imperial lineage bearing [like himself] the distinctive name of Tsai. It is also requested that a decision may be pronounced respecting the place to be assigned in the Register to the names of the children of the Prince of Ch'un (the Emperor's father), bearing the name of Tsai.—For rescript, and explanatory note, see *Gazette* of May 18th.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kwang memorializes soliciting permission to retire from active service on behalf of General Wei Tso-pang, who was recently superseded in the post of Commander-in-chief of the provincial land-forces and directed to return to his post as Brigadier of the Yang-kiang command. The officer in question is nearly 70 years of age, and suffers greatly from an old wound that has lately broken out afresh.—Granted by rescript.

June 9th.—(1) A decree conferring appointments upon the Hanlin Probationers who have now passed their final examination. The list occupies upwards of three pages of the *Gazette*,—something more than half the number of candidates receiving rank as members of the Han-lin College; whilst the remainder, constituting the third class, are almost equally divided between appointments as secretaries to the metropolitan Boards and district Magistrateships in the provinces.

(2) A Decree. Let Hù T'ing-kwei 許桂廷 succeed to the post of Prefect of Lin-ngan-fu in Yunnan. (N.B.—Hù T'ing-kwei is the official whose memorial, presented by him as one of the Censors, denouncing the irregularities of the *lekin* tax, was published in the *Gazette* of 18th January, 1875.)

June 10th.—(1) The acting Governor of Chekiang memorializes reporting the completion of the grain shipments from that province for Tientsin for the current season. The total amount of rice of various qualities to be supplied by Chekiang is 420,700 piculs, including an amount of 10,100 piculs which the regulations require to be purchased at Tientsin with funds supplied from the province, for issue as ration allowance to the boatmen, etc. Of the entire amount, the late Governor has already reported the despatch of 166,000 piculs (see *Gazette* of 24th April); and the remaining shipments have been as follows:—

By steamers,.....piculs 76,600
 ,, 28 junks..... ,, 66,600

The above, constituting the second batch of shipments, have been followed by a third and final batch, as follows:—

By steamers,.....piculs 52,000
 ,, 20 junks,..... ,, 48,700

The lading and despatch of the last vessels was completed at Shanghai by the 28th April.

(2) The Governor of Honan memorializes reporting the sentence and execution by *ling-ch'e* (the "slicing" process) of a criminal guilty of the murder of three individuals belonging to the same family. The criminal, Chang Che-téh by name, held certain lands on lease from a proprietor named Kiang, and the murders, of which two daughters-in-law and a grandson of the landlord were the victims, were committed in consequence of notice to quit having been given to Chang, accompanied by abusive language used toward him by the women of the family, who suspected him of theft. He entered the family dwelling by night, armed with a sword, and hacked all the sleepers in succession, wounding four persons besides the three who died from the effects of the injuries inflicted.

June 11th.—(1) A Decree. Let Luh Mow-tung, heretofore ranked as a member of the Han-lin College of the *Pien Siu* degree, who was presented to-day in audience, be employed as a *Kien T'ao* of the Han-lin.

(2) Let Ts'üan K'ing (President of the Censorate) and Shên Kwei-fên (Member of the Grand Council, an Assistant Grand Secretary, a President of the Board of War, Member of the Yamén of Foreign Affairs, etc., etc.) act as Preceptors-in-chief to the Han-lin Probationers.

(3) The Imperial Clan Court memorializes soliciting instructions as to the establishment that shall be allotted to the newly-created Imperial noble Tsai Tséh, in whose

case either one of two different scales may be applicable.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 22nd ulto.

(4) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang provinces, and the Manchu General-in-chief of the Nanking garrison, jointly memorialize with reference to the case of a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Bordered White Banner, To Lun by name, who was brought to trial in 1874 for causing the death of a distant kinsman named Show Luh. This individual had been arraigned before the Colonel of the Banner on a charge of endeavouring to take his pay by force, and he was placed under the custody of his relative To Lun. In view of the habitual violence of temper and refractoriness displayed by Show Luh, To Lun called in the services of a captain and some other members of the force, and agreed with them that heavier fetters should be placed upon the prisoner, and that he should be confined within a wooden cage. On an attempt being made to carry this determination into effect, Show Luh rushed at his kinsman, striking at him with his head and vowing that he was ready to die in the effort to avenge himself. In a momentary fit of anger, To Lun called upon some of his men to help him, and they strangled the prisoner to death between them with ropes. On being brought to trial for this act, To Lun was sentenced by the late acting Governor-General Liu Kw'en-yih, in concert with the Manchu General-in-chief, to death by strangulation (as the penalty for homicide in the second degree); and the persons who had aided and abetted him to bastinadoing, according to the provisions of the statute in the case of such accessories, but with benefit of any ensuing Act of Grace. On the sentence being laid before the Throne and referred to the Board of Punishments, it was quashed by the Board on the ground that the act could not justly be considered one of homicide committed in the discharge of a public duty. The offence for which the prisoner was in custody, the Board remarked, was not a serious one, and the proceeding resorted to by To Lun was actual murder, though without premeditation, 格殺 in gratification of the passion of anger and unconnected with public considerations. A revision of the sentence was consequently required. The proper authorities having been required to take action accordingly, report has now been received that the condemned man, To Lun, died in prison from the effects of illness on the 11th January last. A special commission appointed to hold a fresh trial

of the case has now brought in a sentence, in obedience to the ruling of the Board of Punishments, in accordance with the statute relating to the murder of distant kinsmen, the penalty for which is decapitation; and the accessories are sentenced to 100 blows apiece. After a further recital of the facts of the case, the memorialists submit that as the guilty person is dead, no further proceedings need be taken in respect of his sentence; and the accessories are shewn to be within the scope of the Act of Grace passed subsequently to the commission of the crime.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Punishments.

June 12th.—(1) A decree reciting a mandate of their Majesties the Empresses Regent, referring for the deliberation of the special Council of all the departments of State already charged with the examination of the question as submitted by the Imperial Clan Court, the proposals relating to the enshrinement of the tablets of their late Majesties which have been submitted by Chang P'ei-lun, an Expositor of the Han-lin.

(2) A decree granting leave to resign his offices of State to the *beilsh* Tsai Jung 載容, on the ground of continued ill-health, and assigning him the full amount of his yearly allowance by way of pension.

(3) A decree embodying a mandate of their Majesties the Empresses Regent, approving the form for the preparation of the Genealogical Register which has been submitted by the Grand Council and the Imperial Clan Court. (See *Gazette* of 8th inst.)

(4) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang reports that selection has been made of the expectant Taotai Liu Jui-hêng 劉瑞亨 to take the place of Fêng Tsün-kwang as Taotai at Shanghai, during the latter's absence on leave beyond the Great Wall.

(5) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang and the Governor of Kiangsu jointly memorialize, submitting a renewed solicitation for sanction to the appointment of Mo Siang-che 莫祥芝 to the important post of Magistrate of the district of Shanghai. On the departure from this post of the late Magistrate, Yeh T'ing-küan, who purchased promotion to a higher grade, Mo Siang-che, then District Magistrate of Kiang-ning (at Nanking), was transferred to fill his place. A despatch was subsequently received from the Board of Civil Office, declining to sanction a transfer of the incumbent of the principal Magistracy in the province

situated at the provincial capital itself, to fill a like post in a magistracy away from the provincial capital; and a fresh appointment was ordered to be made. Instructions were issued hereupon to take action accordingly. In reply, an application has now been addressed to the memorialists by the Lieutenant-Governors at Nanking and Soochow, and by the acting Judicial Commissioner, to the following effect:—"In view of its connection with the commercial relations of the various foreign Powers, the District Magistracy of Shanghai is an office which it is impossible to place in the same category with ordinary Magistracies of the 'important' class. An adequate discharge of the duties of Government cannot be expected unless from an officer both maturely versed in foreign affairs and also capable of devoting thorough attention and energy to the conduct of his business. Having endeavoured once more to make selection, in obedience to the orders we have received, of an officer for this post from among all the District Magistrates of the province who have obtained their position through the regular literary examinations, whether at present employed or expectant of office, we find that all are either actually incumbents of important posts or are personally unsuited to the place in question, and that there is no one whom we can recommend for transfer, as has already heretofore been represented. After the most anxious consideration, we can do no other-wise than repeat the request that Mo Siang-che be transferred to fill the vacancy." On receipt of this report, the memorialists have to observe that the official in question is profoundly versed in questions of policy, in addition to which he is a man in the prime of strength and mental vigour. During his acting incumbency of the post, his conduct of affairs of an international character has been all that it should be, and it may be truly affirmed that few officials are to be found his equals. Although his appointment is in some slight degree at variance with the regulations, the memorialists feel bound, in view of his eminent qualifications for this particular post, to submit the case in a special representation to the Imperial decision. They would add that just at this moment, when a change is taking place in the office of Taotai and Superintendent of Customs at Shanghai, it is doubly desirable to have an experienced person on the spot, in order to be provided against contingencies that may arise. They trust therefore that they do right in soliciting

sanction for the transfer in question; and they point out that, as an actual incumbent of the office of District Magistrate, Mo Siang-che is not subject to the necessity of proceeding to Peking for presentation.—Rescript: We sanction the transfer of Mo Siang-che. For the rest, be it as is proposed.

June 13th.—(1) A Decree. Let Wên Yih 文煜 (late Manchu General-in-chief at Foochow, etc., etc.) succeed to the post of Chamberlain of the Palace.

(2 and 3) Decrees appointing Wu T'ing-fên 吳廷芬 to the post of Reader of the Grand Secretariat, and Hwai-t'a-pu 懷塔布 son of the former Governor-General of the Two Kwang, Jui Lien), to the post of sub-director of the Imperial Sacrificial Court.

(4) The Court of Censors memorialize forwarding an appeal lodged with them by a denizen of the Chang-p'u district in Fuh-kien, who complains that his wife had been inveigled away from his house under false pretences, and conveyed into the power of a ruffian named Ch'ên Hwei, the head of a local affiliated society known as the Red Flag League, who had repeatedly sought, but in vain, to establish a criminal connection with her. The victim of his artifices was detained in captivity in this man's stronghold for upwards of a month, in the beginning of 1874, and after being repeatedly outraged by Ch'ên Hwei and certain of his relatives, on appellant refusing to pay ransom which they demanded for her to the amount of \$50, she was killed and her body was thrown into a well. The District Magistrate was called upon to hold an inquest on the remains, but owing to some occult influences brought to bear, the perpetrators of the outrage have been suffered to go free, and have continued to oppress and plunder appellant since that time.—The appeal referred for provincial investigation in the usual manner.

(5) The Yamèn of Gendarmerie memorialize presenting an appeal lodged with them by a native of the province of Honan, complaining of an act of burglary committed at his house by an armed gang, who inflicted fatal injuries upon his brother and his brother's wife. Under the influence of heavy bribes offered to them by the guilty parties, the police of the District Magistracy have contrived to allow them to escape apprehension. On complaint being addressed to the Prefect, and afterwards to the Judicial Commissioner of the province, it was

referred back to the District Magistrate to be dealt with, and no steps were taken to arrest the perpetrators of the crime. The same result has followed on application being made to the provincial Governor; and the present appeal is consequently lodged at Peking.—Referred in the usual manner.

(5) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuh-kien, memorializes stating that Colonel Lin Chu 林珠, late Commandant of the North Division of Formosa, who was stripped of his rank and summoned to be placed on trial at the instance of the late Governor-General Li Hoh-nien, for complicity with Yang Tsai-yüan, the officer who has been cashiered and removed from the Brigadier-Generalship of Formosa, in the improper bestowal of subordinate commands, had returned last January, without permission, to Formosa, and had given out that he was authorized to enlist a body of braves. His object was to obtain money under false pretences; and a number of vagabonds were gathered together at his appeal, causing much excitement in the public mind. The Governor gave orders for his apprehension on receiving information to this effect, and having arraigned him on the charge of attempted swindling, solicits approval of the sentence he proposes to inflict, to wit, that the culprit be transported into servitude on the Mongolian post-road, to expiate there his offence by his exertion.—Sanctioned by rescript.

June 14th.—(1) A Decree. In answer to the memorial from Yüan Pao-hêng, soliciting leave of absence for two months to enable him to return to his native place (in Ngan-hwei) and attend to matters connected with his family burying ground, we grant him the leave of absence he applies for. Let Fêng Yü-k'i act on his behalf as Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments.

(2) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., memorializes in reply to a confidential Decree received by him some time ago, based upon an application addressed to the Throne by the Assistant Military Governor Ying Lien, at Tarbagatai, in which he was commanded to despatch a body of 500 picked men, drawn from the Chinese forces in Kansuh, with a proper equipment of arms, to take their turn of duty as garrison at Tarbagatai according to the system heretofore in force, and which should now be reverted to in consequence of the reopening of communications. In reply, Tso Tsung-t'ang represents that the Mohammedan rebellion and its consequences

have completely shattered the ancient army organization in Kansuh, to such an extent that even in such places as were not captured by the insurgents, the troops have long since disbanded themselves under the pressure of want. Even with regard to the force especially under the Governor-General's direct command, the *Tuh Piao* division, which should number 3,500 rank and file, all that the Governor-General has done has been to authorize his military Secretary to retain some 1,500 picked men on the list of this force. As for the remaining divisions, all that has been feasible is to enrol from time to time a sufficient number of men to keep up the cadre and to supply the actual requirements of duty, without attempting to re-establish the ancient organization in full. With the whole of Kansuh devastated and depopulated as it is, and the military chest devoted to the payment of the large bodies of troops from other parts of the Empire, which are now actively engaged beyond the Wall, it is impossible to think of keeping up at the same time the ancient military system, and he has therefore no men to send to undertake the garrison duties of Tarbagatai as commanded. He begs that further consideration of the matter may be postponed until the conclusion of the pending campaign shall have allowed the re-establishment of the ancient system to be proceeded with at leisure. Rescript. It is noted.

June 15th.—(1) A Decree. The Prince of Kung, as Captain-General of the Plain White Banner of the Manchu forces, and his colleagues, have memorialized Us representing that the mother of Ngén Ch'êng, a Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, has attained to the verge of her 100th year. That this lady, born of the family of Hü, should have attained to such longevity, whilst continuing in the enjoyment of vigorous health and spirits, is conspicuously a glory to Our reign and an auspicious omen for Our people. Let the officials of the Imperial Studio and the Han-lin College prepare an inscribed tablet to be bestowed upon her, as a token of marked distinction. Let the Board of Ceremonies consider and report, in addition, what farther award of honours is due in conformity with the regulations.

(2) A decree appointing Téh Ch'un, Vice-President of the Board of Works, to examine the repairs which are reported by the Superintendents of the Western Mausolea as being called for at two of the Imperial tombs in that direction.

(3) The Prince of Kung and his colleagues of the Grand Council memorialize referring to a decree issued in 1815, in accordance with which Commissioners were thenceforward to be appointed in each alternate year to superintend the airing of the volumes of the Authentic Records (the annals of each reign, compiled after each successive demise of the Crown) and of the Imperial Genealogical Register, which are preserved in the K'ien Ts'ing Hall of the Palace.—Four high officials are appointed accordingly.

June 16th.—(Court Circular.) The arrival is noted of articles of "tribute"—i.e., for the Imperial use or delectation—forwarded by Liu Ch'ang-yeo, Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow, and P'an Ting-sin, Governor of Yünnan.

(1) The Governor of Yünnan memorializes reporting that as Tu Jui-lien, lately appointed to the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Yünnan, has now arrived at the provincial capital, he has been directed to enter on the duties of his office, the late acting incumbent, Ts'ang King-yü, returning to his proper post of Judicial Commissioner.

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, etc., reports that as he is at present residing at Tientsin for the purpose of attending to questions relating to foreign affairs, he has desired the acting Lieutenant-Governor and the acting Judicial Commissioner to preside at the Court which it is necessary to hold at this period at the provincial capital, for the revision of the sentences on criminals which are to be submitted for final decision at the Autumn Assize at Peking.

June 17th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Yü Luh, Governor of Nganhwei, who has impeached a long list of department and district Magistrates for deficiencies found in their accounts on handing over charge to their successors. His recommendations for the cashiering and prosecution of the several individuals are sanctioned.

(2) Yung Ts'üan, (late) Military Governor of the Ili territories, and Ying Lien, Assistant Military Governor at Tarbagatai, memorialize reporting the sentence they have pronounced in a trial held for murder. In October last, they received a despatch in the Manchu language from the General commanding the contingent of Solon Manchus, giving the tenour of a report received from one of his subordinate commanders as follows:—On the 28th September last, Uchala, the widow of Nomén Tali, a soldier of the force, made

statement to the effect that her son, named E-lê-ngên-pu, who had been absent from home since the 17th, was reported this day by some people of the town to have been killed by a gunshot wound by certain persons at the reed lake to the west of the city. The statement was reported to have come from a man named I-bo-so. On receipt of this information, a Chinese named Chang Ho-fah was summoned, who repeated the statement above given, adding that on the afternoon of 23rd September E-lê-ngên-pu had left his shop in company with a man named Mor-gên-tai, saying that he was going to look for an individual named Na-ch'in, since which time he had not been seen. Na-ch'in was hereupon summoned, and a musket was taken possession of in his house. Mor-gên-tai and I-bo-so were also summoned and interrogated, with the following results. Na-ch'in confessed that: "I-bo-so having told me that deceased's wife was his niece, and that if deceased could be put out of the way, he could give me his niece in marriage, in testimony whereof he cut off a lock of her hair, which he gave me, I and Mor-gên-tai inveigled deceased to a place southwest of the city, and shot him there." Prisoner also delivered up the lock of hair referred to. On the particulars coming before the memorialist, Ying Lien, he despatched a civilian functionary to hold an inquest, the report of which is as follows:—On proceeding to a point near the reed-beds about 30 *li* south by west from the city, accompanied by an officer of the Solon troops, together with the relatives of the deceased, and the witnesses in the case, I held a public inquest on the remains of E-lê-ngên-pu. The evidence shewed that deceased was 19 years of age. He was of middle height, the colour of his face yellow, the eyes nearly closed, the lips tightly shut. To the left side of the chest a bullet-hole was discovered, measuring nine-tenths of an inch in circumference. The bullet had traversed the body, passing out to the left of the spine, leaving a wound of one and two-tenths of an inch in circumference. The skin at the orifice was gaping asunder in each case. The bones broken were discoloured and black, and there were marks of bleeding. A gunshot wound had unquestionably been inflicted during life, with fatal result, and no other wound but that described was found upon the body." The report of the inquest having been received, orders were given to the Military Secretariat to institute a trial of the case, when the following evidence was taken. Uchala, deceased's mother, de-

posed:—My son, being given to opium-smoking on account of ill-health, was constantly away from home. He went out on the 17th September, and had been gone several days, when I was told by the man Chang that he had just heard E-lê-ngên-pu had been shot. On the 22nd, I had gone out to buy some physic for my daughter-in-law, who was ill, and I knew nothing whatever about a lock of her hair having been cut off. She got on well with her husband. They never quarrelled." (Note.—The evidence of all the parties is given in colloquial Chinese, being probably a close translation from the Manchu.) Na-ch'in and the others were next separately subjected to a searching interrogation, Na-ch'in deposing as follows:—"I am a soldier of the Solon force, and have long known the deceased, I-bo-so, and Mor-gên-tai as friends. On the 22nd September, the two last-named and myself were drinking together and having a chat, and being persuaded by I-bo-so that if his nephew-in-law could be put out of the way, he would be able to give me his niece to wife, I went with Mor-gên-tai in his company to deceased's house. Both deceased and his mother were away from home, and taking advantage of this, I-bo-so said to his niece, who seemed to be ill and was lying down, that he wanted to cut off a lock of her hair to give to me as a pledge, and that if E-lê-ngên-pu could be put out of the way, he would give her to me to wife. His niece answered that she was afraid; but I-bo-so told her that she need not fear; he would be answerable if anything happened. Upon this, he cut off a lock of her hair and gave it to me. On the following day I got Mor-gên-tai to help me, and we inveigled E-lê-ngên-pu into joining us, under pretence of going to *li*. At about 9 o'clock that evening, when we had got to the reedbeds, I gave the horse to Mor-gên-tai to hold, and shot E-lê-ngên-pu while he was halting for a necessary purpose. The bullet struck him in the chest, and he died instantly. I had seen deceased's wife but once, and there had never been any improper relations between us. I had promised to give Mor-gên-tai a horse for lending a hand in the business, but I have not given it to him; and to I-bo-so I had promised to give, but have not given, ten taels in Russian paper money." I-bo-so's statement, given in full, is to the same effect as the preceding, with the addition that he was angry with deceased for his dissipated conduct, and that he was intoxicated when he made the offer to Na-ch'in to give him his niece in marriage if E-lê-ngên-pu could

be put out of the way. He also stated that he had intended giving Mor-gên-tai half of the sum which Na-ch'in was to have paid him in Russian notes.—Deceased's wife, Kara Khalaki, deposed as follows :—My husband smoked opium, and used to be continually away from home. My mother-in-law's brother, I-bo-so, was aware of this. All our family matters were attended to by my uncle. On the 22nd September, when my husband had been away from home since the 17th, while I was lying down, ill, at home, and my mother-in-law had gone out to buy some medicine for me and to try to fetch my husband home, my uncle, I-bo-so, came to the house with Na-ch'in and Mor-gên-tai, and wanted to cut off a lock of my hair to give to Na-ch'in as a pledge. If Na-ch'in could put my husband out of the way, he could give me to Na-ch'in to wife. I replied that I was afraid of such a thing ; but he told me not fear, he would be answerable for anything that might happen. My uncle thereupon cut off a lock of my hair and gave it to Na-ch'in. Then they all went away, and I was too ill to follow after them. When my mother-in-law came back, as I did not know whether there was any truth in what they said about doing for my husband, and I was afraid my uncle would be angry with me, I did not venture to say anything about it to her. I know nothing about the way in which my uncle came to propose to Na-ch'in that he should murder my husband. I never saw Na-ch'in but once, and there never were any improper relations between us."—Chang Ho-fah, a native of Shensi, at present keeping a shop in Tarbagatai, deposed to the circumstances under which he was led to inform deceased's mother of Na-ch'in's suspicious movements. The memorialists have to submit that they have no code of law to refer to at Tarbagatai, nor any prison to which to commit the guilty parties in this case. All they can do is to hand the prisoners over to their own military authorities to be kept carefully in custody ; and they request that the Board of Punishments may be commanded to pronounce the sentences which should be passed upon the three male prisoners and upon the wife of deceased, for their respective shares in the crime committed. They forward copies of the evidence to the Board for consideration.—Rescript : Let the Board of Punishments consider and report. (N.B.—From the curious statement as to the absence of all institutions of a judicial nature, at Tarbagatai, contained in the above memorial, it would appear that the occupation of this

city for several years past as the headquarters of Yung Ts'üan's seat of government, (see *Gazette* of 25th September, 1874), has led to but little in the way of internal organization.)

June 18th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Têng King-lin, who has denounced a commandant of the Banner force of Yüan-ming-yüan as having leagued himself with two subordinate officers for the purpose of embezzling sums of money, due to the soldiers by way of pay and gratuities. He adds that the commandant aforesaid, who is connected by marriage with the Prince of I, has made the building of the Prince's ancestral hall a pretext for levying exactions upon the pay of the soldiery of the various banners. The Grand Secretary Pao Yün and the vice-President Tsung K'i are hereupon commanded to institute a searching enquiry into the truth of these charges.

(2) The Governor of Hunan memorializes reporting an outbreak excited by the misconduct of an officer in charge of a *likin* station at Ch'ang-teh Fu. This is a point of much commercial importance, owing to its position on the highroad between Hupeh and Kweichow and Yunnan ; and the collector of the *likin* tax stationed there, an expectant Prefect named Wu Sze-chung, submitted a request some time ago for sanction to put actively in force the rules prevailing generally at other stations, representing himself as anxious to remedy the falling off that had become perceptible in the receipts. Without, however, taking counsel in any way with the Prefect and District Magistrate, or calling a meeting of the trading community, and explaining the matter to them, he abruptly issued a proclamation declaring the new system in force. Under a misapprehension as to his intentions in the matter, the dealers affirmed, untruly, that he was raising the rates of the impost, and that he was about to levy a tax upon all shops and manual industries. The rumours becoming more distorted as they passed from mouth to mouth, a general stoppage of business, to wait farther news, took place on the 19th January last ; and upon this the mendicants of the town, being deprived of their usual resorts for charity, beset the *likin* office to demand relief. The mob being swollen by a concourse of idlers and roughs, the doors and windows of the *likin* office were forced open by the crush, and advantage was taken of the opportunity by the more lawless individuals present to pillage the building. The mob dispersed on the arrival of the city authorities to restore order, and

on examination being made, it was found that beside clothing and other property belonging to the officials of the collectorate, Tls. 10 in silver and 300 and odd strings of *cash* had been carried off from the premises. An official was despatched to the place from the provincial capital so soon as news of the outbreak was received, but a report was received meanwhile from the *likin* collector and the district Magistrate, stating that order had been restored and that trade had resumed its ordinary course on the following day. It was reported, subsequently, that the traders of the city had repaired the *likin* office at their own expense, and also that ten or a dozen of the rioters had been arrested and punished. As regards the conduct of Wu Sze-chung, he is condemned for manifestly improper conduct in abruptly introducing a new system without consulting the local authorities or explaining matters to the trading community. To maintain efficiency in the collection of the tax was his bounden duty; but all that he was justified in undertaking was to strive to give due effect to the standing rules, not by any means to introduce fresh imposts in excess of the regulations. He has laid himself open to chastisement, but as it has been reported by the Prefect of Ch'ang-têh Fu that he died from the results of illness on the 22nd February, no farther proceedings are necessary in his case. An officer has been appointed to succeed to his vacant post.—Rescript: It is noted.

(3) The Governor of Shensi memorializes representing the impossibility of bringing up the amount collected at the T'ung-kwan Custom-house

潼關 to the regulation standard, and begging permission to continue the system of accounting merely for the actual receipts. In answer to a memorial to the same effect, presented by the late Governor, in the autumn of 1873, a report was submitted by the Board of Revenue, proposing that the exceptional state of affairs should be extended only for a period of three years longer; and to this the Imperial assent was given. It has now, however, been represented by the Intendant of the T'ung-kwan Custom-house that the province is far from having recovered from the effects of its complete devastation by the Mahomedan rebellion, since the outbreak of the insurrection in 1862. The silk manufactures of the South are imported in very small quantities, whilst the transit of drugs and tobacco from Sze-ch'wan and Kansuh is also carried on to the most

limited extent only. The principal staples upon which duties have been collected of late years are the figured cottons and similar goods in transit from Honan. Between April 1874 and April 1877 the receipts have not exceeded Tael 2,700 to Tael 3,400 per annum. The regulation amount that should be yielded at this barrier, as settled in 1746, is Tls. 17,974. In the present condition of affairs, however, with warfare still in progress beyond the Wall, and both Shensi and Kansuh continuing to suffer under the effects of their recent disturbances, and with *likin* taxes being levied, moreover, all over the country, the capital needed to embark in business is so considerable that traders find themselves hampered to a material degree. Shensi being traversed in all directions by roads which lead to no less than five adjoining provinces, whilst merchandize on reaching the T'ung-kwan barrier is required to pay both Customs' and *likin* duties, traders, who are compelled to calculate to the closest fraction, take the line of journey which exposes them to the lightest form of expenditure, and evasions of the revenue collectorate by resorting to circuitous routes are undoubtedly practised. For these reasons it is solicited that the requirement to make up the regulation amount of revenue be not enforced until more prosperous times are reached.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

(4) Sung Kwei, Imperial Resident at Lassa, adds the following postscript to a memorial not published:—The memorialist would represent, in addition, that on the appointment of fresh incumbents to the post of Commissaries in Hlari, whom it is customary at the expiry of each term of office to relieve from the province of Sze-ch'wan, application is always made beforehand for the appointment of successors, owing to the great distance from that province at which the region of Tibet in question is situated rendering it impossible for the new incumbent to reach his post within a year or more from the date of appointment. Reports have now come to hand from Chow Ts'in **周溱**, Commissary in Western Tibet, and K'i Che-wên **稽志文**, Commissary at Hlari, each stating that he has been already two years at his post, and requesting, according to rule, that the Government of Sze-ch'wan be called upon to nominate a successor. Upon this the memorialist has to remark that Chow Ts'in, the Commissary in Western Tibet,

has shewn himself careful and attentive in the conduct of affairs, and that he thoroughly understands the disposition of the natives; whilst K'i Che-wên, the Commissary at Hlari, is a man in the prime of life and of marked intelligence, who has displayed both assiduity and energy in the discharge of his duties. Both these officials have distinguished themselves, during their incumbency of their several posts, by earnest endeavours to secure the efficiency of the public service, and by the uprightness of their personal conduct, making themselves beloved and respected by Chinese and Tibetans alike. The memorialist has received a communication 咨 from the Yamên of Foreign Affairs, stating that Europeans have stipulated for entry into Tibet; and as the apprehensions excited in different parts of the country among both clergy and laity are not allayed, it is indispensable that the officers filling the various Commissaryships should be intelligent and active persons, without which it would be difficult to maintain the preservation of authority and order. Were strangers to be substituted in the incumbency of these posts, the consequences might be dangerous. On mature reflection, the memorialist sees no other course but to solicit that the two officials in question may be left in their present posts for another period of incumbency; and he has communicated 咨明 with the Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan to this effect.—Rescript: Let the request be acceded to. Let the Board concerned take note.

June 19th.—(Court Circular.) Wu T'ing-fên—whose appointment to the rank of Assistant Reader of the Grand Secretariat was gazetted on the 13th instant—returned thanks for the privilege bestowed upon him, of wearing the button of the third rank.

The Governor of Kweichow memorializes reporting that on the 12th May last the military stores, situated on a rising-ground outside the southern wall of the provincial capital, were struck by lightning, when the powder magazine within the enclosure blew up with a terrific explosion, destroying upwards of eighty houses in the neighbourhood, killing one, and wounding six persons. The value of the gunpowder and arms destroyed is estimated at upwards of Tls. 100,000. All the authorities, both civil and military, were promptly on the spot, but they were unable to approach the burning buildings while the conflagration caused by the explosion still lasted. Owing, happily, to the

elevated position and the isolation of the stores, the flames did not spread to any part of the inhabited neighbourhood. The Governor can only feel conscious of his own lack of moral excellence, through which he has failed to induce the operation of the beneficent and kindly powers of Nature, in such wise as to guard against the occurrence of a calamity of this description. He submits a statement in full of the amount of losses; and he has given orders for the proper bestowal of relief upon the sufferers by the disaster.—Rescript: It is noted. Let the Governor give orders to his subordinates to bestow all proper relief upon the sufferers, and to allow not a single individual to be left in a destitute condition.

June 20th.—(1) Li Hoh-nien, Director General of the Yellow River Works, reports having held an inspection of the four battalions of the *Ho Piao* or brigade under his orders. This force, stationed at and near Tsi-ning Chow in Shantung, numbers at present, after the reductions made, 1,613 men, and 49 officers. The performance of the soldiery in evolutions, gíngal, spear, shield, and archery practice, and in turning warlike somersaults, was of the most satisfactory description.

(2) The Governor of Kiangsi forwards, in a postscript memorial, a report from Shên Pao-ting, Taotai at Kiukiang, to the following effect:—According to the usage hitherto in force, it is customary to prepare a list on yellow paper, setting forth the particulars of the porcelain articles manufactured annually in bulk for the Imperial use under the direction of the Kiukiang Custom-house, in both the “polished” and the “round” categories 琢圓瓷器, and also in compliance with special orders. In the course of last year, it has now to be stated, special orders were received for the manufacture of 1,250 articles, consisting in fish bowls, flower vases, and ornamental jars, being the portion of the previous year's order which had not been executed; and in addition to this, the following articles were required on account of the present year's supply, viz., 80 pieces of “polished” ware; 1,240 pieces of “round” ware; and 9,300 pieces of ware of both categories, appertaining to special orders successively received. The total number of articles, consisting in fish bowls, flower vases, and ornamental jars, of the first quality, is 11,838 pieces, which the Taotai is about to despatch by steamer to Tientsin in charge of a special officer, for deliveyr

to the Porcelain Store of the Imperial Household. In addition to the payment of Tls. 10,000 which had been granted on account of the cost of manufacture, the balance remaining due, viz., Tls. 28,610.1.4.3, has been issued by the Taotai from the extra revenue balances in the Customs' treasury.—The list submitted by the Taotai is accordingly transmitted for the Imperial perusal.—Referred by rescript for the information of the department concerned.

June 21st.—(1) A decree conferring appointments upon the successful competitors for the *tsin-sze* degree, after undergoing the final ordeal of the Palace examination. The three individuals classed as of the highest category have already received nominations to office. Of the remainder, about four-fifths are invested with the rank of District Magistrate, and are to be assigned to the various provinces by drawing lots under the direction of the Board of Civil Office. The remainder are appointed to the ranks of Secretary and Assistant Secretary in the Metropolitan Boards.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial by the Supervisor Kwoh Ts'ung-ku, who has animadverted upon sundry instances of disorderly conduct on the part of candidates at the Literary Examinations. To such an extent has this prevailed, indeed, that at the recent Palace Examination itself, the graduates scrambled for the blank essay forms, and allowed themselves to behave in an uproarious and scandalous manner. The Board of Ceremonies is commanded to cause a warning notification to be issued beforehand, on future occasions, requiring implicit obedience to the provisions of the law, and prohibiting any repetition of such conduct, under penalty of severe chastisement in case of transgression. The Literary Chancellors of the various provinces are desired, moreover, to warn students generally against indulgence in the tendency to riotous outbreaks, which have been manifested on more than one occasion of late at various provincial and prefectural examinations.

June 22nd.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, who has solicited the cashiering of two expectant District Magistrates within his jurisdiction, for the faults, respectively, of pronouncing foolish judicial decisions and of laxity in the enforcement of official discipline.

(2) A decree ordaining, at the request of the Governor-General above-mentioned, that Twan K'i 段起, the present Grain Intendant of the province of Kiangsi,

may exchange post with Wu She-hiung 吳世熊, Taotai of the Sü-chow Intendency in northern Kiangsu.

(3) The acting Governor-General of Szechwan memorializes reporting the trial of an appeal case referred back from Peking for rehearing, by decree dated the 6th May, 1876. The appellant, a man named P'u T'ien-yung, had complained to the effect that his brother had been murdered by an individual named Chao Ta-chih, and that the latter had bribed the authorities to misrepresent the case and obtain immunity. Appellant has now confessed that he had no foundation for the statements contained in his appeal, which was prompted by grief for the loss of his brother, who is proved to have met his death in consequence of a wound inflicted as was stated at the trial originally held. The appellant is absolved from the offence of bringing a calumnious charge, in consideration of the above facts, and has been sentenced to receive 50 stripes, as the legal penalty for presenting his appeal to the higher tribunal without in the first instance addressing himself to the proper authorities. The person he has complained against, who is shewn to have made use of harsh language to the murdered man, is sentenced to forty stripes under the statute against general wrongdoing, in its mitigated section.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report hereupon.

June 23rd.—A Decree. We have received from Tso Tsung-t'ang his report of the particulars, in detail, of the recapture of the city of Turfan by a concerted movement on the part of his army. In the third moon (April—May), Chang Yao and other divisional commanders having combined their forces for a forward movement, proceeded by swift marches along different lines of route from Hami and Barkoul, taking the rebel entrenchments as they advanced, and capturing by assault the towns of Ch'ikhtêngmu and Pidjan. Under favour of these victories, other points along the line were successively taken, and immense numbers of prisoners were taken and beheaded. The main body of the insurgents, being unable to maintain their ground, retreated in a northwesterly direction toward Turfan; whereupon the troops were drawn together for a combined attack, and the cavalry and infantry forces having been pushed forward simultaneously, both the Manchu and the Chinese cities of Turfan were captured. The Mahommedans who submitted themselves were allowed to revert to peaceful avocations. The combinations devised by Tso Tsung-t'ang evince

a judicious strategy, and the rapid execution by Chang Yao and his colleagues of the plans adopted for the offensive has been attended with successful results. It is fitting that rewards be meted out to the officers who have distinguished themselves on this occasion. We bestow upon Chang Yao, [whose actual office is] General-in-chief of the land forces of Kwantung, the first degree of the sixth order of hereditary nobility. On the two Generals, Liu Chan-piao and Sun Kin-piao, we confer the insignia of the first degree of official rank. Upon Sung Hien-shêng and Ho Yü-chao we bestow the distinction of the Yellow Jacket.—Three pages of distinctions for subordinate officers down to the rank of captain, here ensue; and authority is given, in the customary terms, to make further recommendations in favour of officers and men who have claims to distinction and reward.

(2) A Decree. Let Sung Shêng-p'ing 宋聲平 succeed to the post of Brigadier-General of the Yang-kiang command in Kwangtung.

(3) Yü Luh, Governor of Nganhwei, memorializes referring to the re-opening of the Custom-houses of Wu-hu and Fêng-yang, which took place on the 21st July last year, as previously reported. The Taotai in charge of the Fêng-yang Custom-house now reports that during the seven months ending 12th February, 1877, the total amount collected at that point was no more than Tls. 13,300 and odd, which, after defraying the wages due to the clerks and employés at the various barriers, left no balance worth mentioning in hand. As, moreover, the buildings appertaining to the Custom-house had entirely disappeared owing to the rebellion in past years, it has been necessary to go to some extent in rebuilding upon the old sites, and the Taotai has done his best, in the absence of public funds available for the purpose, to manage advances for this work, payable by instalments in future years. In forwarding the Taotai's report, the Governor adds that he has desired his subordinate to devote unremitting attention to the promotion of efficiency in the collectorate under his charge, with a view to the augmentation of the amount of duties collected for the benefit of the Exchequer.

June 24th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ngêh-lêh-ho-pu, Military Assistant Governor at Uliasutai, who has denounced an officer of the Imperial Guard, of the first rank, named Hiao Shun, for

levying "squeezes" from the Mongol tribes. It appears that on Hiao Shun having been sent on a mission into Mongolia, to offer a funeral libation in honour of the deceased *bei-tze* T'ung-karh K'êwach'ir, he made daily demands upon the people of the tribe, after reaching their pasturage-ground, for rolls of cloth and payments of money. When the time for the ceremony had arrived, he called upon them to furnish supplies of clothing, money, and other things, saying, indeed, that if these were not provided the libation ceremony should not be performed. He only proceeded with it on being furnished with money, silks, satins, etc., by the nobles of the banner. On his passage through the territory of the Kharch'in, moreover, he exacted at each posting-station supplies of sheep, etc., which he converted into money payments. For such acts of scandalous rapacity, a severe penalty is imperatively called for. Let Hiao Shun be forthwith cashiered, and handed over to the Board for punishment. Let him also be required to make restitution of the articles and amounts exacted from the various banners of the Mongols.

(2) The Governor of Kwangsi memorializes with reference to the permission recently granted to Fêng Tsze-ts'ai, General-in-chief of Kwangsi, to proceed to Peking for an audience of his Majesty. The commands received, he observes, should be immediately obeyed; but it has to be represented that the borders of Liu-chow-fu, the prefecture within which the General-in-chief has his head-quarters, are still infested with scattered bands of the revolvers or brigands of Kweichow, and moreover that the measures contingent upon the insurrection fomented by the graduate Lan Shêng-ts'ui in the Ma-p'ing district of the same prefecture, which has but lately been suppressed, still require continued attention. The prestige and unequalled experience of Fêng Tsze-ts'ai are essential to the success of the administrative measures in progress; and the Governor submits that, as he can ill be spared under present circumstances, his journey to Peking should be deferred.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 5th inst.

June 25th.—(1) A decree ordering the presentation in personal audience on successive days, one at a time, of the twenty-three officers of the Imperial Guard who have been noted with distinguished commendation by the Commissioners who have lately passed in review the military officers of the capital.

(2) The Director-General of the Grain Transport memorializes reporting that the whole fleet of grain junks proceeding

northward along the Grand Canal had passed the boundary of Kiangsu into Shantung on the 28th May.

June 26th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial jointly presented by Shên Pao-chên, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, and by the Governor-General and Governor of Fuhkien, who have requested that the officer at present acting as Magistrate of the Department of Haichow in northern Kiangsu, by name Lin Ta-ts'üan 林達泉, may be transferred on probation to fill the newly created post of Prefect of North Formosa. The application is acceded to.

(2) Tsai Pih, Imperial Superintendent of the Eastern Mausolea, memorializes reporting the result of the inspection he has instituted on taking office. He has carefully examined the lists of the gold and silver vessels, the ornaments, altar furniture, hangings, etc., appertaining to each of the Mausolea, and found all to be in order; but it has to be noted that at the Yü Ling (the burial place of the Emperor K'ien Lung), it is recorded in the list of appurtenances and images deposited in the upper storey of the chapel on the east side of the Lung Ngên Throne Hall, that in the 45th year of the reign K'ien Lung (1780), His Majesty ordered the staircase to be taken away and never again to be replaced. For this reason, the memorialist has not been able to gaze at the contents of the upper room; but he is in receipt of vouchers from the officials in charge declaring all to be in complete order. The oxen and sheep which are tended in the enclosure appertaining to the Board of Ceremonies, and reserved for sacrificial purposes, are in full and correct number; and the monies and grain respectively deposited in the Treasury and the Pawnshop of Everlasting Supply, and the Granary bearing the same designation, as well as the materials stored at the Stone Gateway on account of the Board of Works, are all forthcoming without deficiency, in agreement with the stamped vouchers which have been handed over to the memorialist. The guard duty incumbent upon the soldiery of the Eight Banners and of the detachments of troops of the regular Chinese army, in patrolling the neighbourhood of the Mausolea, the Lung Fuh Sze temple, and the temporary resting place of their late Majesties' remains, is all duly performed; the trees planted for the regulation of the Invisible Influences (*fêng shui*) are well grown and flourishing, and the neighbourhood is in

a peaceful condition—all of which is reverently submitted for the information of their Majesties the Empresses and His Majesty the Emperor.

(3) Tsün-k'i, Superintendent of Customs at Canton, memorializes reporting his return to his post, on the expiry of his period of mourning. Having had audience of leave on the 24th March, he embarked at Tientsin on board one of the steamers of the China Merchants' Company, and reached Canton on the 3rd May, whereupon the seals of his office were transmitted to him by the Governor-General, who had held charge of his post during his absence. He has to remark that the coast line placed under the administration of the Custom House at Canton is of very wide extent, and that even under normal circumstances the task of maintaining close and effective supervision is not an easy one. There exist, in addition, the ports of Canton, Swatow, Hongkong, and Macao, which for many years have been of importance as points of foreign trade, and, in consequence of this, the collection of foreign and native duties, the provision of funds for Peking and for subsidies to other provinces, and the maintenance of a rigorous supervision over the staff employed and the prevention of abuses, are matters in which interests of serious magnitude are involved. K'ung-chow and Pakhoi have of late been added to the number of open ports, and the collectorate of both foreign and native Customs' duties has been simultaneously introduced. The memorialist promises to apply himself with all his efforts to the discharge of his duty, in consultation with the provincial high authorities, making it his aim to secure the cheerful submission of Chinese and foreigners alike, and to cause harmony to prevail on either side.

(4) The office of Gendarmerie memorializes forwarding an appeal lodged by Ts'in Wên-chên, a native of Kiang-peh T'ing in Szech'wan, complaining of acts of pillage and murder committed there. Appellant states as follows:—"I am a native of Kiang-peh T'ing, under the prefecture of Ch'ung-k'ing Fu in Sze-ch'wan, and am aged 49. I live at Hwang-t'u Po in the sub-Prefecture aforesaid, and am a bamboo-seller by trade. In the third moon of last year (April, 1876), certain villains named Ch'ên Tsze-ch'un, etc., banded themselves together with the lawless offenders Ch'ên I-ho and others, to the number of several thousands, and made an attack, fully armed, upon the village I live in. They burnt down the dwellings of the villagers,

pillaged their goods and chattels, and murdered a number of persons. My own house was burnt down, and my property in money and other effects carried off. My brother, Ts'in Wên-fuh, was carried away and put to death by the attacking party, and after murdering him they hacked his body in pieces and cast them into the river. My cousin, Tung Ta-shun, who was returning from a journey with 200 taels in money about him, fell in with the same band, and was robbed and murdered in a similar manner. Certain persons, whose names are given, can testify to these facts. I presented a petition at the Prefecture, but without obtaining an order for enquiry into the case. Tung Ta-shun's brother having subsequently lodged a complaint, it was referred to the sub-Prefect, but enquiry was stifled through the machinations of the guilty parties. I next proceeded in company with my murdered cousin's brother to lodge petitions with the Lieutenant-Governor and the Judicial Commissioner of the province, and also with the Governor-General, but in neither case was action taken upon them. When the Imperial Commissioner Li [Han-chang] arrived in Szech'wan, we presented a complaint to him as he was passing in his chair, and he was good enough to transmit it officially to the Governor-General, but, notwithstanding this, no orders were issued to the lower tribunals or reply vouchsafed to us. Under these circumstances the only resource left, in the hope of obtaining justice, has been to resort with an appeal to Peking." The usual summary is appended, and a rescript, referring the appeal in the customary manner for provincial enquiry, appellants being sent back in custody to the province as the regulations provide, has already been published.

June 27th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Mei K'i-chao, the newly appointed Governor of Chehkiang, who has denounced the expectant Prefect Chao Pao-shên, a member of the Embankment Board, for defalcations in the following amounts, viz., Taels 960, dollars 39,000, and cash 40,000 and odd, which, notwithstanding repeated orders, he has continued to allege various pretexts for delaying to account for. It is ordered that he be made a prisoner and imprisoned pending proceedings for the recovery of the amounts due, enquiry being instituted to ascertain whether the deficiencies are attributable to embezzlement or to malversation, and punishment inflicted according to law. The property of the delinquent situated at

his home in Kiangsu is furthermore to be sequestered.

(2) A Decree. Let Li Shu-pao, Prefect of Shun-k'ing Fu, in Sze-ch'wan; Wên T'ing-shên, Prefect of P'ing-loh Fu, in Kwangsi; and Yang Tao, Prefect of Hing-ngan Fu, in Shensi, vacate their posts and be sent to the Board for presentation in audience.

(3) Wu Yüan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, memorializes extolling the conduct of a lady surnamed Chao, concubine to Yü Ying-fah, a literary licentiate of the Yung-ch'êng district, in Shantung. Her husband having died in 1836, when she was 28 years of age, she vowed herself to a life of chaste widowhood, and after the death of the wife of her husband's son by his duly wedded wife, she brought up their offspring, her grandsons, who are now, to the number of three, holding minor offices in different provinces. Another exemplar of female virtue is at the same time to be lauded in the person of Li-she, who was wedded as concubine to Yü Hien-che, another grandson of Yü Ying-fah, who held office as District Magistrate of Lung-ts'üan, in Chêhkiang. This official died in 1865, from the effects of an illness contracted during a tour of inspection of the famine-stricken portions of his district, and his concubine, then aged 27, declared that she would not survive her lord, and remained for three days after his decease without taking nourishment. At length, having made an effort to rise and perform the mourning rites of prostration, she threw herself weeping on the ground, when blood issued from her mouth, and she breathed her last. A mark of Imperial approbation for the virtuous devotion severally manifested in each of these cases is solicited by the Governor.—Granted by rescript.

June 28th.—No documents of importance.

June 29th.—(1) A Decree. Let Ho Yao-lun 何耀綸 succeed to the post of Prefect of Shun-k'ing Fu, in Sze-ch'wan.

(2 and 3) Chang P'ei-lun, Assistant Reader of the Hanlin College, memorializes submitting his views on the subject of the proper place to be assigned, in the Temple of the Imperial Ancestry, to the tablets of their Majesties lately deceased. For rescript see *Gazette* of 12th inst.

No other documents of importance.

June 30th.—(1) A Decree. The Household memorializes Us stating that Kwang Ying, lately appointed to the post of a Superintendent of Manufactures, is in ill-health, which gives no prospect of speedy recovery, and a fresh appointment is on

this account solicited. Let Wan Shun 萬順 go as Superintendent of the Manufactory at Soochow.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from Ts'eng Kwoh-ts'uan, Governor of Shansi, who has lately taken up his office in that province as successor to Pao Yüan-shén. He reports, in continuation of the statements laid before the Throne by the late Governor with reference to the famine with which the province has been afflicted, and the measures taken to afford relief from the stores of grain on hand, that, following upon the entire failure of last autumn's harvest, drought has again prevailed throughout the first half of the current year, and it has been impossible to sow the ground for the autumn crops. In view of the great numbers of persons who will be dependent upon the distribution of relief for their support, the stores of grain will not suffice to meet the demands upon them, and it is urgently necessary to devise measures for providing a further supply. The request preferred is acceded to, and the Governor is authorized to appropriate a sum of Tls. 200,000 from the amount previously allotted for remittance to Peking, on account of the metropolitan expenditure, and to employ it in purchasing grain for distribution in the afflicted districts under official superintendence. The various local authorities are to be required to take active and efficient measures to ensure the relief being equably distributed, and to allow not a single individual to be left in a destitute condition. Report is farther to be made respecting the remissions or postponements of taxation which should be granted in the various districts affected.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes representing the sum-total of the contributions raised in the province, under sanction obtained by a previous application from the memorialist, on behalf of the population afflicted by the famine of last year in the region under his jurisdiction. The amounts collected to the end of April, 1877, including large sums contributed by officials in other provinces, are as follows:—In silver, Tls. 163,617.5.6.7.5.6; in copper *cash*, 25,962 strings of Tientsin currency, equivalent, at the exchange of 3,500 *cash* per tael, to Tls. 7,417.9.8.5.7.1.3; in rice, 500 piculs, equivalent, at Tls. 2.5 per picul, to Tls. 1,250; in millet, piculs 5,623.8, equivalent, at Tl. 1.8 per picul, to Tls. 10,122.8; in Barbadoes' millet, piculs 4,270, equivalent, at Tl. 1.5 per picul, to Tls. 6,406.3; and in clothing, 25,530 pieces, valued at Tl. 1 each. The total amount thus contributed is Tls. 214,344.7. This

includes the amounts of Tls. 60,000 subscribed by the officials of Hupeh, and Tls. 6,000 by the Taotai at Kiukiang, which have already been reported to the Throne. The funds thus collected have been disbursed from time to time in relief to the afflicted population of Chihli and of the government of Shun-t'ien Fu (the region surrounding Peking.) Further report will be made hereafter of the sums not carried into the account made up to the middle of April; and meanwhile the customary steps are taken to enable the Boards to propose the appropriate rewards and distinctions upon the various subscribers, according to the standing regulations.—Rescript: It is noted.

(4) In a postscript memorial, the Governor-General Li Hung-chang observes that, in a former representation on the subject of the services rendered by the members of his staff in transactions connected with foreign affairs, the name of Ts'ien Yung-ts'eng 錢榮增, a titular expectant assistant Secretary of the Board of Revenue, was included, on whose behalf he had solicited the bestowal of a superior degree of the same description of rank, with immediate appointment to substantive office. To this the Board of Civil Office had objected on the ground that the regulations do not admit of functionaries of this class, if not Manchus, who have distinguished themselves by services rendered in the provinces, being recommended for actual appointments at Peking; and the Board memorialized asking that he be required to propose a different form of reward for the individual in question. It is the memorialist's duty to take action in obedience to the commands received; and he has now to state, with reference to Ts'ien Yung-ts'eng, the subject of the present application, that he is a trustworthy and experienced public servant, distinguished by both carefulness and intelligence, and thoroughly versed in administrative affairs. He has for a length of time rendered meritorious service by his diligence in connection with international business; and when he accompanied the memorialist last year to Chefoo, the assistance he rendered in dealing with important questions of public policy was more than ever valuable. It is now proposed that he may be transferred to the list of expectant Department Magistrates, and placed on a provincial list to await appointment, and also that he may have conferred upon him the brevet rank of Prefect.—Rescript:—Be it as is proposed. Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

(N.B.—The individual referred to above is understood to have filled for a number of years a post in the Governor-General's service corresponding in some measure to that of private secretary. He has discharged, in particular, the duty of draughting the memorials addressed to the Throne by the Governor-General with reference to foreign affairs; and in general he has filled a position somewhat similar to that which was occupied by the Governor-General himself, a quarter of a century ago, on the staff of Tsêng Kwoh-fan.)

July 1st.—(1) Ch'ung How, acting Governor General of Shêng-king, with his colleague Ming Ngan, Vice-President at the head of the Moukden Board of Punishments, memorializes reporting the result of a trial held in the case of an Imperial clansman named Ming Hai, accused of causing the death of a Buddhist priest named Wang Sing-tsing by stabbing. The case goes back to 1870, in the autumn of which year, it appears, the priest Wang proposed to an acquaintance named Lin Siang that they would combine to open a gambling house at Moukden, which they forthwith proceeded to do. Wang provided a brass bowl, which he had had in his possession, and one hundred dominoes, each of which was to be reckoned, [for gaming purposes], at 1000 current *cash*; and Lin Siang having got ready a table, benches, and other appurtenances, the establishment was opened the same day. Lin Siang acted as

持盒做寶, and Wang undertook the task of passing round the bowl and collecting the dominoes. Persons, by name unknown, were in the habit of coming in daily to gamble, and up to the day on which the accused was apprehended on the charge of murder, the keepers of the table made a profit of from 10 to 30 *tiao* of current *cash* per diem. On the 2nd October, 1870, three Imperial clansmen, viz., one named Sung T'ien, Ming Hai, who was under conviction for an offence committed, and Ming Shên, since deceased, came in one after the other to do some betting. Shortly afterwards, the bowl being with Sung T'ien, he was a loser to the extent of four dominoes; but the priest Wang believed that the number was in reality five. When the bowl was lifted, Sung T'ien concealed one of the dominoes, whereupon an altercation arose between himself and Wang, the latter exclaiming. "You and your yellow-red girdle! All you are fit for is to swindle! You never think of acting decently!" (N.B.—The allusion to the colour of the Imperial clansman's girdle

implies that he was a man disgraced for misconduct.) High words continued between the two, until Wang, drawing a double-barrelled foreign pistol, loaded and capped it, and was about to fire at Ming Hai. The latter, fearing he was about to get the worst of it, snatched up a sharp-pointed knife, and made a threatening plunge with it in the direction of Wang, the result being that the latter was stabbed in the abdomen, and fell down with a loud cry, dying shortly afterwards from the effects of the wound. An alarm being given by deceased's mother, the parties were taken into custody, and sundry trials have been held, the result of which has been unsatisfactory. A special court has now been convened by the memorialist's orders, at which a Secretary of the Board of Punishments has presided, with the local Superintendent of the Imperial clansmen acting as Assessor. Ming Hai is sentenced to death by strangulation, according to statute, for the act of murder in the course of a personal encounter of which he is proved guilty, and to be confined in the Prison of the Clan Court pending confirmation of his sentence. The keeper of the gambling table, Lin Siang, and the other individuals concerned, are respectively sentenced to bastinadoing and temporary banishment, according to law.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Imperial Clan Court.

(2) Yüan Pao-hêng, a senior vice-President of the Board of Punishments, memorializes referring to the tokens of Imperial favour which were bestowed, on four different occasions during the two late reigns, upon his grandmother, in whose honour, moreover, a monument commemorating her arrival at the age of 100 years was erected. In December, 1873, while holding the post of Commissary General for the supplies of the Army in Kansuh, he received three months' leave of absence from his late Majesty, to enable him to pay his grandmother a visit; and both memorialist and all his household are penetrated with boundless gratitude for the distinguished favours they have enjoyed. In August, 1875, memorialist's grandmother died at the family home, as was duly reported at the time by the Governor of Honan. During the two years that have elapsed since then, no steps have been taken toward interment of the remains, owing to unsatisfactory circumstances connected with the burial ground; but it has been declared by the geomancers that the sixth moon of the present year will be a favourable time for completing this ceremony. Memorialist

has to submit that his late father, Yüan Kia-san, formerly Director-General of the Grain Transport, died in 1863 whilst in command of the forces at Ch'ên-chow, whilst his two uncles and two brothers likewise died within a few years afterwards. He is the senior of the family at present, and as such, the duty of attending to the funeral rites devolves upon himself. His family home, at Hiang-ch'êng Hien, in Honan, is 2,000 *li* from Peking, and can be reached in twenty days' journey. He entreats therefore that he may have two months' congé to enable him to repair to his home, and discharge the duty that is incumbent upon him.—Rescript, sanctioning the application, already published.

July 2nd.—(1 and 2) Ting Pao-chêng, newly appointed Governor-General of Szech'wan, memorializes reporting his arrival at Chêng-tu Fu on the 3rd May, and his assumption of office six days later; and Wêng k'eh, the late acting incumbent of the post, similarly reports his having handed over the seals of office on the 19th May, and his being about to take his departure for Peking to have audience, as he has been commanded by decree.

July 3rd.—(1) The Prince of Kung, as Captain-General of the Plain White Banner of the Manchu force, memorializes soliciting a manifestation of the Imperial favour on behalf of the mother of Ngên Ch'êng, a senior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office, who has reached the age of ninety-seven, and who is remarkable for the vigour her constitution still displays as well as for the correctness of her conduct throughout life. Her son, being a member of the Banner in question, has submitted the needful particulars required by regulation under such circumstances.—For rescript see *Gazette* of June 15th.

(2) Wên Che, Superintendent of the Imperial manufactory at Sochow, memorializes reporting the measures taken in execution of the order for thirty-five jade-stone seals, as reported in the *Gazette* of the 3rd November last. Great difficulty has been experienced in procuring the requisite materials for 32 of these seals, which have now been forwarded to Peking; and three still remain to be cut.

(3) Wên Lin, Superintendent of the Hwai-ngan Customs, reports that the amount of duty on Opium collected at the Hwai-ngan and Suh-chow barriers during the period from 13th March, 1875, to May 10th, 1877, being two years and two months, was Tls. 12,934.0.1, which amount has been transmitted to the Board of Revenue.

July 4th.—(1) A Decree. T'u-ming-êh has memorialized Us stating that his complaint gives no hope of speedy recovery, and entreating permission to vacate his post and return to his Banner to attend to the care of his health. We permit him accordingly to vacate his office as Brigade-General of the left wing of the Manchu garrison of Si-ngan Fu. On the arrival of Kwang K'o, let him hand over the seal of office of Manchu General-in-Chief, of which he is temporarily in charge.

(2) The Censor Têng K'ing-lin memorializes accusing Wên Chung, commandant of a division of the Banner troops stationed at Yüan-ming Yüan, of peculation and extortion in connection with the issue of the pay to the soldiery under his control. Two other officers are stated to be in league with him; and under one pretext or another the three are shewn to have diverted to their own uses considerable sums which should have been issued to the troops.—For rescript see *Gazette* of June 18th.

(3) The acting Governor of Shantung memorializes reporting the arrival of the advanced detachment of the inland grain-fleet of the present year, 430 all told, at Yih Hien, the first station of the Grand Canal within the limits of his jurisdiction, on the 21st May. The entire fleet having arrived by degrees, the whole number passed the boundary into Shantung by 4 p.m. on the 28th, and proceeded on their voyage northwards.

July 5th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor-General and Governor of Fukkien, who have reported the occurrence of disastrous floods at Foo-chow, laying portions of the city under water and causing great distress among the population. The sufferings which are thus reported are most profoundly to be deplored. The Governor-General and his colleague are commanded to devise all necessary measures with the local authorities under their orders, for affording relief, and to allow not a single individual to remain destitute. Report of the steps that are taken, including the purchase of rice for distribution to those in need, is to be made without delay, in order to alleviate the Imperial anxiety.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, the newly appointed Governor-General of Szech'wan, soliciting the bestowal of a title of honour upon a local river god who has afforded assistance in time of need, and also that memorial tablets be conferred upon his place of worship. The deity in question, having supernaturally intervened, in answer to

prayer, on behalf of the irrigation of the country around Ch'eng-tu Fu, which is entirely dependent upon the water supply derived from the local conduit system, is entitled to reverent gratitude. The memorial tablets applied for are ordered to be prepared in the usual manner, and the Board of Ceremonies is commanded to consider and report with reference to the addition of a title of honour.

(3) A Decree. Let the Colonel-Adjutant, Siu Pên 秀斌, succeed to the post of Brigade-General of the left wing of the Manchu garrison of Si-ngan Fu.

(4) The Censor Kwoh Ts'ung-ki memorializes drawing attention to disorderly conduct on the part of graduates at recent examinations. He represents that when the graduates of the examination lately concluded at Peking were assembled within the Imperial precincts on the 2nd June last for the Palace competition, before the preliminary ceremony of prostrations was completed, they sprang to their feet in wild confusion, and began to scramble for the blank essay forms. The Secretary of the Board of Ceremonies, who was in attendance, in endeavouring to quell the riotous proceeding and to keep possession of the papers, had the back of his hand lacerated by the finger-nails of the contending graduates. Such want of reverence as this for the Imperial halls has surely never before been displayed by the lettered class! The example must undoubtedly have been set, in the first instance, by one or two persons, but it was followed by the entire assemblage, without a thought of the place where such conduct was indulged in, or of the station occupied by the individuals who were guilty of this unseemly brawling. The Censor recalls other instances in which, at various examinations held in the provinces of late years, the students have been guilty of riotous conduct; and he solicits a Decree enjoining a stricter maintenance of discipline upon the educational functionaries throughout the Empire.—For rescript see *Gazette* of June 21st.

(5) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, lately appointed Governor of Shansi, memorializes reporting his arrival at the provincial capital on the 4th June last, and his assumption on the same day of the seal of office.

July 6th.—No documents of importance.

July 7th.—(1) A Decree. We bestow upon Ngh-rh-k'ing-êh, the brevet rank of Manchu Brigade-General, and we appoint him Commandant of the troops at Ku-ch'êng (Guchen.) Let Ts'ung Chih 崇志

succeed him in the office of Brigade-General of Liang-chow.

(2) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., memorializes with reference to the inspection of the officers of the established forces, termed the *kin chêng* 軍政, which, according to regulation, should be held once in five years. The last period was in 1872, and instructions have been received from the Board of War directing that it be proceeded with this year in Kansuh. The Governor-General represents that as a consequence of the campaign but lately concluded against the insurgents in Kansuh and Shensi, and the active operations now in progress beyond the Wall, the arrangements as regards military appointments are necessarily so irregular as to make compliance with the standing regulations impossible for the present. He requests that the quinquennial scrutiny may be postponed until the next recurring period.—Granted by rescript.

(3) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, memorializes with reference to the importance of Sü-chow Fu, in northern Kiangsu, as an administrative division. From the days of antiquity, this region has been a nursery of brave and independent characters, and from the middle period of the Ming dynasty (15th century A.D.) to the present time, the character of the population has been marked by a tendency to brigandage and disorder, fostered by the opportunities held forth to the people at the commencement of the period in question, of abandoning the pursuits of agriculture and betaking themselves to employments in connection with the grain transport service. Whilst in former times this service enabled the Government to furnish lucrative employment to the people, the region has remained, since the rebellion, in a condition of complete disorganization, the grain-junks having been destroyed by either violence or natural decay, and the Yellow River having changed its course, moreover, to a more northern outlet. The drought and consequent scarcity of last year, with their attendant evils, have been followed by a plague of locusts, which has reduced the population to absolute destitution and misery. Although measures for the relief of the distressed population have been instituted by the Governor-General, in conjunction with his colleagues and with the notables and traders, not more than one or two cases in the hundred, or even thousands, have been reached in this manner, although the amount contributed from public and

private sources has been upwards of Tls. 1,000,000. A further plague of locusts is now threatened, and if this should actually take place, the autumn harvest cannot be depended upon. In these distressing circumstances, the necessity for bold and capable public functionaries makes itself felt, and the Governor-General is anxious to effect a change in the Intendantship of the Sü-chow Circuit. The present Taotai, Wu She-hiung, is an extremely intelligent man, and one, moreover, who is well versed in local knowledge and familiar with the circumstances of the people. His range of capacity is not, however, adapted to his position,—it is that of the fine needle rather than of the broad axe. An official of a different order is Twan K'i, at present holding the office of Grain Intendant of Kiangsi, who has served for a length of time in divers capacities under the Governor-General, and who has been employed on a variety of special missions. He has not yet taken up his office in Kiangsi, having but just concluded an investigation he was appointed to conduct into the abuses of the Hwai-ngan salt supply system; and it is solicited that he may be now permitted to exchange posts with the first named individual. This being done, each will bring his several talents to bear in an appropriate field.—Granted by rescript.

July 8th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor-General and Governor of Yünnan, who have reported the capture of a titular sub-Prefect by purchase, Chang Hü-chung by name, who had collected a band of adherents in the P'ing-i district, had fortified himself in a stockade, and had committed sundry acts of murder. On troops being sent against him he offered armed resistance, but his stockade has been carried by assault and the country restored to order by his apprehension. As recommended in the memorial, it is commanded that he be deprived of his rank and forthwith subjected to capital punishment.

(2) A second decree, based upon a memorial from the same quarter, in which the suppression of an attempt at insurrection on the part of two Mahomedan brigands, named Li Lao-pa and Wang Fa-yao, is reported. The band assembled by these outlaws had made an irruption into the Kw'ên-ming district in April last, but their attempted ravages were put an end to by a force led against them by the district Magistrate. Wang Fa-yao was taken prisoner and summarily executed. Rewards are granted in compliance with the recommendation submitted, in favour of

the officials who have distinguished themselves on this occasion.

(3) A decree, embodying the text of a "benign mandate" of the Empresses Regent, who have been moved by the Board of Ceremonies to fix a day on which the birthday of his Majesty the Emperor shall be celebrated, the actual date being one previously appropriated to fasting ritual. The 26th day of the 6th moon (5th August in the current year) is according selected, and it is commanded that this date be adhered to for the future.

July 9th.—(1) A Decree. Let Wang Pi-ta 王必達 succeed to the post of Intendant of the Ngan-Suh Circuit in Kansuh.

(2) Yen Hü, Military Lieutenant-Governor of Jeh-ho, memorializes reporting the results of his inspection of the Imperial Hunting Grounds, stating the localities at which, according to the opinion he has formed, the proprietary rights of the squatter agriculturists must necessarily be recognized, and those which he proposes to maintain as an uninhabited reserve henceforward.

July 10th.—(1) A Decree. Let Kêh-ts'u-k'êh 克楚克 succeed to the post of extra Vice-President of the Mongolian Superintendency.

(2) The Governor-General of Min-chêh memorializes reporting the sum of further subscriptions contributed in different quarters toward the relief of the distress which was occasioned by floods at Foochow last year. Two lists have already been submitted to the Throne, of the amounts contributed by the superior official body of the province, headed by the Governor and the late acting Governor-General, as well as of the subscriptions in money and in rice and clothing which came forward from the officials and notables both of this and other provinces. A farther amount of \$2,650 in foreign currency, equivalent to Tls. 1,965.3.2.1 in sycee at Treasury weight, has now been raised in Kiangsu and in Kwangtung, by subscription from officials and traders, through the exertions of two Taotais respectively; and the list of subscribers of this amount, which has been handed over to the Provincial Board for distribution, is now submitted to the Throne, with the request that due tokens of the Imperial favour may be conferred upon the donors.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang and the Governor of Kiangsu jointly memorialize with reference to the appointment which is to be made of an officer to

succeed to the post of Prefect of Soochow, in conformity with a decree dated 29th October, 1876. The most eligible person for this appointment, in consideration of the weighty responsibilities attaching to the post, they represent to be T'an Kün-p'ei, 譚鈞培, at present titular Prefect of Ch'ang-chow Fu, but acting as Prefect at Soochow. He is 42 years of age, and was appointed to the Prefecture of Ch'ang-chow by decree in 1873, after serving for a number of years as Censor in divers capacities at Peking. He is a native of Kweichow, and took his *kü-jên* degree at Peking in 1859, becoming a *tsin-sze* in 1862, from which degree he was passed into the category of Hanlin Probationers. Passing out of this class in 1863, he was appointed to the rank of Hanlin Compiler, and he was employed for some time in the Imperial Historiographers' office, receiving appointments, furthermore, on several occasions, in connection with the metropolitan examinations. His first appointment as a Censor dates from 1869. During the period he has held the seal of office as acting Prefect of Soochow, since the end of February last, he has shown himself intelligent, experienced, and energetic, and his transference to the substantive appointment is accordingly recommended.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil office consider and report.

July 11th.—(1) Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien, memorializes reporting the measures he has adopted with a view to the increase of the revenue derived from salt, in obedience to the confidential Decree, issued in consequence of the recommendations of the Censor Liu Sih-kin, in which he was commanded to take the subject into careful consideration. He represents that the question is a difficult one owing to the fact that no duty has been imposed upon the salt consumed in the three Manchurian provinces since the establishment of the reigning dynasty; whilst at the same time it must be admitted that the production along the coast of Fêng-t'ien, and the consumption in the three provinces and among the adjacent tribes of the Mongols, are both very considerable in amount. The *likin* tax upon salt which was introduced some years ago was arranged on the basis of a levy of one *tiao* of Fêng-t'ien currency per *tan* of six hundred catties; and as the current selling price at Moukden is 14 *tiao* 400 *cash* per *tan*, the amount of *likin* would certainly bear augmenting without detriment to the people in their means of subsistence. A

central salt-tax office has now, accordingly, been set on foot at Moukden, and sub-offices established under competent delegates at the salt-producing stations along the coast. A levy is ordered of 2 *tiao* 400 *cash* of local currency per *tan* of salt, 8/10ths of the amount collected to go to public account, and 2/10ths to defray the cost of collection. The salt producers are further authorized to add 600 *cash*, local currency, to the selling cost of their salt per *tan*; and as the rate of *likin* now imposed will not reach the amount of one *cash*, Government currency, per catty, the exchequer will to some extent be benefited without any serious augmentation in the selling price of this necessary article. Under the loose system heretofore prevailing, however, the *tan*, nominally of 600 catties, has been weighed or measured by private scales or measures, so that the amount actually passed as a *tan* has been nearer 800 or 900 catties. Official scales and measures are now to be supplied to all the producing stations, and licenses to purchase, issued on triplicate forms under the Governor-General's seal, are to be produced by all intending buyers, who will pay the amount of *likin* before effecting the purchase. For the future, all salt which shall be found in course of transportation unprotected by one of these transit passes, or separated from the pass, is to be dealt with on the footing of contraband.

(2) The Yamèn of Gendarmerie memorializes forwarding an appeal lodged by Fêng T'ien-hung, a native of the district of P'êng-shui in Yeo-yang-chow in the province of Sze-ch'wan, who complains against his cousin Fêng T'ien-sing and others for burglariously attacking the dwelling of two other of his kinsmen, in consequence of a dispute which took place in 1863 with reference to money matters. Appellant's father and one of his cousins were murdered on this occasion, and their property carried off. Appeals to the local authorities for justice have passed unheeded, and acts of violence and oppression have continued to be indulged in with impunity by the hostile faction.—Referred in the usual manner.

July 12th.—(Court Circular.) Chow Ta-Wu, late General-in-chief of the provincial forces in Kweichow, paid his respects on his arrival at Peking, and had audience.

(1) Mei K'i-chao, newly appointed Governor of Ch'ên-kiang, memorializes reporting his assumption of the seal of office. He arrived on the 27th May at Hangchow, having travelled from Nanking, his place of residence as Lieutenant-

Governor of Kiangsu, until the receipt of his present appointment, by way of Chinkiang, Ch'ang-chow, and Soochow. In recapitulating, as is customary, the important duties he is now called to discharge, he refers to Ningpo, long established as a Treaty port, and Wénchow, but lately opened to foreign trade, the last named addition to his responsibilities requiring, in particular, an extra degree of attention. He can only promise the most sedulous care in the discharge of his duty, conscious as he is of his personal shortcomings.

(2) The same functionary memorializes with reference to an expectant sub-Prefect named Chao Pao-shên, heretofore in charge of the office established for the collection of funds by the sale of rank and titles for the purpose of providing means for the repair of the sea walls on the coast of Chêh-kiang. This office was closed by Decree last year, but the individual in question has failed to comply with repeated injunctions to account for a balance of \$39,000, and other sums, for which he remains responsible. A decree is solicited stripping him of his rank, in order that he may be placed on trial.—For rescript see *Gazette* of June 27th.

July 13th.—(1) The Governor-General and Governor of Fuhkien memorialize representing that owing to the disasters in the shape of flood and fire to which Foochow has been subjected during the past twelve months, and to the deficient harvests of the province, the selling cost of rice has been notably increased, necessitating measures for procuring additions to the supply, as has already previously been reported. The province of Fuhkien, even in ordinary times, does not produce a sufficiency of grain for its own consumption. Formosa, Shanghai, and Wénchow and T'aichow in Chêhkiang are habitually looked to as sources of supply. Of late, however, Formosa has had nothing to spare from its own requirements, owing to short harvests and increase of population; whilst the produce of Chêhkiang has been diverted to meet the still more pressing needs of Shantung and Kiang Peh. Concurrently with this state of affairs, scarcity has made itself felt in the up-country districts of Fuhkien, and the price of rice had risen with great rapidity both in that region and in the city of Foochow. The influx of population caused by the opening of the tea season naturally increases the demand, and causes a still farther rise in prices; and with a view to alleviate as far as possible the suffering entailed upon the masses, the memorialists have addressed themselves on

the one hand to the expectant Taotai Hu Kwang-yung, lately acting as Commissary for the Western campaign (the Hangchow banker), and on the other to sundry notables resident in Kwangtung, desiring them to make purchases of rice in the producing districts. As the result of these measures, 25,000 piculs of Saigon and other rice have been procured from Canton and Hongkong, and 51,000 piculs of Japanese rice have been shipped from Shanghai by Hu Kwang-yung, in addition to which 6,000 piculs have been supplied through mercantile agency. It is proposed to make up the amount by further purchases to 100,000 piculs in all; and 13,000 piculs have been forwarded to the up-country districts for sale at reduced rates through the local authorities. The same system is to be carried out at Foochow, in addition to gratuitous distribution of relief where necessary; and encouragement has been held out to certain individuals named to continue importing further quantities.

(2) Ku-ni-yin-pu, acting Military Governor of Kirin, memorializes stating that, on the apprehension of mounted brigands being reported, it is customary, after ascertaining from the depositions forwarded that the provisions of the law are complied with, to send back orders for the summary execution of the prisoners. It has lately appeared, however, that the military officers in command of expeditions are in the habit of representing the common members of gangs of banditti, when captured, as "brigand chiefs," and of reporting the slaughter of large numbers, when, possibly, a single marauder has been killed, their object being to gain credit for themselves. It is very necessary that stringent measures be taken to correct such malpractices, before they degenerate into a standing abuse. It is now proposed, accordingly, that henceforward, whenever captures of banditti are effected, of whatever degree of importance, one prisoner shall be sent in charge of a special officer to give evidence before the superior authorities; and that whenever any of this class of criminals are slain in combat, the left ear of each body shall be cut off and forwarded to the provincial capital by way of testimony. This proposal is humbly submitted for sanction.—Rescript: It is noted.

July 14th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, who has denounced the deceased Magistrate of the Department of P'ing-ting Chow as a defaulter on account of public monies for which he was responsible on handing over charge of his office,

to the amount of Taels 17,180, over and above such other deficiencies as are covered by assets forthcoming. The family of the said defunct official have set at defiance the orders issued for repayment of the amounts owing, instead of doing which they have privily returned to their place of residence. It is ordered hereupon that deceased's property be sequestered to make good his liabilities.

(2) A rescript, confirming a list of promotions to various military posts, on the recommendation of the Commissioners appointed from the Grand Secretariat to pass the candidates in review.

(3) Tseng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, memorializes representing the condition to which the province is reduced by drought, and soliciting assistance from the Imperial exchequer. Referring to the statements heretofore laid before the Throne by his predecessor, Pao Yüan-shên, with reference to the prevailing famine, he states that on his journey in May last by way of Honan in the direction of his new post, he was an eyewitness of the extraordinary degree to which the country had been laid waste by drought. At this time, the famine-stricken multitude was already to be seen on every hand; and since his arrival at the provincial capital, he has learnt that the calamity experienced in eight Prefectures and departments, which he names, is still more severe in character. Whilst some of the people have endeavoured to sustain life by eating the roots of herbs and the bark of trees, the number of those who have fallen dead by the roadside he is unable to estimate. In three departments and three Prefectures, constituting the northern section of the province, and in the seven sub-prefectures lying beyond the Wall, owing to the severity of their climate, only one crop is gathered per annum; and in the present year, the summer solstice having already passed, even were rain now to fall, it would be labour lost to put the seed into the ground. Though it were to put forth its shoots, it could not come into ear; and even were this to happen, the grain could not possibly ripen. The distribution of food from the provincial granaries, which was lately ordered, has now been going on for a month, and reports come in from all sides announcing the approaching exhaustion of the stock. The local authorities, who stand *in loco parentis* to the people, cannot witness without feelings of despair their children die of starvation before their eyes; but though they turn to their superiors and to the Governor himself, the only response

that can be given them is tearful anguish at the sufferings which all are powerless to relieve. The Governor and his subordinates can but fervently offer up supplications for the speedy coming of the blessed rain; but in despite of all, the sun glitters red in midheaven, and his scorching terrors blaze abroad upon the earth. The seed-time having now gone by, and rain having failed at its accustomed period, it is useless to think of planting where this has not yet been done; and where the seed is in the ground, grave cause for anxiety must still be felt. As the result of the memorialist's deliberations with the provincial administrators, he feels that he cannot do otherwise than ask permission to retain in the province the sum of Taels 200,000 from the amount to be remitted this year to Peking as the provincial contribution to the Imperial exchequer, and he proposes with this sum to import supplies of grain from the neighbouring provinces for distribution.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 30th June.

July 15th.—(1) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang memorializes with reference to the recommendation for promotion to the rank of expectant Taotai which was advanced sometime ago on behalf of Sü Kien-yin 徐建寅, of the Shanghai Arsenal, at present invested with the rank of expectant of selection to the post of *lang-chung* or Senior Secretary of one of the Six Boards, and decorated with the peacock feather. The Board of Civil Office had objected to this recommendation as irregular, and had requested that it be amended so as to read "for promotion to the appropriate office after selection to be placed upon the roster of his present rank." The instruction of the Board has been obeyed as in duty bound; and a communication having now been received from the Governor-General Li Hung-chang, stating that the official in question has been recommended for promotion to the brevet rank of Taotai from that of expectant *lang-chung*, for services rendered in connection with the Yellow River works, which recommendation the Board has sanctioned, it is now solicited that he may be placed on the list of Taotais awaiting employment after he shall have received nomination to the post of *lang-chung*.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Civil Office.

(2) The Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Hangchow, Shu-lin, memorializes with reference to the rise in the cost-price of raw silk which formed the

subject of a representation heretofore addressed to the Throne by himself and his colleagues at Soochow and Nanking (see *Gazette* of 18th Dec., 1876.) In 1875, the Governor of Chèhkiang reported to the Throne the cost of silk as being 2m. 9c. 5c.

per catty for warp-silk 經絲, and 2m. 7c. 2c. 7h. for the wool 緯絲. These rates are lower than those found actually prevailing last year; but the memorialist cannot presume to ask for any larger allowance in the face of orders to the contrary from the Board, and he will do his best to supply the materials ordered from him for current year by making good the deficiency out of his salary and enforcing rigorous economy upon all concerned.

July 16th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Tèng Hwa-hi, who has drawn attention to the occurrence of disastrous floods in the northern part of the province of Kwangtung, and has solicited the adoption of measures of relief. The Censor has learnt that disastrous inundations have been caused by extensive breaches in the embankment of the North River, in the Ts'ing-yüan district, and furthermore that owing to the sudden overflow of a mountain stream in the department of Lien-chow, upwards of 10,000 lives were lost, the local officer of education K'ang Tsan-siu having been swept away at the same time and all traces having been lost of his remains. He asks that funds may be withdrawn from the investments of the charitable granary at Canton, for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the occasion. Injunctions are laid upon the provincial government to enquire forthwith into the extent of the disaster, and to distribute relief wherever it is most needed, taking care that not a single subject be left destitute. Measures are also to be taken forthwith for the repair of the embankments; and abuses in the shape of illegal exactions upon junks conveying cargoes of grain, as also the engrossing of stores of rice with a view to enhanced prices, are to be stringently repressed.

(2) A decree ordering enquiry to be instituted, at the instance of the Censor Li Kwei-lin, into the conduct of the Magistrate of the Ngan-yang district in Honan, whom he charges, in conjunction with his subordinate, the jail-warden, with grasping and corrupt conduct, and especially with the practice of arbitrary extortions upon the licensed salt-merchants of the district. The Governor-General of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, is directed to cooperate with the

Governor of Honan (that province being within the Ch'ang-lu salt-distributing area) in holding investigation into the matter.

(3) Let Pien Pao-ts'uan 邊寶泉 succeed to the post of Grain Comptroller of the province of Shensi.

(4) A Decree. Although since the commencement of the summer period, rain has been experienced in the neighbourhood of Peking, still the degree of moisture has not been sufficient, and now, as the period of the "greater heat" (July 23rd) approaches, and the need of rain for the sake of the land under cultivation is at its height, it behoves Us reverently to offer up supplications on this account. On the 8th of this moon (July 18th), We will in person proceed to the Ta Kao Tien to offer incense. To the She Ying Kung, let the Prince of Tun, Yih Tsung, proceed; to the Chao Hien Miao, the Prince of Kung, Yih Sin; to the Süan Jên Miao, the Prince of Hwei, Yih Siang; and to the Ning Ho Miao, the Beilêh Tsai Che, each severally to make offerings of incense on the day above named.

July 17th.—(1) A decree, in answer to a memorial from T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shensi, who has represented that the district of P'u-chêng in that province has lost its harvest owing to drought during the spring, and who consequently solicits a postponement of the collection of revenue in that district. It is accordingly granted that the revenue collection for the first half-year be postponed until the autumn, when the circumstances of the case will be taken into consideration in proceeding with the levy of the taxes due.

(2) Ting Pao-chêng, newly appointed Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan memorializes soliciting a token of Imperial approbation on behalf the river gods worshipped at the provincial capital, Ch'êng-tu Fu. The entire province, he represents, is covered with mountains, and but little adapted to agriculture, except in the great plain constituting the prefecture of Ch'êng-tu Fu, with its fourteen subordinate departments and districts. This rich and well-watered tract of champaign country is wholly dependent for its irrigation supply upon the canalized river entitled the Tu Kiang Yen 都江堰, which derives its waters from sources in the Min Shan 岷山 range, and finds its way by a circuitous course to join the central river of the province. Under the rule of the Ts'in dynasty (3rd century B.C.), when the region was devastated by floods, and people

were debarred from practising the arts of husbandry, the Governor of Shuh, Li Ping 李冰 by name, together with his son

Urh Lang 二郎, excavated two separate channels for the waters, and constructed the embankment of the Tu Kiang-yen, by means of which the flow of the river was conducted to subserve the purposes of irrigation for the plain of Ch'êng-tu. The gratitude of the people manifested itself in the erection of temples, and the offering of sacrifices to the manes of their benefactors, upon whom titles of distinction were, moreover, conferred at intervals during the reign of the T'ang, Sung, and Yüan dynasties. In the 5th year of the reign Yung-chêng of the present dynasty (A. D. 1727), the title of "Moisture-Diffusing, Beneficial-Aid-Affording, Universal-Support-Vouchsafing Prince" was conferred upon Li Ping by Imperial mandate, together with a corresponding title of honour upon his son. The supernatural protecting aid of the two deified beings referred to was signally manifested on a recent occasion, when the Taotai Ting She-pin entreated an interposition in time of drought; and it is consequently solicited that further titles of honour be conferred upon the divine protectors of the irrigation works, and that memorial tablets be vouchsafed for the decoration of their temple.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 5th inst. (N.B.—The celebration of acts of supernatural interposition by the deities officially recognized in the Chinese Governmental pantheon is a speciality of the Governor-General Ting Pao-chêng, who has been continually active in this respect during the last few years, whilst holding office as Governor of Shan-tung, as the translations of the *Peking Gazette* serve to shew. In the Taotai Ting She-pin he probably finds a congenial subordinate, as it was this official who, while holding an appointment as Secretary in the Yamèn of Foreign Affairs in 1871, was the first to bring to light the rain-producing virtues of the "Iron Tablet"—see *Gazette* of July 9th, 1876.)

July 18th.—(1) The high authorities of Yunnan memorialize with reference to the appointment of an official to the post of Prefect of P'u-urh Fu, on the southern border of the province, the importance of which jurisdiction is enhanced by its lying on the frontiers of Burmah and Southern Laos. The region is distinguished above all others by the deadliness of its climate, owing to the miasmata with which it abounds, whilst the duties imposed upon its administration, in the control of the

native tribes situated within its borders, are of signal importance. The late Prefect, Luh Hi-tsêng, died at his post on the 8th of March last, and it is now proposed to appoint as his successor the expectant Prefect, P'êng Nien-chên 彭念宸, who is 31 years of age, a native of Hupeh, and who has rendered divers services in connection with the campaigns against the Mahomedan insurgents in the province.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Civil Office.

(2) The high authorities at Foochow memorialize in answer to the decree based upon the proposal advanced in 1873 by the Censor Têng K'ing-lin, who solicited that the right of summary execution in cases of aggravated crime should be withdrawn from the provincial authorities, rebellion having now been suppressed on all sides. The Governor-General and Governor represent that in view of the turbulent character of the population of Fuhkien, its proneness to brigandage and clan-fighting, and the practice of resorting to highway robberies, which is habitual with the gangs of persons, who, to the number of several tens of thousands, assemble in the up-country districts for the tea-picking season, and afterwards disperse in parties of four or five, turning their hand to marauding when occasion offers, it is inexpedient to revert for the present to the legal system of delay in all cases in the execution of capital sentences.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.

(3) In a postscript memorial the Governor-General and Governor of Fuhkien add that, just as they were closing their foregoing report, the city of Foochow has been once more visited by an extraordinary flood. Rain, which set in heavily on the 8th June, continued without intermission until the 15th, the river rising to such a height, in consequence, as to flood the streets within the city walls to a depth of from 3 to 7 feet. The downpour fell off to some extent on the 16th, and the flood abated a little; but on the night of the 16th and throughout the following day rain fell again in torrents, the floods brought down by the river being still further swollen by a high tide from seawards which prevented the escape of the water. On the 17th, water stood to the height of 6, 7, and 8 feet inside the city, and upwards of a *chang* (11 feet English) in height outside the walls, and the rushing of the flood was echoed continually by the crash of falling houses. At dawn on the 15th, the Governor-General betook himself to the South

Gate, where he posted himself on the wall; and the Governor, although suffering severely from illness, similarly took up his station near the West Gate. From these two points they directed the measures adopted for rescuing the distressed population, who were brought to places of safety by means of boats and rafts provided for the purpose. The flood did not begin to recede until the 19th, by which time great destruction had been wrought, though fortunately unattended with loss of life. Orders have been sent to Shanghai and Hongkong for supplies of rice to meet the necessities of the population; and meanwhile it is observed that whilst the flood of last year was more serious than that of either 1834 or 1844, the present flood has exceeded the proportions even of that experienced last year. The memorialists can only ascribe the severity of such a visitation to their own official shortcoming, which has prevented their beseeching with due effect the harmony of the Celestial powers. They undertake that proper enquiry shall be made into the extent of the calamity, and further report be laid before the Throne. They add a note to the effect that the memorial to which this postscript is appended bears date the 14th June, but that owing to the flood, it was not until the 19th that they were able to despatch it from their station on the walls.

(4) The Governor-General of Min-Chêh, Ho King, adds a further postscript dwelling upon the heavy increase of expenditure which is entailed upon the Governor of Fuhkien by his periodical visit to Formosa, —an outlay he is positively unable to afford. The post of Governor of Fuhkien is the least lucrative of all provincial governorships; and as all levy of contributions from inferior departments is invariably abstained from by the Governor, wherever he may be, the cost of his journey, and of the salaries it is necessary to afford with a liberal hand to his suite, in order to make sure of their willing service, is a charge which has caused him great embarrassment. The Governor-General discussed the question of expenses, which he knew to be inevitable, with Li Hung-chang, the Governor-General of Chihli, and with Shên Pao-chêng at Nanking, when on his way to his post from Peking some months ago; and they agreed with him that an allowance must be made. He recommends that in the same way as the district authorities throughout the province receive an allowance in aid of their official expenses under the head of *tsin-t'ieh*, so the Governor may be permitted

to draw a sum from the provincial *tsin* revenue in aid of his additional expenditure. —Rescript: Henceforward, when crossing to Formosa, let the Governor receive a special allowance of Tls. 1,500 per mensem. Let the Board of Revenue take note.

July 19th.—No documents of importance.

July 20th.—(1) A Decree. The Censor Têng K'ing-lin has memorialized Us stating that the area of consumption of the licensed Tea monopoly of Kansuh is infringed upon by illicit introductions from Kwei-hwa Ch'êng. He suggests that the matter be placed in the hands of the Governor-General, who should appoint officials to establish a special board to deal with the matter; and also that the Tea-licences emanating from the Mongolian Superintendency be discontinued. Let the Yamêns concerned take the question into consideration and report upon it to Us.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from the acting Governor of Shantung, who has denounced the deceased Department Magistrate of Lin-ts'ing Chow for a deficiency in the revenue account of the Custom Houses established at that point on behalf of the Boards of Revenue and Works, during his tenure of office, to the amount of Tls. 12,009. It is ordered that the deceased official be stripped of his rank, and that any property of which he may be found to have been possessed may be sequestered to make good the deficit.

(3) The Governor-General of Yün-Kwei and the Governor of Yunnan memorialize observing that, in consequence of the protracted campaigns in that province against the insurgents, in the course of which both men and money were insufficiently forthcoming, the only practicable resource was to make use of the local trainbands. Among the leaders of these provincial enrolments, there were not wanting men who were thoroughly imbued with right sentiments and who devoted themselves with their whole heart to the suppression of the rebellion; but at the same time there were others who made the levying of militia forces an excuse for the collection of funds, and who set themselves up in the position of local tyrants, relying upon the strength of some mountain fastness to set authority at defiance. A local potentate of this description, named Chang Hû-chung, who had fortified himself in a strong position in the P'ing-i district in K'ü-tsing Fu, where he exercised all the attributes of Government in a most tyrannical manner, has now been proceeded against by military force

and taken prisoner, after some severe fighting. Authority for his execution is solicited.—Granted by rescript.

July 21st.—(1) Wang Wên-shao, Governor of Hunan, memorializes forwarding the following representation on the part of Tsêng Ki-tsêh 曾紀澤 (eldest son of

the late Tsêng Kwoh-fan), inheritor of the first degree of the second order of nobility, heretofore holding office as a Secretary (second class) of the Board of Revenue:—“The writer has to state that he is at present aged 39, a native of the Siang-hiang district in Ch'ang-sha Fu, a licentiate, by favour, of the year 1850, who, having passed an examination upon this footing in 1870, was presented to his Majesty and awarded by special grace the rank of Secretary to a Board. Upon this he received appointment, by lot, to do duty in the Shensi division of the Board of Revenue, and, having obtained leave of absence, he became attached to the offices of the Governor-General of Chihli and of the Two Kiang. On the 12th March, 1872, his father, the Grand Secretary Tsêng Kwoh-fan, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, died at his post; and on the 20th of the same month an Imperial Decree was received, in the following words:—“To the rank of *how* of the first degree with which Tsêng Kwoh-fan was invested, let, his son, Tsêng Ki-tsêh succeed. He is exempted from the requirement of presentation in audience.” The writer proceeded, in respectful obedience to this mandate, to fulfil the period of mourning obligation at his native place. On the 17th June, 1874, the mourning period was completed, and on the 4th September following he set out for Peking; but on his arrival, on the 9th October, at Ts'ing-ho, in Kiangsu, he received a letter from his home informing him that his mother, born of the Ow-yang family, had died on the 23rd September. Being the actual son of his mother (*i.e.*, not standing in one or other of the seven filial relationships beside that of birth which are recognized by Chinese law), he was bound to hasten to the scene of mourning and observe the period of obligation, as was reported on his behalf at the time by the acting Director-General of the Grain Transport, Ngên Sih (see *Gazette* of Dec. 12th, 1874.) Counting from the date upon which he received on his journey the news of his parent's decease to the 3rd January, 1877, exclusively of intercalary months, makes the period of 27 months complete; and he has already, in conformity with the regulation, reported through the magistrate of his district the

fact of his having laid aside his mourning. He has now decided upon taking his departure on the 6th June from Hunan on his way to the capital, for the purpose of enjoying the privilege of an audience 覲, and of reverently offering his thanks for the Celestial grace. He prays that a memorial to this effect may be presented on his behalf.”

The Governor, finding the facts to be as stated, communicates with the Boards of Civil Office, Revenue and War, and humbly submits the present memorial to the Sacred glance.—Rescript: It is noted.

(2) The Resident at Lassa, Sung Kwei, memorializes on receipt of a communication from an officer of the Tibetan Treasury, informing him that in obedience to a decree heretofore received, an abbot (*K'an-pu*) is about to be despatched to Peking with articles of tribute by way of compliment to their Majesties the Regents, and of congratulation to His Majesty the Emperor on his joyful accession, as also for the purpose of reciting masses on behalf of His Majesty lately deceased. The tribute commissioner, with the suite of clerics and laity prescribed by regulation, will proceed by the high road leading through Szech'wan, and a list of the members of the party and of the articles of tribute are submitted for the Resident's information. Inasmuch as the expedition about to be undertaken is by Imperial command, the Resident has given orders to the Commissary Chow Ts'in, and to Major Kiang Cheng-t'ai, of the garrison in Tibet, to take action with the Ministers of State in verifying the packages and weights of the mule-loads, and the names and personal descriptions of the members of the party, in order to guard against all imposition. A party of six officers and men is to be detailed to escort the expedition to the provincial capital of Szech'wan, whence farther escort will be provided. The abbot was to take his departure from Lassa on the 6th March. After crossing the Chinese frontier his travelling expenses were to be provided by the authorities, and he was to be supplied with baggage animals to the number of 88. If any further number will be required, they were to be hired locally at the abbot's own expense.

July 22nd.—(1) Rescript. Let King Shen 景善 succeed to the post of Libationer of the Imperial Academy. (N.B.—The two “Libationers” 祭酒 of the Imperial Academy—Kwoh Tsze Kien—are the principal officers of this virtually

defunct institution. They are charged with the general superintendence of its affairs, and derive their title from the duty, which is incumbent upon them, of offering a libation at the new and full moon before the shrine of Confucius.)

(2) Liu Ch'ang-yao, Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow, asks sanction to a period of congé for two months which he has felt obliged to take for the benefit of his health. Since his arrival at his present post he has been troubled afresh with an old disorder of the liver, and having now reached his 60th year, his constitution is much enfeebled.—Sanctioned by rescript.

(3) The Censor Low Yü-tsin memorializes submitting a question for Imperial decision. On the 5th inst. he presided over the drawing of lots at the Board of War at the monthly distribution of minor appointments; and among the offices drawn for were two appointments to the post of lieutenant of grain-transport stations, viz., one at Lin-ts'ing in Shantung, and the other at Kiukiang. The lots fell to two individuals whose names are given; but what the Censor has to remark is, that according to rule, the slips [upon which the names of the expectants are inscribed] should be drawn first, and appointment to this or that provincial staff only then be proceeded with, whilst in the present instance, without any drawing of lots, one of the two officers was detailed to the Shantung post, and the other to that at Kiukiang. As supervision is the memorialist's duty, he feels bound, on noticing this departure from the ordinary practice, to bring it to the notice of their Majesties. N.B.—A decree, based on this memorial, was published on the 9th instant, commanding an enquiry to be instituted into the case by the Board of War, in order to ascertain whether any fraudulent proceedings had taken place in connection with the allotment of offices.

July 23rd.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the high authorities at Foo-chow, who have reported that in consequence of the distress prevailing in Fuhkien from the recent floods, importations of rice have been encouraged, and who request that exemption from duty may be conceded to the rice-laden junks on their passage along the waterways of Kiangsu and Chêhkiang. The governments of these two provinces are commanded to take action accordingly.

(2) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes pronouncing an earnest eulogy upon the lately deceased Brigadier-General Ma Fuh-chên 馬復震, who

died in January last whilst in command of the *Ts'ao-kiang* steam gun-vessel. The Governor-General was on the point of causing a report of his services to be drawn up for submission to the Throne, when, on the 19th May, a Decree was received naming this officer to the command of the Yang-Kiang Brigade in Kwangtung. The Governor-General now submits a statement of the eminent services rendered by the deceased officer, since the year 1860, when, by order of the Governor-General Tsêng Kwoh-fan, he enlisted a body of irregulars for service against the Taiping rebels. For many years past he had been serving under the memorialist, and had paid particular attention to naval matters on the European system, making in particular a profound study of gunnery and navigation. He had been repeatedly commended in memorials for the solid qualities of his character combined with his active energy, and also for the strictness of his discipline and for the study he had bestowed upon foreign affairs, especially qualifying him for a maritime command. He died before reaching his fortieth year. The Governor-General solicits that the record of his biography and exploits in the public service may be enrolled in the history of the period, and that a mark of Imperial approbation may be posthumously conferred upon him.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Boards concerned.

July 24th.—(1) A decree of the Empresses Regent, entrusting to a special Council composed of the Princes of Tun, Kung, and Ch'un, the Ministers of the Presence, Ministers of the Council of State, the Grand Secretaries, the two Imperial Preceptors, and the Directors of the Sacrificial Court, the duty of considering and reporting upon the views that have been submitted in the eight memorials presented by different individuals, including the Prince of Ch'un, with reference to the position to be assigned in the Ancestral Temple to the tablet of his Majesty lately deceased.

(2) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, denounces a Magistrate, lately deceased, belonging to one of the Banners at Hangchow, for a deficit of Taels 17,180 in his treasury accounts, and solicits a decree commanding his property to be sequestered.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 14th inst.

(3) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan memorializes submitting the result of a trial held in an aggravated case of murder, by which three persons of one family were destroyed. The

particulars are these:—Li Têh-ch'un, a farmer of the T'ai-Kuh district, was married to the sister of a man named Chao Fuh-yün, a trader living usually at Peking. Near Li's house there lived a man named Ch'ang Kin-i, with whom he was on terms of intimacy, Ch'ang being accustomed to visit Li at home, where Li's wife had grown used to seeing him without reserve. In March, 1876, Ch'ang called one day in Li's absence, and took advantage of the opportunity to seduce the woman. Criminal intercourse ensued on more than one occasion without the husband's knowledge, no gifts or money being, however, received from Ch'ang. On the afternoon of June 10th, Li Têh-ch'êng came home from his work in the fields, and found Ch'ang sitting with his wife on the stove-bed in familiar converse; and being thus led to suspect criminal relations between the pair, he rushed at Ch'ang; but the latter's superior strength enabled him to throw Li down and to get away. Li extracted from his wife a confession of her infidelity, for which he loaded her with reproaches; but, dreading Ch'ang's superior strength, he refrained from attacking the latter on the subject. Li's wife said to a girl named San Ni-urh, who was being brought up in the family as a wife for Li's younger brother, that now she had been found out in adultery she could not face existence any longer; but the girl was too young to appreciate the significance of the remark. In the course of the same evening Li's wife, suddenly inspired by an unhappy resolution, swallowed a dose of lead powder, from the effects of which she shortly afterwards expired in convulsive agony, notwithstanding the efforts of her husband to restore her, on his waking up and discovering in alarm what had happened. Ashamed to let the fact of his wife's adultery and suicide be known, he procured a coffin the next day, and interred her remains in the fields with the help of some beggars whose names are unknown. The village headman, Ch'ang Yung-lung, having heard of this, went to make enquiries of Li, who falsely told him that his wife had died of sickness and begged him not to make report to the authorities. Li, being frequently mocked at by his wife's late paramour, determined to avenge himself by murdering Ch'ang, but was restrained from doing so through fear of the latter's strength. On the 6th August Chao Fuh-yün came home from Peking, and having gone to enquire respecting his sister's death, of which he now heard, he was informed by Li of the facts of the case,

and he consented to join Li in murdering the man Ch'ang together with the latter's father and mother in case they should endeavour to rescue the destined victim. The two men proceeded accordingly the same night, after midnight, to Ch'ang's house, clambering over the wall by means of a door which they placed against it. Li was armed with a butcher's knife and Chao with an iron spear. They found Ch'ang Kin-i and his father lying naked in the outer courtyard, fast asleep [as is customary among the population of northern China, during the hot months, *Transl.*], and they assaulted both in succession hacking them to death with wounds in different parts of the body (each of which is minutely described.) Ch'ang Kin-i's mother having come to the door of the house to see what was the matter, was next attacked and similarly hacked to death, after which the murderers decamped, leaving the deadly weapons they had employed behind them. On the alarm being given, Li was apprehended at his own house, and Chao was taken a short time subsequently, after lurking in concealment in unfrequented places. At the trial thereupon held, they have made full confession of the facts, and the depositions taken shew that no other cause of quarrel than that stated had existed, and that no other persons are concerned in the matter as accomplices. The law provides that "whosoever shall slay two persons of one family, the same not being guilty of any capital crime, shall suffer death by summary decapitation and his head shall be publicly exposed. One half of his property shall furthermore be allotted for the support of the family of the murdered persons." Active accessories are moreover liable by law to the penalty of strangulation, after imprisonment to await the periodical revision. After commenting upon the brutal nature of the act now under consideration, the memorialist observes that although the number of persons of one family murdered on this occasion was actually three (and the sentence consequently liable to be still further aggravated), yet, the fact of Ch'ang Kin-i being guilty as an adulterer entitles the prisoner to be regarded as having "slain him unwarrantably," and to be pronounced guilty of murder in the first degree only with regard to the two other victims. The act of unwarrantable homicide being therefore omitted from consideration, Li Têh-ch'êng is sentenced according to law to suffer summary decapitation for the other two murders, and the accessory, Chao, to

suffer death by strangulation. The girl, San Ni-urh, who, owing to her youth, was too terrified to offer any opposition to the act of murder, is excused; and the village headman, who failed to make report of the death of Li's wife under suspicious circumstances, is sentenced to the penalty of 80 blows, commuted according to law, under the severer section of the statute against unspecified wrongdoing, but is allowed to retain his office. The sentences thus propounded are submitted for sanction.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report to Us without delay. (N.B.—The statement of the history of this wholesale murder, as given above, is typical of the disregard exhibited in China for what are considered in other parts of the world the most elementary rules of evidence. Notwithstanding the death of both the woman Li and her paramour, what passed between them, and the acts and even motives of the woman in particular, are related as circumstantially as though they had been deposed to by the parties themselves.)

July 25th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reports that rain has fallen, producing saturation to a depth of 3 inches and upwards.

(1) A decree, referring to the prayers for rain which were offered up on the 18th instant, and which were followed by refreshing downpours on the 21st and 24th. Services of thanksgiving are to be held on the 27th instant, at the State Temples at which the previous supplications were offered; and the hope is farther expressed that the bounty of Heaven may be additionally vouchsafed in like manner, in fulfilment of the hopes of the people.

(2) Sung Kwei, Resident at Lassa, memorializes as follows:—He received some time ago a communication from the Imperial Agent at Si-ning (Kokonor), stating that the Tibetan tribute-envoys had informed him to the effect that, when passing through T'ao Chow, they had received a statement from the chief of the tribe there, declaring that the *Nomên 'Han* (Dhârma Râja, the Chief of the Religious Law) had reappeared 轉世 by metempsychosis, and had been born into the world 降生 in that locality. The chief entreated that the *Nomên 'Han* might be sent for to Tibet. On receipt of the above, a translation of the despatch was transmitted by the memorialist to the Tibetan Council, which was ordered to examine into the matter and make report to him. The Council's report has now been received as follows:—It is a fact that

Awang Chiamubaleh'u'ch'êngchatso is the re-embodiment ('hubil'han) of the Erdeni Nomên Han, heretofore invested with control of the affairs of Tibet, who incurred punishment for an offence committed, whose name was Galdan Silet'u Samadi Bakhshi Awangch'ulch'imu. It is besought as an extraordinary manifestation of His Majesty's grace, that permission be accorded to bring him back to Lassa, to devote himself entirely to study of the sacred writings, without venturing to interfere in matters of public import. It is further entreated that he may have his former name and title bestowed upon him, to the unbounded gratitude of the whole population, both clergy and laity, of Tibet. The memorialist, on receipt of the foregoing, feels bound to submit the prayer to the decision of the Imperial Government, and he forwards copies of the correspondence received, including translations of the petitions or reports submitted to him in the barbarian language.—Rescript: Let the department concerned consider and report to Us.

July 26th.—(1) Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien, memorializes with reference to the appointment of an officer as Magistrate of the district of Hai-ch'êng, within which the port of Ying K'ow (Newchwang) is situated. The fact of this port being open to foreign trade, with the frequent occurrence, consequently, of international questions there, renders the post all the more important. A Manchu named Fuh P'ei, aged 35, is recommended for the appointment.—Referred to the Board of Civil Office for consideration.

(2) The acting Governor of Shantung memorializes with reference to an individual named Kao Yeo-chêng, holding the rank of captain (*tu-sze*), who had been apprehended some time ago near Chefoo after committing divers acts of robbery and swindling. He appeared in the first instance in October last year at Hwang Hien, where he endeavoured to impose upon the district Magistrate with a false account of his having been robbed on the road of all his money and valuables; but on his story being found not to tally with the statement made by his carter when interrogated, he decamped, and proceeded to a place called Yang Kia Yüan, where he gave himself out at an inn as commissioned by the Governor of Shantung to examine secretly into the state of the coast defences. He bullied the innkeeper with a display of violence, on an attempt being made to question him as to his real character, flourished his sword, and extorted a sum

of money and a parcel of foreign sugar from his entertainer, whom he also compelled to give him an I.O.U. for Tls. 46, which sum he promised to make good when he got back to the provincial capital. After an unsuccessful attempt to take in the Taotai at Chefoo, he again visited Yang Kia Yüan, but was finally arrested and brought to trial. He declares that he was commissioned in June last by an officer named Sun, of the Military Secretariat of Kansuh, to proceed to Shantung to purchase European munitions of war; and he lays claim to having been recommended for brevet rank as lieutenant-colonel, of which, however, he has no documentary proof. It is solicited that he be stripped of his rank as *tu-sze*, which, in any case, he has disgraced, in order that he may be tried and sentenced.—Granted by rescript.

July 27th. No documents of importance.

July 28th.—(1) The Censor Li Kwei-lin memorializes soliciting attention to the abuses which, he declares, exist to an unspeakable degree in connection with the administration of the salt monopoly in the province of Honan, constituting, together with the gabelle of Chihli, the area of the Ch'ang-lu salt department under the direction of the Governor-General of the last-named province. The memorialist has been informed that the magistrate of the Ngan-yang district in Honan, together with his subordinate, the jail-warden, animated by a rapacious desire of gain, has for some years past dealt with the licensed salt merchants as his chosen prey, and has subjected the population under his rule to aggravated ill-treatment. The unlimited exaction these officials have indulged in, and the inordinate character of their demands, have led to the traders closing their doors and withdrawing from business, so that the streets and market-places are deserted, and the consumption of salt, so important an element in the revenue of the State, has dwindled away. Notwithstanding the regard which the Governor-General of Chihli shews for the interests of the trading community, he nevertheless refers the complaints which are brought before him to the Provincial Government of Honan for explanation, and in Honan they are treated with unvarying indifference. The local officials are consequently encouraged to believe themselves beyond the reach of interference, and their exactions in defiance of the law are indulged in with no seeming limit. It is besought, in the interest of the public revenue, that a searching investigation may be instituted into the conduct of the district

officials of Ngan-yang above-mentioned.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 16th instant.

(2) The Governor of Shensi memorializes supporting the application submitted to him by the district Magistrate of P'u-ch'êng, for a postponement of the half-yearly revenue collection, in consequence of the suffering experienced in that district from drought.—Granted by rescript dated 17th instant.

(3) The Censor Têng Hwa-hi memorializes calling attention to the disastrous floods lately experienced in the province of Kwangtung, where the floods of the North river have caused a breach in the Shek-kok Wei embankment, which guards the districts of Ts'ing-yüan, Sam-shuei, Nanhai, and Shun-teh from inundation, the waters having swept through this dyke for a distance of between one and two hundred *chang*. Breaches have also occurred in a number of other embankments elsewhere, the waters devastating the country in a pitiable manner and causing an immense destruction of life. He has further learnt that, in the middle of June, a sudden rise took place in a mountain stream in the department of Lien Chow, causing a flood which rose above the level of the city walls, and which destroyed upwards of ten thousand persons, who were unable to make good their escape. Among the missing is the district officer of instruction. It is solicited that, under these lamentable circumstances, the provincial government may be commanded to institute proper measures of relief.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 16th inst.

July 29th.—(1) The two police Censors in charge of the Eastern division of Peking memorialize denouncing for punishment the officer of police responsible for the good order of the eastern suburb, in consequence of the occurrence of a case of highway robbery, the perpetrators of which have not been discovered. The officer in question has reported that on the 13th inst. a complaint was lodged with him by the proprietor of a grainshop in the neighbourhood of the East Gate, to the effect that three days previously, toward dusk, one of his men was bringing a sum of Tls. 500 in silver on donkey-back from a bank in the western part of the city to his shop; when, on reaching a certain point, the messenger was stopped by five men who insisted on searching him for contraband opium, and who robbed him of the money he was carrying, with which they made off. The Censors request that the police officer be stripped of his button and held bound to effect the apprehension of the robbers and

recovery of the money stolen within a given time.—Assented to by rescript.

(2) The acting Governor of Shantung memorializes reporting that the annual dredging out of the northern section of the Grand Canal, on its approach to the Yellow River, has been efficiently performed, and at a less cost than in former years, owing to the employment of the famine sufferers on the system of relief works. The amount expended this year is Taels 23,883, including the cost of completely removing the sluice gate at Pa-li Miao, which, since the Yellow River broke across the Canal at this point, has proved seriously detrimental by deflecting the course of the stream and throwing it with great violence against the embankment on the west. The depth dredged out in the Canal is amply sufficient to enable the grain squadron, on its approach, to reach and cross the Yellow River, after which it will, as usual, await the rise of the water to a height sufficient to float it into the section of the Canal beyond the northern bank.

July 30th.—(1) The Censor Têng K'ing-lin memorializes at great length on the unsatisfactory condition of the trade in tea under licenses within the jurisdiction of the Governor-General of Kansuh. He begins by observing that whilst in the south-east of the Empire a revenue is derived from licenses to monopolists of the salt-traffic, in the northwest, a like system is applied to tea. In Kansuh alone, of all the provinces, a department exists, the headship of which is combined with the functions of the Governor-General, as is set forth in his official title, for the control of the trade in tea and horses; and nowhere else but in Kansuh are monopolists' licenses, *ch'a yin* 茶引, issued for the distribution of tea.

It follows, consequently, that the distributing area formed by all the territories beyond the Wall appertain to the province of Kansuh. Under the system anciently in force, the number of licenses to be [annually] issued was 28,000 and odd, the tea being obtained from Hupeh and Hunan, and distributed by the license-holders throughout Mongolia, Turkestan, and Tangut. About 90 years ago the licenses, to the number of 1,032, which had previously been issued in the province of Shensi, were added to those which the Kansuh traders were held bound to take out, and from this time forward the sale of tea without licenses on the part of traders from Shensi came into vogue, and the difficulties under which the Kansuh traders labour took their rise from this point.

Between 50 and 60 years ago unprincipled traders obtained passes, *p'iao* 票, from the Mongolian Superintendency (*Li Fan Yüan*), under which they conveyed tea to Turkestan and the adjacent regions for sale, thus infringing upon the area belonging to the holders of the Kansuh licenses; and the then Governor-General of Kansuh, No-yen-ch'êng, obtained sanction to the establishment of an office at Ku-ch'êng (Guchen) to levy duties upon this traffic, the sum of Tls. 8,000 being annually allotted from its receipts in aid of the revenue required from the Kansuh license-holders. The descriptions of tea which, in earlier times, constituted the staple of traffic were Pekoe, Bohea, Hiang P'ien, Chulan, P'u-urh, etc., none of which were the produce of the Hu Kwang region. In process of time, the Hupeh and Hunan were illicitly brought forward for sale, under the names of "thousand catty," "hundred catty," "hat-box barrel," and large or small "brick-tea," with the object of perpetrating fraud and confusion. In the year 1868, the traders in question being desirous of proceeding through Kiachta by way of the Russian frontier to the European tea-markets, the Mongolian Superintendency gave permission to take out passes in quadruplicate, each pass being for 12,000 catties of tea, upon which the following amounts were to be paid, viz., *lekin*, Tls. 30, and Customs' duty, Tls. 21.7.8. Comparing the amount of *lekin* and Customs' duty imposed in this wise upon the brick tea under these 12,000-catty passes with the rate of Tls. 4.4.4 per 80 catties with which the Kansuh license-holders are assessed, it is seen that a difference of Tls. 614 odd is secured, under the first-named system, in favour of each lot, and it is not to be wondered at that the trade in tea without licenses should have become so widely spread as is the case. In 1874, the Governor-General Tso Tsung-t'ang submitted regulations for the Imperial sanction, proposing experimentally to place the matter in the hands of a mercantile combination. Pointing out the wide difference that exists between the amount of revenue derived from the *Li Fan Yüan* passes and that with which the Kansuh traders are assessed, as also the extent to which the Hupeh teas have encroached upon the Kansuh distributing area, he proposed that, in conformity with the regulations established in Kansuh, the full amount of the duty on tea, as fixed by standing rule, should be levied before the issue of the license,

leaving the *likin* to be paid at two places in the course of transportation, and that barriers for purposes of inspection should be established under the authority of the Taotai at Kwei-hwa Ch'eng. This was a fair and reasonable proposal; and the Board of Revenue having given its assent, proclamations were issued calling upon the trading classes to come forward and take advantage of it, which they did with alacrity. Since the inauguration of this system in 1874 upwards of 30,000 licenses have been issued for tea-shipments, leaving upwards of 20,000 licenses still in the Taotai's hands; but, unfortunately, the other system going on *pari passu*, the tea under official sanction, *Kwan ch'a* 官茶 has failed to command a market, and the dealers have been left with it on their hands for three years past, with daily augmenting expenses to defray. The consequence has been ruin in numberless cases. In another year or two the charges accumulating will equal the prime cost of the investment, and hundreds of thousands of taels of capital will be wholly lost. The cause of this lamentable state of affairs is no other than that the tea illicitly sent away without licenses from Kwei-hwa Ch'eng is enabled successfully to compete with the tea under official sanction, owing to the lower rate of duty it pays and its consequent cheapness. The licensed traders suffer under daily increasing troubles, and the revenue derived from them in like manner disappears. On the rules proposed by the Governor-General Tso having been introduced, he wrote to the Governor of Shansi, desiring him to write in turn to the Manchu General-in-chief, commanding at Sui-yüan Ch'eng, with the request that the Taotai of the Kwei-hwa and Sui-yüan Intendancy and the sub-Prefect of Kwei-hwa Ch'eng should be directed to put the new system in force. The sub-Prefect, however, allowed himself to be persuaded by the *ex parte* statements of the Wu Ch'ang Fah and other tea firms, to the effect that the tea they dealt in was disposed of on the principle of selling tea without licenses in territory not pertaining to the licensing system, and that their operations in no wise affected the interests of the Kansuh traders. It was further represented that in 1866-1867, when, in consequence of Turkestan being in a state of disorder, there was no outlet for the tea-trade, the Manchu General-in-chief obtained at their solicitation Imperial sanction to the issue of quadruplicate passes, issued by the Mongolian Superintendency, under which tea might be conveyed across

the Russian border via Kiachta to the European market. On the issue of a decree in September, 1868, granting this sanction, the statement continued, the tea which had long been accumulating began to find a complete outlet; but of late trade has been in a very depressed condition, and the further establishment of *likin* barriers is to be deprecated. The petitioners declared, in addition, that the eleven firms engaged in the trade were in the habit of sending agents each year to Hupeh, whence brick-tea to the amount of some 10,000 chests and upwards, of 120 catties each, were obtained, paying duty at the rate of 1 *mace* 1 *candareen*, in addition to which 300 *ch'wan* 串 (packages?) of *mao-ho* or "hat-box" tea, of 30 catties each, paying duty at the rate of 3 *candareens* 3 *cash*, were imported by them. The sub-Prefect having represented hereupon that serious difficulties might be apprehended if the cost of tea should be enhanced by the levy of *likin* on this article, so necessary a staple of consumption among the Mongol tribes, the General-in-chief returned a reply to this effect, and the regulations which had been promulgated with Imperial sanction were consequently set aside. The memorialist proceeds to attack the veracity of the statements made by the Kwei-hwa Ch'eng tea traders, and to point out the vast difference between the amount of duties which they admit as the maximum they are called upon to pay, and the impost with which the regular license-holders would be assessed for similar quantities. The charges to which they are liable under the pass-system are shewn to be no more than $\frac{1}{12}$ th of those which the Kansuh license-holders are assessed with; and the memorialist consequently solicits a Decree putting an end to the issue of passes on the part of the Mongolian Superintendency. He points out, moreover, that tea is sent without licenses from Szech'wan to Tibet, and he solicits that commands be given to Tso Tsung-t'ang to establish offices in Szech'wan in order to put a rigorous stop to such abuses, remarking that the extension of his authority in this special respect into another province than his own is justified by precedents drawn from the salt administration.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 20th inst.

July 31st.—No documents of importance.

Aug. 1st.—(1) A Decree. Tsai Shên 載森 memorialises Us praying that he may be relieved of his duty, on the ground

of chronic ill-health. Let Tsai Shên accordingly be relieved of his appointment to do duty as an Assistant Chamberlain.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial presented by the Censor Shên Hung, who has called attention to the visitations with which a number of the Provinces have been afflicted time and again, and has begged that the servants of the State throughout the Empire be commanded to devote their active energies to the task of good government. It is to be observed, hereupon, that with reference to the plague of locusts which has afflicted the provinces of Kiangsu and Nganhwei in the course of the present year, We have repeatedly enjoined upon the provincial high authorities that they should give orders to their subordinates to effect the capture of the flights. In the case of Fuhkien and Kwangtung, which have suffered from disastrous floods, and of Shansi, which has been afflicted in even still greater measure by drought, Our commands have been laid upon the Provincial Governments to devise such measures as are requisite for the relief of distress. The Censor now represents that Hunan and Kwangsi have also suffered with floods, that Shensi and Kansuh have been afflicted with drought, that Shantung, Honan, and the metropolitan province have equally been visited by locust flights, and that a tempestuous wind has swept over Kiangsu and Chekiang, with such violence as to level dwelling-houses with the ground, and to cause the destruction of sailing-craft. The perusal of his memorial has profoundly affected Our sympathy. In the anxious regard which the Sovereign cherishes for the interests of the people, no case of suffering from natural calamity ever occurs without filling his mind by day and night with grief and care, and causing him to reflect without ceasing upon the better discharge of his duty. At this juncture, when visitations have followed each other so repeatedly, it is a duty manifestly incumbent upon all the officers of government, throughout the Empire, to aim at a just and loyal course of conduct, and to exert themselves in the task of remedying the evils that are endured. The Governors-General and Governors of all the provinces, who are invested with the vicegerence of their respective territories, are bound in a still higher degree to use active efforts in guarding against blind adherence to routine, and to be energetic in effecting reform. For all suffering among the people it is their duty to feel sympathetic care; and fraudulent misrepresentation upon the part of official

underlings they must at all times be ready to chastise, to the end that the principle of supreme order may daily increase in vigour; thus enabling, as a natural consequence, the beneficent results of harmony [between the seen and the unseen powers] to be secured, and grievous visitations to be dissipated. Let the Provincial Governments report to Us the actual facts with reference to the degree of severity with which their several jurisdictions have been afflicted, and also the measures which should be instituted for relief, in order that Our anxious care may be assuaged.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Hu provinces memorializes reporting the decision arrived at on the rehearing of an appeal case referred back from Peking. The appellant, Chang Ch'êng-hing, had alleged that certain individuals, named T'ang Ming-hwên and others, had caused the death of his relative Chang San-wan and three others, in consequence of a dispute about the felling of some trees at the family burying ground. The case goes back to the year 1861, when, owing to some uncertainty regarding the boundary between adjacent properties, a quarrel arose between members of the two families, and in a fight which ensued the four individuals whose deaths are complained of lost their lives. It is now found that the ringleaders of the affray have escaped beyond the reach of capture, the most guilty of the number being shewn to have died in 1866; but certain of the participators in the affair are sentenced to bastinadoing, which sentence, however, is remitted in virtue of the Act of Grace of 1875.

Aug. 2nd—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Court of Censors, reporting that a complaint has been lodged by one Hu Tso-hwai, alleging an attempt made to set at naught the execution of the law by a fraudulent abuse of regulations. It appears that the complainant's father, Hu She-li, having been murdered by Chan K'i-lun (see *Gazette* of April 7th, 1876), and Chan K'i-lun having been sentenced to suffer death by strangulation after process of revision, a military officer named Wu Tung-shan instigated Chan Hwan-chang to come to Peking for the purpose of planning with T'ien Ming-king, an officer of the courier-post service, and others, an intrigue to effect the delivery of Chan K'i-lun from paying the penalty of his crime. Concurrently with this, the Censor Têng K'ing-lin memorialized to the effect that, in cases where military officers are proved guilty of offences, the regulations allow representations to be made [o.

circumstances in their favour.] Chan Hwan-chang and another hereupon presented a false statement at the Board of Punishments and at the Magistracy of Hwang-ngan, his native district, declaring that a member of Chan K'i-lun's family had lost his life in battle; whilst T'ien Ming-king and others went with a draught of the Censor's memorial to Chan K'i-lun's house to demand a sum of money. The statements thus advanced, involving, as they do, a conspiracy to defeat the sentence imposed in so serious a matter as a trial for a capital crime, and implicating a functionary whose prerogative it is to address the Throne, call for the most searching investigation. Let the Board of Punishments institute a stringent enquiry, not failing to elicit the actual truth. Let the Yamén of Gendarmerie, the Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, the Police Censors, and the Governor-General of Chihli take measures conjointly for the apprehension of the two men Wu Hi-che and Chan Hwan-chang, who have taken to flight; and let the Censor T'eng K'ing-lin hold himself in readiness to appear when summoned to give evidence.

(2) A decree, removing from office, or compelling to retire from the public service, certain officials who have been denounced as incompetent by the Governor-General and Governor of Kwangtung. Ts'ung Ling, the Prefect of Lui-chow Fu, and Hwang Kwang-chow, Magistrate of Lo-ting Chow, are declared to have abused the functions of their office by delays in the discharge of duty. The former is commanded to return to Canton to do duty; and the latter is compulsorily retired. Ch'eng Hiao-ju, District Magistrate of Ts'ing-yüan, is similarly dealt with, as superannuated and chargeable with improper conduct; and an expectant Magistrate is stripped of his rank on the score of his coarse and violent disposition, which has excited public disapprobation.

(3 and 4) Memorials from the Governor-General and Governor of Fuhkien, reporting minor incidents of reform of military abuses in Formosa on the recent visit of the Governor, Ting Jih-ch'ang, to the island.

Aug. 3rd.—(Court Circular.) Wên Kêh, newly appointed Governor of Shangtung, paid his respects on his arrival at Peking.

(1) The high authorities at Foochow memorialize reporting the arrival there of a Liu-ch'uan junk, with eight distressed mariners on board, who, on being examined through an interpreter, declare that they sailed from Peh-shan Fu on the 5th April for Pa-ch'ung Shan (in the Meiacosima

group), intending to fish for conger-eels, but were blown out to sea by a gale, and drifted with the current to San Sha, on the Chinese coast. Here the local authorities kindly supplied them with provisions, and sent them on to Ting-hai, where they arrived on the 16th April. From this place they were forwarded to Foochow. Having been taken charge of by the authorities, they will be supplied according to regulation, from the date of their arrival at Foochow, the 21st April, with one pint of rice and six *cash* in money per diem, until their embarkation. They will then be equipped with one month's provisions.

(2) The high authorities at Foochow solicit exemption from taxation on behalf of the rice which it is necessary to import from Kiangsu and Chehkiang, to meet the exigencies of the situation in Fuhkien, owing to the recent floods.—Granted by rescript.

(3) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, memorializes reporting the receipt of a despatch from Wu Kwang-liang, the newly appointed Brigade-General in chief command of the East coast division of Formosa, stating that he had left T'ai-wan Fu on the 27th May, to proceed by the road cut this year through the Hêng-ch'un district to the East coast, where he intended to take up his head-quarters at Siu Ku Lwan 秀孤巒, with a view to instituting permanent measures in the shape of a Settlement of military colonists. The Governor had further issued instructions, he states, to the Taotai of Taiwan to take advantage of the favourable season for navigation, and to send a cargo of provisions to the spot by steamer. He has learnt, likewise, that Wu Tsan-ch'êng (the Commissioner in charge of the Foochow Arsenal), who has lately arrived in Formosa, intended to proceed on the 17th June to visit the East Coast, including Pi-lan and Siu Ku Lwan. This last-named place has been hitherto untrodden by the foot of man since the creation of the world, notwithstanding which Wu Tsan-ch'êng had scarcely arrived in Formosa when he boldly proceeded thither. He was a passenger from the Pescadores on board the same steamer with the Governor on the memorialist's recent return to Foochow; and in the midst of a storm at sea, when the Governor, clasping his pillow, was in the agonies of unintermitting sea-sickness, Wu Tsan-ch'êng remained pacing the deck and making observations around him with a quiet and unmoved countenance, as though at any ordinary moment. In vigour

of both mind and body he excels the memorialist in a tenfold degree. He will hereafter, doubtless, himself report upon the measures instituted at the point referred to. The Taotai at Taiwan reports, as regards the troops at the capital of the island, that they have been sufficiently industrious in their drill and target-practice; but that, unfortunately, a good deal of epidemic disease has prevailed since the summer set in. The Brigade-General of Taiwan, Chang K'i-kwang, whom the Governor had some time since directed to visit both the northern and southern divisions of his command, and to weed out unsparingly the useless members of the established forces, has now reported officially that he visited Fêng-shan on the 7th June, and there dismissed 248 of the superannuated and weakly soldiers of the two battalions having their head-quarters there. The Governor observes hereupon that during his recent visit to Formosa he found the proportion of inefficient men to be 80 or 90 per cent. of the whole, and that in dismissing no more than 241 men of the force the Brigade-General has made a mere pretence of discharging his duty. Orders have now been issued to him with the warning that, if on his visit to the northern districts he does not set aside all personal considerations and act with full earnestness in reforming the condition of the troops, he shall be denounced in stringent terms to the Throne.—Rescript: It is noted.

(4) The Governor-General and Governor at Foochow memorialize reporting the selection of the present Prefect of Tingchow Fu, Yen K'iai 延楷 by name, a Manchu, aged 49, holding the *Kü-jên* degree, to succeed to the post of Prefect of Foochow. The usual declaration as to his character and antecedents is given.

Aug. 4th.—(1) A decree conferring appointments connected with the Hanlin College and the Court of Censors.

(2 and 3) Memorials from the Prince of Li and his colleagues of the Imperial Commission specially appointed for this purpose, submitting the result of their deliberations respecting the position to be assigned to the tablet of his late Majesty in the Imperial Ancestral Temple.

(4) A memorial from Chung P'ei-hien, Reader of the Grand Secretariat, separately submitting his views on the above subject.

(5) The high authorities at Foochow memorialize reporting that they have established a Charitable Commission for the distribution of relief to the sufferers by

the recent floods, at the head of which they have placed the Taotai Kung Yih-t'u, who is at present on leave at Foochow, his native place, from his proper post, Chefoo. He is a man of large capacity combined with prudence, active and enterprising in the conduct of affairs, not deterred by dread of incurring personal antipathies or inclined to shrink from business connected with naval administration (*i.e.*, on the new system.) An extension of his leave for two months is solicited, in order that the authorities may continue to enjoy the advantage of his active management of the Commission.—Granted by rescript.

5th Aug.—(1) A decree in reply to a memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang, who has reported the result of a trial instituted in the case of the ex-district Magistrate of Tun-hwang, accused of bringing false charges against his successor in office, in revenge for the latter's refusal to take over his accounts as they stood. The charges and countercharges have been enquired into, with the result of finding the successor in office, Tsiang Shun-tah, guilty of neglect to discover that excessive levies of taxation were carried on in his district, for which shortcoming he has been already stripped of his rank. The accuser, Sieh Yung-hün, who had misappropriated public funds, with design to commit embezzlement, and who subsequently was rash enough to present a complaint based upon an anonymous and consequently unlawful handbill, is dismissed from the public service for ever.

(2) A rescript confirming a number of military appointments submitted by the Board of War after passing the candidates in review. The list is headed by Colonel Shang Ch'ang-mow 尚昌懋, who has been breveted as a Manchu Brigade-General, and whose appointment as Colonel commandant of the Governor-General's brigade in Kwangtung is confirmed.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied by farther memorials relating to the enshrinement of the Imperial tablet, presented by the Vice-President Yüan Pao-hêng and the Commissioner of the Court of Transmission, Sih Chên.

Aug. 6th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reports that rain has fallen to the degree of entire saturation.—This refers to the 24 hours of rain experienced on the 4th inst.

The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with farther memorials on the question of the enshrinement of the Imperial tablet.

Aug. 7th and 8th.—The *Gazettes* for both days are entirely occupied with memorials

from various members of the Government departments at Peking, bringing to bear their respective stores of antiquarian erudition on the subject of the place to be assigned to the tablet of the late Emperor in the Imperial Ancestral Temple.

Aug. 9th.—(1) A decree commanding that selection be made from among the Prefects throughout the province of Sze-ch'wan to fill the post of Prefect of Ch'êng-tu Fu (the provincial centre); and nominating P'êng Ming-t'i to fill the vacancy that will be caused by the transfer.

No other documents of importance.

Aug. 10th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, newly appointed Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, who has denounced twelve department and district Magistrates for defalcation or misappropriation connected with public monies under their charge. As requested, all the officials incriminated are stripped of their rank, and are required to make restitution within two months, under penalty of being subjected to severe punishment.

(2) A decree based upon a farther memorial from the same authority, who has denounced a large number of department and district Magistrates for various forms of incompetency or flagitious conduct. Among these are an officer named Yao Wên-sün, who has served as acting Department Magistrate of Yeo-yang Chow, and who is impeached as "regardless of the people's affairs, and possessed of but mediocre ability." Another officer, Hwang Kia-hwên by name, who has been Magistrate of the same department, is characterized as guilty of "unauthorized exactions on his own behalf, and devoid of compassion for the people." All the incriminated functionaries, each characterized in the condemnatory "eight-word paragraphs" required by regulation in these cases, are stripped of their rank as requested.—N.B. Yeo-yang Chow is the department which was distinguished for a series of years as the scene of continual disturbances between the Roman Catholic proselytes and the non-Christian Chinese, and by the murder of several priests.

(3) A rescript to a memorial reporting the escape of two prisoners, named Chang Hao-i and Chan Lao-wu from the prison of the Judicial Commissioner of Sze-ch'wan. The jail warden is stripped of his rank and ordered to be placed on trial, and the most stringent measures taken to ascertain whether any guilty connivance has been indulged in by any of the clerks or warders. The two escaped prisoners are also to be apprehended without fail.

(4) A decree conferring rank as district Magistrates or as superintendents of instruction, respectively, upon the provincial graduates of the *pa kung shêng* and *yeo shêng* classes who have been presented in audience after passing examination at Peking.

Aug. 11th.—(1) A decree, referring to the representations lately received from the Censor T'êng Hwa-hi respecting the disasters caused by the recent floods in Kwang-tung,—and acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from Chang Chao-tung, Governor of the province, which has now come to hand, in which the damage caused by the bursting of the river embankments is described. The commands heretofore given for the relief of distress are repeated.

(2) A decree handing over to the Board of Punishments for trial, four robbers from an adjacent province whose capture in Peking has been reported by the police censors.

(3) The acting Governor of Shantung memorializes laying before the Throne a representation addressed to him by certain notables of the province, who came forward to eulogize the virtues of a former Lieutenant-Governor and acting Governor named Wu T'ing-tung, who endeared himself to the people in a lasting manner by his exertions in the public cause at the time of the diversion of the course of the Yellow River and subsequently. His admission to sacrificial honours is requested.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Ceremonies.

12th Aug.—(1) A Decree. The Groom of the Library (of the Supervisorate of Instruction), Wên Chung-han, memorializes Us stating that the scarcity caused by drought in the province of Shansi has reached an excessive degree, and he suggests that contributions be called for in aid of the distribution of relief. Let the Board of Revenue consider and report to Us.

(2) Li Hoh-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, memorializes reporting that the whole of the grain junks bound for the north had reached the Tai Miao sluice 戴廟閘 of the Grand Canal, there to await a sufficient rise in the water to enable them to cross the Yellow River. The squadron had reached the point above-named by the 25th June, and were consequently within ten *li* of the point at which the passage of the river is effected. As, however, the depth of water in the Yellow River was but little over one *ch'ih* at the time of the vessels' arrival, it was necessary to await a rise of the river before any further progress could be made.

Aug. 13th.—(1) A Decree. On receiving intelligence recently from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'uan with reference to the suffering caused by drought in the province of Shansi, We gave sanction by rescript to the appropriation of sums destined for transmission to Peking to purposes of relief, and We farther commanded that enquiry be instituted in the distressed districts to ascertain whether postponements or remissions of revenue were called for. We have now received a memorial from the Censor Hu P'ing-che to the following effect:—"It is reported that, at the prospect of reductions and remissions of taxation being granted, the magistrates of departments and districts in the province in question are hastening to enforce immediate collection of the revenue, with a view to falsely representing hereafter that the people are in arrears and converting to their own use the amounts obtained. When distributions of grain take place, it has further to be stated, the clerks and underlings take advantage of the opportunity to levy exactions, demanding future repayments at the rate of cent per cent. The famine sufferers are consequently deterred from venturing to apply for relief, and cases actually happen in which payments in money are offered to exempt individuals from receiving their quota of relief. As I am now informed, this abuse is practised also in the provinces of Honan and Shantung." The territorial authorities are in duty bound to use their utmost endeavours to cause Our bounty to reach the sufferers whom it is intended to relieve; and it is indeed most scandalous if conduct such as is represented in the memorial now before Us is indulged in. We command the Governors-General and Governors concerned to make active enquiries into the circumstances. Let them feel bound to punish most severely any officials or employes who are insensible to the sufferings of the people, and who avail themselves of one pretext or another to commit abuses, to the end that a warning be given against rapacity and corruption, and the interests of the people be cared for.

(2) A Decree. Ting Jih-ch'ang has memorialized Us soliciting leave of absence to enable him to return to his native place for the care of his health, his complaint having again assumed an aggravated character. We grant him three months' congé for this purpose. Let Pao Hêng 葆亨 (the Lieutenant-Governor) act in his stead as Governor of Fukkien.

(3) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor Hu P'ing-che, who has represented

that the heads of the principal departments of government have failed, of late, to exercise any discrimination in the appointment of Secretaries to permanent posts after serving their terms of probation. In lieu of doing their duty in this respect, it is stated, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents are accustomed to institute merely the formal examination prescribed by law, without exercising in a single instance their powers of rejection for inefficiency. It follows, consequently, that men of bad character succeed in introducing themselves among the official ranks. It is commanded hereupon, in view of the importance of the interests involved, and with special reference to the Hanlin College and the Court of Censors, that a severe discrimination be henceforward exercised by the heads of departments, in order to secure a proper class of functionaries. The Hanlin College in particular is required, the time being now at hand when it should submit for approbation a list of proposals for the office of Censor, to make its selection as justice demands, choosing none but individuals of upright, spotless, and judicious character.

(4) The Censor Shên Hung memorializes dwelling upon the calamitous visitations in the shape of drought, floods, tempestuous weather, and plagues of locusts, with which divers provinces have of late been afflicted; and urges that the servants of the State throughout the Empire be called upon to pay a more earnest regard to morality, and to aim at an effectual discharge of their duty in matters relating to the instruction of the people and the provision of their means of sustenance, as also in the administration of the criminal law.—For rescript summarizing this memorial, and issuing injunctions as solicited, see *Gazette* of 1st inst.

(5) The Court of Censors memorialize forwarding an appeal lodged by Hu Tso-hwai, a native of the province of Hupeh, aged 27, who makes the following statement:—"My father, Hu She-li 胡士禮, whilst engaged in trade at Yang-chow, was assassinated in May 1875 by Chan K'i-lun 詹啟綸, who was condemned for this crime to suffer death by strangulation after the period of revision, and this sentence was confirmed by rescript. I removed my father's remains, in contentment with this sentence, for interment at our family home; but a relative of Chan K'i-lun's, named Wu Tung-shan, an officer commanding in a battalion of Hunan irregulars, incited a kinsman named Chan Hwan-chang to proceed to Peking for the purpose of intriguing with the aid of T'ien Ming-king, the Hunan

provincial postal agent stationed at Peking, and certain titular officials, to contrive a means of escaping the infliction of the penalty upon Chan K'i-lun. At this moment, opportunely, the Censor T'êng K'ing-lin presented a memorial bringing to light the enactment that military officers convicted of crime are entitled to allege [circumstances such as the death of relatives in action] in their favour; and on the 13th March last, T'ien Ming-king and his associates went with a copy of the memorial to Chan K'i-lun's house to demand a sum of money. I have farther learnt that Chan Hwan-chang handed in last winter a fictitious statement to the Board of Punishments, declaring that a member of the condemned man's family had been killed in action; whilst a brother of Wu Tung-shan's, named Wu Hi-che, had been instructed to lodge a similar statement at the district magistracy of Hwang-ngan in Hunan, Chan K'i-lun's native place.—The complainant goes on to recount his interviews with the confederates, whom he tracked to Peking, and to asseverate that no such person ever existed as the relative of Chan K'i-lun's who is said to have fallen in the service of the state. The Court of Censors submit his appeal as one which calls for thorough investigation, and add a statement to the effect that Wu Hi-che and Chan Hwan-chang, for whose detention orders had been issued, are reported by the police magistracy of the district to have absconded to Tientsin. It is solicited that commands be sent to the local authorities to effect their apprehension.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 2nd inst.

(6) The acting Governor of Shantung memorializes reporting that Hwang Ta-hoh

黃大鶴, Prefect of Yih-chow Fu, has been selected to fill the vacancy of Prefect of Tsi-nan Fu, within which the provincial capital is situated, *vice* Yü Shan, promoted to an Intendantship of Circuit. The usual detailed history of Hwang Ta-hoh's official antecedents is appended, with the request that a trifling lack of fulfilment of official requirements, as to completed periods of service in other posts, may be overlooked. According to the decree received (see *Gazette* of 6th June), the vacancy caused by his transfer will be filled by the officer named Ngén Sih.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report to Us.

Aug. 14th.—(1 and 2.) Decrees in answer to memorials from the Military Lieutenant-Governor of Jeh-ho, with reference to sundry civil appointments under his control.

(3) A Decree. Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan has memorialized Us stating that the distress occasioned by the drought in Shansi has reached excessive proportions, and requesting that contributions toward the supply of funds for relief may be raised (by the sale of titles, etc.) in conformity with the precedent in the case of the Tientsin [floods.] Let the Board of Revenue take this memorial into consideration at the same time with the proposal submitted by Wên Chung-han (see *Gazette* of 12th inst.)

(4) A decree based upon a memorial from the Captain General King Show and his colleagues, reporting a disturbance which had occurred within the Southern Hunting Park (*Nan Yüan*). On the 10th inst. it appears a mob of some 30 or 40 of the villagers dwelling within the Hunting Park, headed by one Ho Lung-urh, with arms in their hands, had presented themselves in a tumultuous manner at the gate of the Chên Kwoh temple; and on a party of soldiers being led to the spot by the adjutant on duty, the mob headed by Ho Lung-urh had the audacity to attack them, wounding two of their number. Conduct so lawless as this passes all bounds; and the office of Gendarmerie is commanded to apprehend the whole of the party of villagers, without fail, and to bring them to justice. The proper authorities are at the same time commanded to exercise a watchful care for the future over the conduct of the soldiery quartered in the Hunting Park, and to punish severely any wilful acts of neglect on their part.

(5) A Decree of the Empresses Dowager, referring to the various memorials that have been received on the subject of the enshrinement of the tablets of the late Emperor and Empress in the temple of Ancestry. In addition to the commands laid upon the commission headed by the Prince of Tun to take these memorials into further consideration, the Grand Secretary Li Hung-chang was farther called upon for a statement of his views. He has lately memorialized giving it as his opinion that systematic rules should be adopted as the times may render desirable, and advocating the enlargement of the tablet-shrine. The Prince of Tun and his colleagues, on the other hand, have this day memorialized requesting that the decision heretofore submitted be acted upon. It is commanded, hereupon, that the course of proceeding recommended by the Prince of Tun and his colleagues be carried into effect, the tablet-shrine being repaired and redecorated in conformity with a precedent set in the first year of the reign Tao-kwang (1821.)

(6) Ku-ni-yin-pu, acting Military Governor of Kirin, memorializes submitting a list of recommendations of the officials who have distinguished themselves in the operations undertaken against the lawless gold-hunters. Apart from those who have been killed in actual fight or beheaded when taken prisoners, upwards of 600 have been put to death after undergoing judicial trial. A list of 34 civil and military officials is submitted, in addition to those upon whom the Military Governor has of his own authority conferred buttons of the 5th, 6th, or 7th rank.—The recommendations sanctioned by rescript.

Aug 15th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ts'eng Kwoh-ts'ian, Governor of Shansi, who has represented that large deficiencies have been found in the amounts of revenue for the collection of which a sub-Prefect, now deceased, was responsible. It is requested that his property be attached to make good the amounts owing. The Lieutenant-General of the Banner to which deceased (a Manchu) belonged is directed to take the necessary steps accordingly. The attention of the Governor is drawn to discrepancies of statements occurring in his memorial.

(2) A Decree. For the 20th inst., attendance on duty in the Palace is remitted.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes at great length with reference to certain allegations submitted to him for enquiry respecting a tract of land in the department of Pa Chow, the produce of which was appropriated by an arrangement made about a century and a half ago, toward the supply of rations for the guards of the Western Imperial Mausolea. The Superintendents had memorialized, on the strength of a petition lodged with them by sundry individuals named, complaining of long-standing malpractices on the part of the Pa Chow Magistracy, which they represented was in the habit of withholding the grain supply due from the land in question under pretext of its having been laid waste by incursions of the river—whereas, according to the statement made, a subsequent change in the course of the river, which had at one time invaded the tract, had again restored it to productiveness. The result of the enquiry goes to shew that the tract of land in question originally measured 5,767 *mow*, lying in proximity to seven villages of the Pa Chow department, with respect to which it was arranged in A.D. 1733 that it should be leased to cultivators on the *métayer* system, the farmer retaining

6/10 of the produce and delivering 4/10 to government, through a special officer appointed to manage the matter. The rice, after being husked, was to be forwarded to the granary at Yih Chow, for issue to the troops of the Mausoleum guards. In 1831, the administration of the lands was placed, in obedience to a decree, in the hands of the Magistrate of the Department; and the complaints that have now been brought forward are declared to be groundless; it being shewn that the produce of the land, so far as any has been obtained, has been remitted to the proper quarter, although not distinguished from the bulk of other grain appertaining to the southern rice-tribute, which was sent forward by the same authority. The petitioners are declared to have come forward with the design of supplanting the present lessees of the land; and orders have been given for their apprehension.

Aug. 16th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Jui Lien, Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, who has reported that in consequence of a heavy rainstorm which broke over Chang-kia K'ow (Kalgan) on the 6th inst., the waters of a mountain torrent broke through the dam which had only recently been constructed for the protection of the Military cantonment, and swept away upwards of two hundred of the soldiers' dwellings, causing besides some loss of life. Great regret is expressed on the receipt of this intelligence, and injunctions are laid upon the Lieutenant-Governor to afford all the relief that may be required. The Governor-General of Chihli is commanded to cause surveys to be held with a view to the necessary repairs.

(2) Li Hoh-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, memorializes reporting upon the condition of the embankments at the approach of the season when the autumn freshets are to be looked for. At this period, he observes, more than ordinary vigilance is necessary, to guard against injury to the embankments owing to a sudden rise in the river. Since last Spring the rainfall has been so scanty that the water has been unusually low, and the absence of a strong current has allowed banks to form in the actual channel, the course of the river becoming in consequence deflected into different channels approaching both the northern and the southern bank, through which means the protecting embankments have become subjected to danger through undermining. Active measures have been adopted to guard against the danger threatened by this cause.

Aug. 17th.—Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes stating

that he has received a report from the Superintendent of Customs at Newchwang on the amounts collected by him during the year ending March 11th, 1877. The "fixed amount" and "supplementary amount" of duties for the annual collection of which his office is responsible have been got in to their full extent, but the "extra supplementary" collection, which is fixed by regulation at Taels 80,000, is represented only by Taels 63,175 actually collected. The deficiency is explained by the encroachment of shipments by steamer, on native account, which come within the scope of the foreign collectorate, upon the ground properly belonging to the administration of the native Custom House. For instance, during the previous twelvemonth, the amount of duties collected by the foreign branch of the Customs was Tls. 239,000 and odd, which includes Tls. 180,000 and odd paid by Chinese shippers in foreign bottoms. According to the tariff of the Board of Revenue, they would have been required to pay duty amounting to Tls. 118,000 (which would have gone to the credit of the native Custom House.) During the past twelvemonth, the total amount collected as above was Tls. 257,000 and odd, including Tls. 176,000 contributed by Chinese shippers. The disturbance in the revenue system which is thus caused is pleaded in excuse of the shortcoming in the older branch of the collectorate; and it is solicited that the deficiency of Tls. 16,824 in the "extra supplementary" amount, caused by the encroachment of the "foreign" on the "native" Custom House, may be made good in conformity with previous precedent by a transfer from the account of the foreign branch.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report to Us. (See *Gazette* of September 13th, 1876.)

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

Aug. 18th.—(1) A Decree. Let Ming Hün 明勳 go to be superintendent of the Manufactory at Nanking.

(2 and 3.) Decrees in answer to memorials from the two Superintendents of the livestock and house-property duty at Peking. Both report that the standard annual amount has been collected in full, but that the "supplementary amount" falls short of the prescribed total. The Board of Revenue is ordered to consider and report hereupon.

(4) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, &c., memorializes upon the misconduct of a military officer named Sü

Wan-fuh, a Colonel and brevet Brigade-General by rank, and distinguished with the order of Bat'uru, having the honorific epithet Yechink'en prefixed. He was sent last year to Barkul to undertake the charge of guarding the road by which supplies are forwarded for the army; but during all the months that have elapsed since he took up his command he has not apprehended a single robber. On the other hand he has petitioned stating that there are no traces of lurking banditti, and that the road is perfectly secure, and requesting to be allowed to proceed with his force to the front to share in the operations against the enemy. The memorialist rejected this request, rebuking him for an application which savours of the offence of recklessly advancing in disobedience of orders; and but a few days elapsed when forays were made at different points along the road by the lurking banditti, causing havoc among the traders and threatening an interruption of the communications. A force of cavalry and infantry which was despatched to the spot has now averted this source of danger; but the memorialist feels bound to take notice of the presumptuous and selfwilled conduct lately manifested by the officer in question, notwithstanding his past services and the reputation he has acquired through his bravery. It is requested that he be deprived of the honorific epithet accompanying his title of the order of Bat'uru, and that he be degraded to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.—Sanctioned by rescript.

Aug. 19th.—Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, &c., memorializes forwarding the statement presented to him by the Brigade-General of Ho Chow, Shên Yüh-sui, who reports the rebuilding of the walls of that city under his auspices. The ancient fortifications, he represents, were half destroyed when the place fell into the hands of the insurgents, and although since the recovery of the place the battlements had been restored by the garrison, yet as the materials used were only mud-bricks, they have been reduced to a ruinous condition by the effects of weather. The walls have now been completely rebuilt with baked bricks, the cost of which undertaking it was intended to defray by a grant from the local *lekin* revenue. The Brigade-General reports, however, that the funds of the *lekin* collectorate are insufficient to meet this demand upon them, and he requests permission to have the amount that has been expended for materials, without taking into account the labour of the soldiery, to wit, the sum

of Tls. 1,117, considered as a contribution from his own salary toward the public service. He has done no more than is his duty, as commanding in this locality, in meeting the present requirement, and he would not for a moment think of looking for any personal reward; but he asks that the services which have been rendered by the officers and men under his command may be recognized, by permission being given to submit the names of the most deserving among them for marks of the Imperial approbation.—Granted by rescript.

Aug. 20th—(1 and 2) Decrees permitting Ngêh-lêh-ho-pu, Military-Governor of Uliastai, to resign his office on account of continued ill-health, and appointing Hêng Hün 恒訓 as his successor. Ngêh-lêh-ho-pu is to continue in office until his successor arrives to relieve him.

(3 and 4) Memorials by Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, denouncing a long list of district officials for defalcations and sundry forms of misconduct. A list has been submitted to the Governor-General by the Provincial Treasurer, of the officials who have been guilty of malversations of the *tsin-t'ieh* funds, or additional percentage-tax levied in addition to the land tax in aid of the expenses of administration. This list is forwarded with the request that the individuals named may be stripped of their rank and held bound to make restitution within the period of two months.—For rescripts see *Gazette* of 10th inst.

(5) In a postscript memorial the same authority reports the outline of a case affecting the headship of the tribe of aborigines constituting the *t'u sze* of 穆坪 Mu-p'ing. A petition had been lodged in the time of the Governor-General's predecessor by a girl named Késung. Tsang Wang-chuna, daughter of Ta Kien Pao 大堅包, the late chief's principal wife, who complained stating that her father had died some years ago, leaving a son of tender age by his secondary wife, Siao Kien Pao 小堅包, and that, as the son was too young to succeed to the chieftainship, the government of the tribe and the seal of office were placed in the hands of Ta Kien Pao as administratrix. Report to this effect was communicated at the time to the Board at Peking by the authorities. In April, 1875, Siao Kien Pao, after vainly endeavouring to induce complainant's mother to affix her seal to an application that the boy be allowed to succeed to his inheritance, administered a fatal dose of poison to her

on the night of April 17th, and employed a man of the tribe to break open the seal casket and run off with the seal. Petitioner having complained to the local authorities, an inquest was ordered to be held on her mother's remains, and the coffin containing them was removed to the District city; but, decomposition having set in, examination of the corpse was impracticable. The examiner removed however some teeth and finger-nails from the body; but petitioner cannot say what has become of them. The parties having all been summoned to the provincial capital and lodged in custody, repeated trials have been held, the accused woman persisting, however, in affirming her innocence, and although torture has been resorted to by way of intimidation, accuser and accused alike adhere firmly to their respective statements. They have both signed an application that the coffin be opened for examination; and orders have been given to this effect.

(6) The same authority reports that the Prefect of Ch'êng-tu, Li Têh-liang, has purchased advancement to the rank of Taotai by contributing to the Kwei-chow Sale of Titles Office, and as he has requested permission to leave his post, the Prefect of Ya-chow Fu is selected as a fit person to become acting incumbent pending the receipt of Imperial commands with regard to the appointment of a successor.—For rescript see *Gazette* of the 9th instant.

Aug. 21st.—(1) A decree appointing Sêlêngé as Manchu Brigade-General at Ch'êng-tu Fu (Sze-ch'wan), and T'ung Ki as his successor in the Brigade-Generalship of Hing King (in Manchuria.)

(2) The Governor of Kwangtung memorializes reporting the condition of affairs in the province for the fourth moon (May-June), as regards rainfall, the crops, the prices of grain, and the bursting of embankments in various districts. He had previously reported to the like effect up to the end of the third moon. He is able to afford relief to the Imperial anxiety by the assurance that notwithstanding the excessive rains experienced in May, the crops generally are now in a promising state of forwardness, prices have not increased above the rates of the previous month, and the people are tranquil and contented. He has, however, to report the bursting of several of the river embankments during the month of May, by which large tracts of country became inundated, with great consequent destruction of property in the districts north and west of Canton and in the immediate neighbourhood of the city itself. By the

inroad of water from the North River, owing to the bursting of the Shek Kok embankment, the suburbs of Canton were flooded to a depth of several feet. Officers of the rank of expectant district Magistrate have now been sent to the various districts affected in this manner, to coöperate with the local notables and officials in surveying the amount of damage done and devising means for the repair of the embankments.

(3) The Governor-General of the two Kwang and the Governor of Kwangtung jointly memorialize reporting that a House of Detention for witnesses and complainants, whilst awaiting proceedings in appeal cases, was established at Canton in 1872 by the then Prefect and Judicial Commissioner, and that the principle upon which this institution is conducted is in accord with that which has been lately prescribed on the solicitation of the Governor of Kweichow. (See *Gazette* of April 6th, 1876, and March 29th and April 1st, 1877.)

Aug. 22nd—No documents of importance.

Aug. 23rd—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., who has accused the Provincial Treasurer of Shansi, Lin Show-t'u, of resorting to trickery in connection with the despatch of funds from that province for the military chest of the campaign on the western frontier. Since his entry upon his office, it is alleged, he has acted upon the rule laid down in 1867, that a sum of Taels 20,000 per mensem should be remitted to Tso Tsung-t'ang's army, ignoring the orders given in 1869, by which the monthly subsidy was raised to Taels 50,000. It is solicited that the Board of Revenue be commanded to enquire into the antecedents of the case, and to submit a penalty to be inflicted upon the official in question. The Board is directed to enquire and report accordingly.

(2) Wên Chung-han, a dignitary of the Supervisorate of Instruction, memorializes representing the distress which prevails in the province of Shansi in consequence of the drought of the past twelvemonths. As a native of the province, he receives intelligence relating to its condition which he feels bound to dilate upon; and he proceeds to draw the same picture of overwhelming distress from famine which has already been put forward by other memorialists. Up to the middle of July, he has learnt, no rain had fallen, and the crops had for the most part withered away, all prospect of a harvest being consequently postponed until next year. In addition to the misery and loss of life which is to be deplored, the

likelihood of disturbances being caused by the machinations of designing villains is farther touched upon. The memorialist suggests, as a means of providing funds to meet the emergency, to which the local supplies of grain and the Taels 200,000 allotted by Government must prove inadequate, that the sale of rank and office be resorted to as a temporary measure. He would have substantive rank offered for purchase at a slight reduction as compared with the existing offices in connection with the provinces of Kansuh and Kweichow, in order to attract contributors. The operations of the office might be limited to the spring of next year, when the early wheat crops may be looked for.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 14th inst.

(3) The Governor-General and Governor of Kwangtung memorialize reporting the introduction of steam-launches for police purposes on the rivers of the province. Some years ago, they premise by stating, the late Governor-General Jui Lien and the late Governor Tsiang Yih-li obtained seven steam gunboats by purchase from the British and French, which were severally commissioned to act as cruisers. As it was found that the cost of munitions of war, which it was necessary to import from abroad, was considerable, and as moreover when repairs were required to the machinery of the vessels much complication was entailed by the necessity of sending them to Hongkong for this purpose, a machine shop and arsenal was set on foot at Canton, which was placed under the direction of certain titular officials residing there. The first undertaking which the establishment in question was called upon to produce was a couple of steam-vessels for inland navigation, as was reported at the time to the Throne by the late Governor-General. The three great rivers of the province, entitled respectively the North, East, and West Rivers, from the directions from which they flow, require a large number of police-cruisers for the repression of brigandage and the protection of traffic; and as the older class of vessel cannot compete with steamers in respect of speed, fourteen additional steam cruisers have been ordered to be built at the Government works above-mentioned, making with the two previously constructed 16 in all. The total cost has been Taels 96,860; and the monthly expenditure for wages and sundries amounts to Tls. 4,148. Inspection has been held of the vessels in question after their completion, and they are found to be solidly built, of good material, and with satisfactory qualities of speed. They

have been distributed for service on the three principal rivers. The vessels themselves are built on the foreign model, and, as their engines and equipments are all necessarily obtained from abroad, the cost has been of a nature unprovided for in the existing precedents. It can only be stated that all the money has been honestly expended and that no surcharges of a dishonest nature have been made. The expenditure has been defrayed, in conformity with the rule established in cases heretofore reported to the Throne, from the opium-*tekin* revenue. A statement of the outlay in detail is forward to the Boards.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned take note.

Aug. 24th.—(Court Circular). Tsêng Ki-tshê paid his respects on the expiry of his mourning—for his deceased father Tsêng Kwoh-fan, and his mother—and had audience.—Kwang K'o, Manchu General-in-chief of Si-ngan, had audience on his departure for his post.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Shên Pao-chêng, Governor General of the Two Kiang, who has dwelt upon the abuses and inefficiency with which the administration of the Salt supply of the Hwai Peh division is chargeable, and has solicited that a penalty be imposed upon himself in this connection. In reply, the officials in charge of the various offices connected with this department are called upon to exert themselves to secure the proper disposal of the quantities of salt allotted by regulation to the year's delivery, and their impeachment in case of continued inactivity is sanctioned. Shên Pao-chêng's request for the infliction of a penalty upon himself is dismissed.

(2) A decree in reply to a memorial from Shên Pao-chêng and the Governor of Kiangsu, who have solicited a remission of the grain-tax on behalf of certain of the districts near Nanking, on the score of their prostrate condition and their recent sufferings from locusts and drought. A remission of three-tenths of the grain-tax is conceded in favour of five districts, and the decree to this effect is ordered to be publicly placarded, the proper steps being at the same time commanded to be taken in order to ensure this manifestation of bounty being enjoyed in due measure, and official underlings restrained from acts of abuse.

(3) A decree granting two months' congé to the junior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, Wêng T'ung-ho (one of the two Imperial preceptors,) to enable him to attend to the family burying-ground.

(4) A Decree. In the postscript memorial presented to us this day by the Censor Liu Ngên-p'u, a character is wrongly placed in the way of elevation. Let the Board decide upon the penalty to which he should be subjected.

(5) A decree conferring the appointment of Colonel (*tai-pêng*) upon one of two Tibetan officers whose names have been submitted for choice, on a vacancy occurring, by the Resident at Lassa.

(6) Ming Ngan, newly-appointed Military Governor of Kirin, memorializes reporting his having taken over the seal of office on the 11th July. In the customary summary of his antecedents he describes himself as a Manchu, the hereditary bondsman of his sovereign, of the most inferior order of intelligence—who, having taken the degree of *tsin-she* in 1856, and passed through sundry stages of the Hanlin College, was appointed in 1871 to the office of Vice-President of the Board of Punishments at Moukden. On being now advanced to the post of Military Governor of Kirin he feels himself overwhelmed with a sense of his own deficiencies, but he will use every exertion to discharge his duty with energy and probity, taking counsel in all matters with the Acting Military-Governor at Moukden, Ch'ung How, &c., &c.

(7) Ming Ch'un and Têk'êkina, Imperial Agent and Assistant Agent at Hami, jointly memorialize reporting the receipt of a communication from General Chang-yao, forwarding to their care some 2,000 and odd Dungani Mussulman prisoners of both sexes who were taken at Turfan, and whose story, that they were carried away by force from their homes in the neighbourhood of Hami, is found on enquiry to be correct. The Mussulman tribal prince, Mai-ha-mê-t'ê (Mahammed), has been called upon to place these people under the charge of nobles or begs, with a view to their being properly controlled; and, as they are in a lamentable state of destitution, the memorialists, although themselves not knowing which way to turn for means, have done what they can to supply them with rations, in order that they may not remain utterly unprovided for. In reply to interrogations as to what has become of the Princess Pésir, they state that, according to the reports they had heard, she had been carried away forcibly by the Kokandi barbarians (the Kashgarians under Yakub Khan), and placed somewhere in the neighbourhood of Bukur. The memorialists have given orders to Mahammed to send trusty headmen to the front to obtain intelligence respecting

her; and so soon as authentic news shall have been received, measures shall be devised to bring her back to Hami.

(8) In a postscript memorial the same officials submit a representation laid before them by Mahommed, ruling prince of the Mussulman tribe of Hami, to the following effect:—"His first wife (*fu-tsin*, Princess Consort), Han-man-rh-ba-nu, having been made prisoner in 1873 by the Shensi Mussulmans, and subjected to insult and violence, was driven out of her senses, and died after reaching Hami, leaving him without any one to assist him in the affairs of his household. Owing to the roads without being blockaded he was unable to secure another alliance, and had no resource, therefore, but to take to wife Monukér, daughter of one of the officers of his household, and granddaughter of the late Beg of T'usalahchi. In consequence of the state of warfare which was then at its height, he did not venture to submit the report to this effect; but he is now encouraged to submit an application to be allowed to share in the privileges which have repeatedly been conferred by Decree of late years upon the *fu-tsin* (recognized princesses) of the Mussulman tribes. As however [his marriage with] Monukér, his present wife, has not been reported to the Mongolian Superintendency, she is not admitted to a share of the Imperial bounty, and he entreats therefore that an application may be submitted on his behalf for her being invested with the title of *fu-tsin*." The memorialists add that Mahommed is in a very infirm state of health, and unable to attend to the conduct of business. The former Agent at Hami obtained Imperial sanction to his request that the princess Pésir, Mairibanu by name, should assist in the conduct of affairs relating to the purchase of supplies and operations of an offensive and defensive nature, which she did for a number of years without detriment to the public service. Since she was carried off southwards as a prisoner in the hands of Bayan Hu, the leader of the Shensi insurgents, the Mussulman affairs have lacked headship; and the memorialists support the request for the recognition of Monukér as princess, on the ground that this will supply the tribal sovereign with the domestic assistance he is in need of.—Sanctioned by rescript.

Aug. 25th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Governor of Honan, who has represented the necessity of providing means for the subsistence of the people owing to the drought with which the

province has been afflicted. He solicits permission to retain, for the purpose of purchasing grain for distribution, the sum of Taels 100,000 pertaining to the provincial subsidy destined for transmission to Peking, together with a balance of Taels 47,900 remaining over from the grain-commutation tax account for 1875. It is observed, in reply to this application, that the funds destined for the supply of means for the metropolitan expenditure, and the grain tax, are, properly speaking, items of revenue of such importance as to forbid propositions for their retention in a provincial exchequer; but in view of the distressed condition of the province, as represented in the Governor's memorial, he is permitted to appropriate the amounts in question for the purpose of laying in stocks of grain. The amounts are to be made good hereafter at a suitable opportunity.

(2) The Censor Hu P'ing-che memorializes representing that through the neglect of duty evinced by the heads of government departments at Peking, persons of unfit character are allowed to enter upon posts as Secretaries to the various Boards, from which they would be debarred if the principle of examination and selection were duly acted upon. He solicits that commands be issued requiring a strict compliance with the regulation in this respect.—For rescript see *Gazette* of the 13th inst.

(3) The same Censor draws attention in a postscript memorial to the abuses perpetrated by officials and their underlings in the districts afflicted by famine. When the bounty of the Sacred Ruler has been vouchsafed, he represents, in remissions of taxation, the Magistrates of departments and districts hasten to forestall the collection, with the view of appropriating to their own use the amounts gathered in under cover of statements declaring the people to have been in arrear as regards payment. In distributing the grain allotted for relief, moreover, the clerks and underlings of the Magistracies are wont to turn their opportunity to account for purposes of extortion, even going the length of giving notice that repayment at the rate of cent. per cent. will be required. As a consequence of this, the sufferers from famine are deterred from accepting the proffered relief, and, horrifying to relate, in some cases even offer money payments to secure exemption from its bestowal. From the malpractices now exposed, neither Honan nor Shantung can be said to be free. The Censor entreats that commands be issued to the Governors of all the

provinces concerned, requiring them to institute an active supervision over the conduct of their subordinates.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 13th inst.

(4) The Governor of Kwangsi memorializes stating that a petition had been lodged with him by a deputation of persons belonging to one of the aboriginal races (the Yao), who represent that for many years past, as denizens of the Kwan-yang district in the Kwei-lin Prefecture, they have been occupied as tillers of the soil, paying taxes to the Imperial authorities, and that their numbers having increased and habits of study having taken root among them, they are desirous of being admitted to the privileges of the official examination system in conformity with a precedent established on behalf of the Yao tribe in the Hing-ngan district. The Governor has to state, hereupon, that the number of adult males of the Yao aborigines within the Kwan-yang district is reported to him by the Magistrate as something over 1,000. The tendency to adopt habits of study is traced to the more frequent intercourse with the authorities which was brought about by the rebellion, when the Yao cultivators were called upon to organise themselves on the footing of trainbands; and the attractions of civilization and culture have prevailed over their original wild and unlettered disposition. The Governor recommends that, in conformity with precedents set in similar cases in the reigns of Tao Kwang and Hien Fêng, degrees at the primary examinations shall be added in favour of the Yao tribe in question, in the ratio of one degree for the candidates coming forward if upwards of ten in number, and two degrees if the number of candidates exceeds twenty, this last to be the limit of the degrees accessible.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Ceremonies.

Aug. 26th.—A decree. Let Tsêng Ki-tsêh 曾紀澤 by special grace become expectant of appointment to office as a sub-Director of one of the minor metropolitan offices, with rank of the fourth or fifth degree. (N.B.—Tsêng Ki-tsêh is the eldest son of the late Tsêng Kwoh-fan—See *Gazette* of July 21st.)

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is principally occupied with memorials relating to the enshrinement of the Imperial tablet.—See *Gazette* of 14th inst.)

Aug. 27th.—(1) Liu Ch'ang-yeo, Governor-General of Yunnan, etc., memorializes representing in urgent terms the failing condition of his health, notwith-

standing the congé of two months for which he asked sanction in a memorial despatched by him on the 18th June last. He sets forth in detail the symptoms of weakness, approaching to paralysis, with which he is oppressed, and beseeches leave to vacate his office and return to his native place for the care of his health, leaving the post he occupies to be filled by a speedy appointment at the Sovereign's pleasure.—Rescript: We grant three months' congé to Liu Ch'ang-yeo. He need not vacate his office.

(2) The Controllers of the Imperial Parks and Pleasure Grounds memorialize reporting the particulars of a disturbance caused by a mob of villagers outside the Nan Yüan Hunting Park, lying to the south of Peking. Headed by one Ho Lung-urh, some 30 or 40 of the villagers had assembled, armed with swords, spears, and staves, at the gateway of one of the Temples belonging to the park, loudly declaring that they intended to have revenge about the case of a man named Chao Ta, who had lately been apprehended for cutting down wood in the Imperial avenue. The Secretary in charge of the temple went with a party of soldiers to disperse the mob, who, however, attacked the soldiers and wounded two of them, after which they took to flight. The names of several of the rioters are given, and it is solicited that commands be issued for their apprehension.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 27th inst.

Aug. 28th.—(Court Circular.) Wên Kêh, newly-appointed Governor of Shantung, had audience of leave.

(1) A decree handing over to the Board of Civil Office, for the imposition of a penalty, one of the Police Magistrates of Peking, who has been accused by the Censors of the East division of the city for neglect to compel the attendance of an accused person before a commission of enquiry.

(2) A Decree. Let the two newly graduated *tsin she*, who were this day presented in audience to make good a previous non-attendance, be handed over to the Board of Civil Office to draw lots for appointment to a provincial staff and to receive employment forthwith as District Magistrates.

(3) The Governor of Ngan-hwei memorializes submitting the result of an appeal case, the complainant in which was forwarded in custody to the province last October, after lodging his appeal at Peking. The subject of the complaint was an alleged act of violence committed by one Chao Tsung-wu; but complainant is proved by sundry records,

including the confession of an insurgent subsequently executed, to have been implicated in seditious movements, to escape punishment for which he had taken to flight, eventually lodging his complaint at Peking as a device to frustrate the ends of justice. His allegations being disproved, he is sentenced to suffer death under the statute which provides this penalty in the case of all, whether principals or accessories, who are guilty of the crime of inciting to rebellion. By the same statute, it is provided that the wives and daughters of all such criminals shall be given as slaves to the officers or men of one or other of the provincial Manchu garrisons. In the present instance, the wife of the guilty person is stated to have left him some time ago, and her whereabouts are unknown, but the District Magistrate has been directed to cause search to be made for her.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Punishment.

Aug. 29th.—(Court Circular.) Audience was given, among others, to Ho Ju-chang and Chang Sze-kwei. N.B.—These are the two envoys to Japan, who are about to proceed to their post. The official *Gazette* makes no mention of this fact, but the record copied in the M.S. *Gazette* of this date states that:—"Ho Ju-chang and Chang Sze-kwei reported themselves for instructions on proceeding to travel abroad
遊國請訓."

(1) A Decree. We have received the memorial of the Mongolian Superintendency, reporting, in obedience to Our commands, upon the reëmbodiment of the Nomên 'Han, and the request that he be received back into Tibet. In this matter of the Galdan Silêt'u Samadi Bakhshi Erdemêngêh Nomên 'Han, personally named Awang Chamubalch'ulch'imu, who committed a crime of the most serious magnitude during the reign Tao Kwang (about A.D. 1845), decrees were successively issued depriving him of his rank and titles, withdrawing from him his Imperial commission, stripping him of his ecclesiastical robes, and relegating him to banishment. After his release from custody he was forbidden to return to Tibet; and he was one of those in whose case the privilege of successive births into the world is withdrawn for ever. The request which has been forwarded by Sung Kwei (Imperial Resident at Lassa), that the child belonging to the department of T'ao Chow, Awang Chiamubalch'uch'êngchiats'o by name, be brought to Tibet as the reëmbodiment of the ex-Nomên 'Han, once more reborn

into the world, is not to be admitted. The name set forth in his memorial differs slightly from that appearing in past records. Let him enquire into this and take the necessary steps. (See *Gazette* of July 25th.)

(2 and 3) Memorials from the Superintendents of the Live-stock and House-property duties for the two divisions (east and west) of Peking, for the twelvemonths ending the 22nd July last. The amounts they have respectively to account for are as follows:—

Duties on Live-stock :	1 Tls.	17,821.5
" " "	2 "	17,282.7
" " House property	1 "	3,254.6
" " "	2 "	2,097.8

Each of the Superintendents has to ask indulgence for a shortcoming under the head of the "supplementary" revenue collection amount, in the one case to the extent of Taels 16,331, and in the other to that of Tls. 6,115. The reasons assigned for the falling off in the amount of revenue, according to the fixed estimates, are given in the same terms as last year, viz., the high price of silver, the prohibition against the sale of horses at Peking, etc. (See *Gazettes* of Sept. 4th and 18th, 1876.)

(4) Liu Ch'ang-yeo, Governor-General of Yünnan, etc., memorializes on behalf of the late acting General-in-chief of Yünnan, Yang Yü-k'o, who has laid the following statement before him:—My original home of registry is the department of Tsing-chow in Hunan, but my grandfather having settled in Yünnan, our abode was taken up in the district of Li Kiang. When the Mahommedan rebels rose in the reign of Hien Fêng, I broke up my home in order to be free from anxiety, and raised a body of braves to combat the insurgents. Having spent upwards of twenty years in warfare in Yünnan and Kweichow, and having taken ten or more fortresses from the enemy, I have been honoured, time and again, with the Sacred bounty, and raised to occupy my present rank. The entire province of Yünnan being now restored to peace, and having for some time past laid down my acting appointment, it is incumbent upon me to lose no time in reporting my return to my home, prostrate to await there farther employment at His Majesty's pleasure. I beg leave to submit that my original ancestral home, Tsing Chow, has been laid waste, time after time, by the Miao Tsze and Cantonese (Taiping) insurgents, and that not a vestige remains of the property once belonging to my family. Fortunately, as it happens, before

coming to Yünnan my grandfather had occasion to take refuge in the Shen-hwa district in Ch'ang-sha Fu, in Hunan, where he purchased certain property; and being now about to return to my proper home, it is incumbent upon me to take up my abode, in fulfilment of my forefathers' intentions, at the district above-named. Inasmuch, however, as in previous statements I have reported myself as belonging to Tsing Chow, I am bound, on proposing now to remove to the district of Shen-hwa, to submit a report to this effect for record, to the end that my own descendants may be held guilty of no infringement of regulation in making that place their home for the future. The allowances, also, to which by the degree of nobility conferred upon me I am entitled, should likewise be issued from the district above-named." On receipt of the foregoing, the Governor-General submits the request for Imperial sanction.—Rescript. Be it as is requested: Let the Boards concerned take note.

Aug. 30th.—(1) A Decree. Let Kwang Yin 廣蔭 succeed to the post of Intendant of the Yen-P'ing circuit in Shansi.

(2) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, memorializes referring once more to the calamity with which that province has been visited, in the shape of the pending drought and consequent famine. For upwards of 40 days he had held uninterrupted services of prayer, and the Lieutenant-Governor of the province had visited in person a noted temple to bring away water (as a talisman.) On the 22nd and 23rd July slight showers were experienced, which gave rise to the hope that a crop of buckwheat might be got into the ground; but the first week of August had arrived without the longed for rain, and even the slight prospect of relief previously indulged in must now, it is feared, be changed to disappointment. The Governor solicits, in view of the urgent need for funds under which the province is labouring, that the precedent set in the case of the suffering from floods around Tientsin, by resorting to the sale of office and titles, be followed, and that 2,000 certificates of purchase, stamped in blank, be supplied to him from Peking. Should this be done, he proposes to take measures for offering these certificates for sale at the principal commercial centres, as a means of obtaining the funds that are so much needed. (For rescript see *Gazette* of 14th inst.)

(3) Jui Lien, Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, memorializes reporting

that, owing to a terrific storm which took place in the neighbourhood of Chang-chia K'ow (Kalgan) on the 6th August, the waters of a mountain torrent were suddenly swelled to such a height as to break through a dam which had only lately been rebuilt for the protection of the military cantonment at that point. Upwards of two hundred of the soldiers' houses were swept away, and nine persons, women and children, were drowned. The number of soldiers' families left houseless by this disaster is upwards of 120. The cause of the overflow in this instance is attributed to a silting up of the bed of the stream, which has caused it, in the course of the last few years, to become elevated almost to a point above the level of the roofs of the houses. A mere restoration of the dam as it formerly existed would scarcely suffice to prevent a recurrence of the danger. Of the 600 and odd soldiers' quarters heretofore in existence, 240 and upwards were destroyed last year, and the present flood, in sweeping away some 200 more, has left a comparatively small number standing. It is proposed, therefore, that the cantonment should be removed to a more permanently secure position. (For rescript see *Gazette* of 16th inst.)

Aug. 31st.—(1) Mei K'i-chao, Governor of Chêhkiang, memorializes with reference to a case of mortmain. A representation has been addressed to the provincial Government by members of the Tu family, headed by an ex-Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies, named Tu Lien, with reference to certain lands bequeathed by their ancestors for religious and charitable purposes connected with the family kindred. The bequest, originally made about a century ago by the ancestor, 13th in line of recorded descent, was enlarged by successive legacies until the area in question has reached the extent of upwards of 1,000 *mow*. The family having been scattered at the time of the rebellion, and anxiety being felt lest unworthy members should perchance be found among them and the rules heretofore instituted with reference to the property be interfered with, it is now requested that confirmation of these may be obtained by Imperial decree, in conformity with a precedent set in 1874, to the end that the land in question may be secured against sale on the part of any person, whether a member of the family or otherwise.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned take note.

(2) The same authority reports that a nephew of his, named Mei Wên-yü, a

sub-Prefect on probation in Chêhkiang, has been called upon by him to remove from that province in conformity with the regulation which makes it obligatory for the junior to retire under such circumstances.

(3) The Governor of Chêhkiang farther reports upon the step he has taken, with a view to economy, in connection with the squadron of ten Cantonese war-junks, having crews to the number of 300 men all told, which were obtained from Canton in 1864 by the then Governor of the province through the agency of a Lieutenant-Colonel named Chang K'i-kwang, for the purpose of cruising on the coast for the suppression of piracy. The total outlay upon this squadron, including the allowances to the officers in command, the hire of the junks, and the pay of the braves, etc., has been Tls. 4,610 per mensem, without including the cost of munitions of war. Chang K'i-kwang having been detailed for duty in Formosa, the command of the squadron was placed in the hands of the expectant Colonel Chang Yung-kwang. At present, it has to be stated, tranquillity prevails along the coast, and since 1865, moreover, the various marine divisions of the provincial forces have gradually supplied themselves with junks of various descriptions for cruising purposes, the total cost of which has amounted to Tls. 1,800,000. There are at present 74 vessels of this class, with crews ranging from 25 to 50 men according to the size of the craft, in addition to which two steam-vessels, the *Fuh-po* and the *Yüan-k'ai*, have been detached by the province of Fuhkien for service in Chêhkiang, so that the provision for cruising purposes is amply sufficient. The Governor has decided, therefore, to dispense with the services of the Cantonese junks after the month of June, and he submits his report to this effect.

Sept. 1st.—(Extracts from Reports of the Supervisorates, 科抄). 1. Report from the Board of Civil Office, submitting the penalty which should be imposed upon Ts'ên Yü-ying, late acting Governor-General of Yünnan and Kweichow, for an error in an exposé of the shortcomings of one of his subordinates. Rescript received: On his reappointment to office, let Ts'ên Yü-ying be mulcted in one year's salary.—2. Report from the Board of Civil Office, submitting a penalty in the case of Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., for the want of straightforwardness in a report received from him. Rescript received: Let Tso Tsung-t'ang be degraded by one step of honorary rank, and remain in his

post. *Note.*—The supervising Censors act as a species of Audit Board, to secure the exact fulfilment of the letter of official regulations in all matters relating to the six administrative Boards. Mulcts of salary (which is never drawn), and the withdrawal of steps of honorary rank (which are conferred with a special view to this contingency), are the penalties forming the result of their labours.

(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Mei K'i-chao, Governor of Chêh-kiang, who has enlarged upon the meritorious services performed in that province by the late ex-Governor of Kwangtung, Tsiang Yih-li (who died at Peking in the spring of 1875), in the suppression of the Taiping rebellion. A posthumous title of honour is bestowed upon him as requested.

(2) Li Ming-ch'ih, Judicial Commissioner of Fuhkien (late Taotai at Hankow), memorializes reporting his arrival at his new post, and his assumption of office, on the 25th July. In the customary recital of the duties to which he accedes, he observes that, moreover, since the establishment of foreign commercial relations, a responsibility of the highest importance has been superadded in the shape of the necessity for dealing impartially in all cases of an international character.

(3) The Governor of Yünnan memorializes forwarding a statement presented by the ex-General-in-chief, Yang Yü-k'o, narrating the particulars of the benefactions he had conferred upon the population of the western section of Yünnan, from whence the majority of the "braves" had been drawn with whose aid he had recaptured Ta-li Fu and the other cities held by the Mahomedan insurgents since the outbreak in 1856. He has now converted his late residence at Ta-li Fu into a College for the benefit of the students of Western Yünnan, which he has endowed with rents derived from land and houses, in order to furnish stipends for the students and travelling allowances to the candidates proceeding to Peking for the civil and military examinations. The Governor, referring to the surrender by Yang Yü-k'o of his admitted claim against Government for the pay of troops due to him, to the amount of Tls. 400,000, for which act honours have heretofore been decreed to him, now places this present most meritorious undertaking on his part, on record.

(4) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes supporting an application made by the officials sent from Yünnan, via Kwangsi and Canton, in charge of copper for shipment to Tientsin by

steamer, to be allowed to carry merchandize free of Customs' duty and *likin* to the amount of 1/5th of the weight of the copper, as a means of compensating them for the insufficient sum allowed by the regulations for freight on the metal. After setting forth the difficulties encountered in obtaining transport with the inadequate allowance provided, and admitting that the present application is unsupported by the regulations, he submits that the rule applied to the carriage of the Government rice by the steamers of the C. M. S. N. Co. should be extended to the transport of copper, as regards the future shipments yet to be made, and that it should operate equally for the water-carriage from the head of navigation in Kwangsi to Canton as for the steamer-shipment thence to Tientsin. The amount at present allowed to the C. M. S. N. Co. for freight and insurance on the copper carried from Shanghai to Tientsin, he observes, is but Tl. 1 per picul.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

Sept. 2nd.—(1) A decree pronouncing sentences of degradation and punishment in the case of certain military officers charged by the Military Governor of Kirin with cowardice in operations against the mounted banditti infesting that province, or with abandonment of their posts at the approach of the bands. Authority is given to inflict capital punishment in any future cases of the kind.

(2) A Rescript. Let Ts'üan K'ing become chief, and Shang Tsung-jui assistant, Superintendents of the Customs of Peking.

(3) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., memorializes denouncing Lin Show-t'u, Lieutenant-Governor and Financial Commissioner of Shansi, in violent terms, as having sought by a verbal juggle to reduce the amount of the monthly payment forwarded from the provincial exchequer to the military chest of the army of Sungaria, without incurring the pains and penalties provided against such diminutions in the supply. In 1869, he represents, it was arranged by the Board of Revenue that, of the sum of Tls. 3,324,000 which was to be furnished annually for the purposes of his military operations, the province of Shansi should pay a monthly sum of Tls. 30,000, besides which Tls. 20,000 were further to be provided monthly from the same source for the special behoof of the troops under Mu-t'u-shen. The Financial Commissioner is now accused of having presented a report to the late Governor, shortly before the latter retired from office, by which he was

hoodwinked into sanctioning a reduction of the monthly issues to the sum of Tls. 30,000, on the score of the removal of Mu-t'u-shen's particular command. Tso Tsung-t'ang inveighs fiercely against the acts and arguments of the Financial Commissioner, observing at the same time that he is not ignorant of nor indifferent to the sufferings to which the province of Shansi has been lately exposed by famine; and he solicits the punishment of Lin Show-t'u by way of warning. In the course of his memorial, a mention of "foreign loans" 洋款 appears for the first time in the *Gazette*, in connection with the assistance rendered by the authorities of other provinces in the supply of the funds and the reimbursement of this description of indebtedness.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 23rd Aug.

Sept. 3rd.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Board of Revenue, with reference to the case of the Financial Commissioner of Shansi, who has been denounced by the Governor-General Tso Tsung-t'ang for wilfully withholding the full amount of the monthly remittances due from that province to his military chest. The Board submit that the official in question has been guilty of a grave dereliction of duty, and commands are now issued requiring the Board to decide upon the penalty he has incurred. The late Governor of the province, who accepted his representations without due enquiry, is also to be subjected to a penalty.

(2) The Governor of Honan memorializes representing the suffering caused in that province by the prevailing drought and the consequent impoverishment of the provincial exchequer, requesting permission to retain for disbursement two amounts, constituting a total of Taels 147,900 and odd, which should properly speaking be remitted to Peking.—Sanctioned by rescript. (See *Gazette* of Aug. 25th.)

Sept. 4th.—(1) A Decree. Sung Kwei, Resident at Lassa, memorializes Us reporting that the nephew of the Tenth Dalai Lama has died in consequence of an illness, and soliciting sanction by rescript to the succession to the rank thus vacated. We sanction accordingly the succession of P'eng-ts'o Wang tien, second nephew of the Tenth Dalai Lama, to the dignity of wearing the insignia of the first degree of rank which has been vacated by the decease of Sonom Cham-ts'an, nephew of the Dalai Lama.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from Liu Ping-chang, Governor of Kiangsi, sanctioning the degradation and punishment of sundry district Magistrates, charged

with defalcation on the transfer of their accounts.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Kiang and the Governor of Kiangsu jointly memorialize soliciting remissions of taxation on behalf of certain districts within the Nanking prefecture, on the score of their impoverished condition.—For rescript see *Gazette* of Aug. 23rd.

Sept. 5th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor She K'ing-sih, who has denounced a Taotai and Brevet Salt Commissioner in Kiangsu named Liu Wên-kai 劉文棨, a native of Nghanwei, as having been originally a low-placed menial in official employ in Chehkiang, who purchased a grade of rank under false pretences and has been successively advanced, on recommendation, to his present position. This is in flagrant violation of the law; and it is decreed accordingly that the offender be deprived of his rank and that the authorities of the provinces above-named do institute a stringent enquiry and inflict the punishment which the laws prescribe.

(2) The Director-General of the Yellow River, Li Hoh-nien, reports that the ten squadrons composing the grain fleet of the year, the arrival of which on the south bank of the Yellow River has already been reported, reached Pa-li Miao, on the north bank, on the 15th July, where they lay for some days waiting for a sufficient rise of water to enable them to enter the northern section of the Canal. Between the 25th and 27th, the river rose upwards of four *ch'ih*, and it was determined thereupon by the authorities in charge to open the dam which had been constructed and to allow the water to flow in. This was done at midnight of the 29th July, and five of the squadrons were successively floated into the Canal. In the course of the following afternoon, however, the river suddenly began to fall, and more than half of the sixth squadron was shut out from the Canal, the mouth of which was left dry. The officials proceeded forthwith to construct another dam and to dredge the Canal mouth to a greater depth, trusting to a later rise in the River to enable the remaining junks to enter.

Sept. 6th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, who has solicited Imperial sanction to the erection of temples in that province and in Kweichow in commemoration of the late Governor of Kweichow, Tsêng Pi-kwang. The request is acceded to, and the biography of the

deceased public servant is ordered to be enrolled in the national annals.

(2) Pao Ying, Military Assistant-Governor at Kobdo, memorializes soliciting the issue of a new seal of office, to replace that which is now in use, and which has become worn and indistinct through age. It was originally issued, as the inscription it bears attests, in the year A.D. 1735.—Rescript: Let the Board of Ceremonies take note.

Sept. 7th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from certain members of the Censorate, who have reported that a body of officials and notables have subscribed the necessary funds for the establishment of a Charitable Asylum in the neighbourhood of the West Gate of the Outer City of Peking, where they propose to receive and care for the distressed poor in winter. In conformity with the request preferred, an annual donation of 300 piculs of millet is ordained to be made. The list of subscribers, submitted in a postscript memorial, is handed over to the proper Board for consideration and report.

(2) The Mongolian Superintendency memorializes at great length, presenting its report on the application forwarded through the Resident at Lassa, in which sanction is entreated for the restoration to Tibet of the Galdan Silêt'u Nomên 'Han, in the person of his reëmbodiment, declared to have been found in the neighbourhood of T'ao-Chow in Kansuh (see *Gazette* of 25th July.) The petition of the tribal chief in which this application is made, refers to the downfall and punishment of the Nomên 'Han for the offences with which he was charged at Lassa in 1844, but states that after the release of the banished dignitary from the place of his confinement in the Amur province in 1851, he had led a retired and blameless life until 1854 at his native place in T'ao-Chow, where he died in that year just at the time when an application for his restoration to Tibet had been laid before the Throne. His reëmbodiment in the person of a youth now in his seventeenth year is affirmed as perfectly authentic, and it is solicited that this re-incarnation of the deceased dignitary may be permitted to return to Tibet in a purely religious capacity. In forwarding this petition, the Resident refers to the history of the predecessor of the individual in question, who was known as the Erdeni Nomên 'Han, Galdan Silêt'u Awang Ch'ulchim, who, in his earlier years, twice visited Peking and undertook, at the command of His Majesty then upon the throne, the conduct of divers affairs, in which he acquitted himself satisfactorily.

He was twice placed at the head of the Tibetan Council of State, and concurrently invested with the office of Galdan Ch'e-pa (or Diba?). In this capacity he greatly forwarded the interests of religion, rendering in this wise conspicuous service. His reëmbodiment took place in the person of Awang Chambalch'uch'êngchamts'o, the Nomên 'Han whose downfall took place in the manner referred to above. In commenting upon this case, the Mongolian Superintendency quotes the series of Decrees which were issued with reference to the degradation and removal of the Nomên 'Han, beginning with that of November 16th, 1844, in which the crimes alleged against him are summarised. The Nomên 'Han, Galdan Silêt'u Samadi Bakhshi, had been accused of levying pecuniary exactions, of forcibly taking possession of the lands and houses of others, of razing dwellings to the ground without lawful authority, of presuming unwarrantably to use sedans and umbrellas of State, of violently appropriating the goods of traders, and of harbouring refugees from justice. A doubt is implied, in the decree in question, whether the offences alleged against the Nomên 'Han in the report received from the Resident at Lassa after enquiry in conjunction with the Panshen Erdeni, had not been of even a deeper dye, and whether he had not been guilty of something more than simple inactivity in the case of the wound inflicted on the neck of the Dalai Lama. Farther enquiry was ordered, and the entire and absolute degradation of the culprit was ordered to be proceeded with. In a second decree of the same date the Imperial Resident at Lassa, Kishen, was reminded that the Nomên 'Han had been raised from the most lowly condition among the lama priesthood to occupy the posts of dignity conferred upon him, in consideration of his ecclesiastical learning; and that his conduct in acting overbearingly toward the Dalai Lama, the chief disciple of Tsung-khaba, and the Supreme Ruler of the Yellow Church throughout the world, had been most wicked and intolerable. On receipt of a farther report from Tibet, the Mongolian Superintendency and the Ministers of the Grand Council submitted a proposed sentence to the effect that the Nomên 'Han, already degraded from his office and deprived of his titles of honour, should be banished to the Amur and given as a slave to the private soldiery; and farther that on his decease, whether this should occur at the place of banishment or at his native home, he should be forbidden for ever the privilege

of reappearing again on earth in human form, as a warning to those who bring disgrace upon the Yellow Church. On the 16th May, 1845, an Imperial decree confirmed this sentence, ordering the delinquent to be transported to the Amur, kept in rigorous confinement, and denied all communication with strangers. The remaining terms of the sentence were likewise confirmed. In consequence of the Act of Grace proclaimed in 1850 (on the accession of Hien Fêng), a decree was issued on the 5th May of that year, permitting the delinquent to return to his native place, where he was to be kept under rigorous surveillance by the local authorities. An application which he submitted in 1854 through the Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar, tendering a contribution of Tls. 2,000 for the uses of Government, and soliciting permission to visit Wu-t'ai Shan to perform there a distribution of alms, was rejected together with the proffered amount; and shortly after this he died. The Superintendency now sums up adversely to the request preferred for the reëmission of the Nomên 'Han to Tibet.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 29th August.

Sept. 8th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Censor She Yih-ting, who has reported the death of a prisoner in the Board of Punishments under suspicious circumstances. The deceased had been confined for many years as accessory to a case of robbery, the principal being still at large, and the Censor finds that his death was occasioned by poison. An enquiry is accordingly commanded to be instituted.

(2) The Governor of Chehkiang reports the arrest and execution of an individual found guilty of connection with the secret Brotherhood known as the *Ko Lao Hwei*. Acting under the orders he had given on his accession to office, requiring a look-out to be kept for this seditious organization, his subordinates have lately effected the arrest of one Ts'ui Hwa-yün, seizing at the same time in his possession a seal professing an official character and a number of cloth badges, etc. The prisoner, after being placed on trial, had confessed that he was a native of Hunan, who some twenty years ago enlisted as a brave, and went over to the rebels at the taking of Yen Chow. When Chehkiang was reconquered by the Imperial forces in 1861-1862, he once more enlisted as a brave, and having subsequently been discharged, he has wandered about picking up a livelihood here and there. In April last, he opened an opium shop near Hangchow,

which became the resort of several disbanded braves. A plan was devised among these men to swear brotherhood together, and the others placed the prisoner at their head, with the title of Elder Brother (*Ko Lao*.) They adopted the title of United Heart Lodge of the Mountain resorted to by Sages, assumed civil and military titles, prepared a seal and badges, and beat up recruits for their brotherhood, each of whom was to pay an entrance fee of six hundred *cash*. Whilst in the act of making these arrangements prisoner was apprehended, on information given; and in view of the gravity of his offence, and the seditious objects he had in view, the Governor has ordered him to be summarily executed.—Rescript: It is noted.

(3) The Governor of Chehkiang farther reports the execution of a son by *ling-ch'e* (the lingering process) for the crime of matricide.

Sept. 9th.—(1) A decree, based upon a memorial from the Manchu General-in-chief of Shansi, suspending from his rank the Captain-General of the Ulan Ch'apleague of the Inner Mongols, and certain nobles of the Mow Mingan Banner, pending an enquiry which is ordered to be held upon a charge of holding back witnesses required at a trial.

(2) The Military Lieutenant-Governor at Ch'ahar reports the result of an enquiry held according to regulation into the numbers of the droves and herds upon the Imperial pasturage grounds in Inner Mongolia. The report of the officials deputed for this purpose is to the following effect:—At Shang Tu, Tapsun Nor, and Ta-li-kang-ai, there are 215 droves of mares and geldings, beside 7 droves of breeding animals, to the number in all of 59,003 head of horses, great and small. There are likewise 2,136 *muh tsing* 牧青 horses, and 307 derived from contributions to the service of government. Of camels, there are 57 droves, consisting of geldings and she-camels, to the number in all of 6,820 head. Under the department of the Imperial stud (T'ai P'u Sze) there are 114 droves of horses, including mares and geldings, and five droves of breeding animals, to the number in all of 40,036, together with 326 and 201 respectively under the two smaller categories mentioned above. Of oxen belonging to the Three [Imperial Household] Banners, there are 40 herds, numbering 12,133 head, and of sheep belonging to the same department there are 235,971 in all, distributed in 220 flocks in the Ta-li-kang-ai region. Among these are

included the Lien-ko-ti 連格迪 and Badakhshan sheep. All the animals above referred to are certified as being forthcoming in full numbers according to the lists submitted.

Sept. 10th.—(1) A decree, based upon a memorial from Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Heh-lung-kiang (the Amur), who has denounced certain military officers for neglect of duty in connection with a recent inroad of mounted banditti in the region north of Payen Su-su. Punishments are awarded according to the proposals submitted.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ying-lien, Military Assistant Governor at Tarbagatai, who has denounced a noble of the first class of the Turgut tribe, invested with authority as *dzassak*, and decorated with the peacock feather, T'upsin K'èshkè by name, for neglect of duty in failing to bring back certain privates of the banner under his control who had gone beyond the frontier in search of livelihood, and also in failing to use such proper means of control as would have prevented acts of thieving of which certain men of the tribe have been guilty. The delinquent is accordingly deprived of his rank, and the other recommendations of the memorialist are sanctioned.

(3) A decree based upon a memorial from the Board of Punishments in connection with the case of the officer of the Imperial Guards who was lately charged with levying exactions among the Mongol tribes when sent on a sacrificial mission (see *Gazette* of 25th June.) The sentence submitted is confirmed, viz., that the delinquent be banished to Sungaria to expiate his offence.

(4) The Governor of Shantung reports upon the farther progress of the grain-fleet, after the entrance effected into the Canal by half its numbers as recently reported by Li Hoh-nien. On the 30th July, the waters of the Yellow River began suddenly to abate, when only some twenty or twenty-five junks of the sixth out of the ten squadrons had been floated into the northern section of the Canal, and the silt which the water had deposited formed a bank outside the entrance of the cutting to a level, very nearly, with the dry land close by. There was nothing to be done but to construct another dam and dredge out the channel again to a proper depth, and this labour was at once proceeded with, a force of coolies hired for the occasion working day and night under the direction of the civil and military officials on the spot. The river having once more risen on the 3rd August and succeeding days, the dam

was opened on the 7th, but again, the current not being sufficiently direct, a heavy deposit took place, and all the efforts that could be brought to bear only succeeded in passing one more squadron into the Canal. It was necessary to assemble a force of labourers once again to dig out the channel, and the officer commanding at Chang-ts'iu was farther applied to for the assistance of a detachment of his troops. The dredging was completed by the 9th, and on the afternoon of the following day the whole of the remaining vessels successively effected their entrance into the Canal. By the 13th, all had reached Lin-ts'ing, where the entire fleet of 430 sail passed out of the Canal into the river Wei. The water in this stream is, however, unprecedentedly low, in consequence of the drought that has prevailed in Honan, the Canal being found on measurement to be nine *ch'ih* (say 10 feet English) above the level of the Wei. The junks will not be able to proceed farther until a rise of the waters takes place.

Sept. 11th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial presented by the supervising Censor Hia Hien-k'ing, who has drawn attention to the importance of irrigation in agriculture to the food supply of the people at large, and pointing out the desirability of extending the application of the system in view of the great increase in the area of waste lands which have been progressively brought under cultivation of late years. The provincial governments are commanded, hereupon, to bestow diligent attention upon the question of artificial water-supply, considering carefully and taking such steps as may be requisite either to repair and restore the channels heretofore existing, or the construct new works where none are at present forthcoming. Punishment is to be severely inflicted in the case of any attempts at disturbance made in this connection by dishonest local notables or bad characters among the village population.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from the same Censor, commanding that for the future greater stringency be observed in the bonds given by functionaries from the various provinces on behalf of individuals purchasing certificates of official rank. Henceforward, when these bonds are given enabling persons to become "expectants" of official posts, the fact of the individuals being of unblemished position must be authenticated beforehand, in order to put a stop to the practices by which unqualified persons may obtain access to the official status.

(3) A decree based upon the report presented by the Board of Civil office in the case of the Financial Commissioner of Shansi, denounced by Tso Tsung-t'ang for disregard of the instructions given with reference to the supplies to be remitted to the Army of the West (see *Gazettes* of 2nd and 3rd inst.) In conformity with the recommendation of the Board, Lin Show-t'u, the offending functionary, is stripped of his rank. The late Governor of Shansi is declared also to have been guilty of reprehensible conduct, and is degraded by two steps of honorary rank but left in his office (*i. e.*, he would be left in office were he not already in retirement.)

Sept. 12th.—(1) A Decree. Let Pao Hêng 葆亨 be transferred to fill the post of Lieutenant-Governor (*Fan-t'ai*) of Shansi. Let Chow Hêng-k'i 周恒祺 succeed him in the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Fukkien. Let Kwoh Ying 國英 succeed to the post of Judicial Commissioner of Kwangtung.

(2) A decree enjoining upon the provincial governments of Hunan, Hupeh, and Honan, the remission of all *lekin* taxes upon rice at any barriers passed in the course of transportation to the province of Shensi, in the case of purchases on government account as part of the relief measures undertaken in connection with the prevailing famine, as solicited by the Governor of Shensi in a memorial he has forwarded.

Sept. 13th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Li Han-chang, Governor-General of Hu Kwang, Wêng T'ung-tsioh, Governor of Hupeh, who have solicited the degradation or compulsory retirement, respectively, of certain incapable or unworthy officials. In the case of Shu Tsao, Department Magistrate of Kün Chow, declared to be wanting in natural ability and shallow in acquired knowledge, and of indifferent reputation—of Li Tsêng-yao, District Magistrate of I-ch'êng, declared to have set official prescription at naught in his business arrangements and to have made himself unacceptable to the people—and of Niu Fuh-kia, declared to be inspired with a false and treacherous disposition and to have employed deceitful representations in his transaction of affairs, the sentence is that the delinquents be forthwith stripped of their rank and office. Chang Han, sub-Prefect of Han-yang Fu, being decrepit from age and beyond the possibility of active exertion, is to be compulsorily retired.

(2) In a farther decree, certain officers of the naval service of Hupeh, denounced by the provincial high authorities as above, are dismissed from their ranks, with sentence of perpetual exclusion from public employ.

(3) A Decree. Let Ch'êng Fu 成孚 succeed to the office of Commissioner of the Salt Revenue in Kwangtung. (N.B.—This official was for some years deputy Salt Comptroller at Tientsin, and has served for some years past as one of the Secretaries of the Yamèn of Foreign Affairs.)

(4) A decree permitting Kw'ei Yüh 魁玉, Manchu General-in-chief in Szech'wan, to resign his office on the score of ill-health.

Sept. 14th.—(1) A Decree. Let Hêng Hün 恒訓 be transferred to fill the post of Manchu General-in-chief at Chêng-tu Fu. Let Ch'un Fuh 春福 succeed to the post, which is thus vacated, of Military Governor of Uliasut'ai; and let Mu-t'u-shen 穆圖善 succeed him in the post of Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar. Let Ch'un Fuh proceed to take up his office, according to regulation, by the government posting-route. (N.B.—Hêng Hün, now appointed to fill the vacancy declared at Ch'êng Tu Fu, has been until lately Manchu Brigade-General there. From this post he was promoted by Decree on the 20th ult. to the post at Uliasut'ai which is now exchanged for the command in Sze-ch'wan. Mu-t'u-shen, a former General-in-chief in Kansuh, who was appointed in 1875 as acting Military Governor of Kirin, was stripped of his rank and dismissed from the public service by Decree of the 12th May, 1876, for improperly recommending a cashiered official for employment. He is now readmitted to office in a lower grade.)

(2) A decree sanctioning an application submitted by P'an Ting-sin, Governor of Yünnan, for permission to erect at Yünnan Fu a memorial temple in honour of Hwang Tsung, former Vice-President of the Board of War, who, whilst living in retirement at his native place, undertook in 1851 the enrolment of local trainbands, and who fell in his country's cause, in 1863, at the time of the siege of the city by the insurgents. A posthumous title of honour is conferred, as requested, upon the deceased; and a monument is further decreed in honour of his concubine, Chow She, who perished at the same time with himself.

(3) The Court of Censors memorializes forwarding an appeal lodged by a native of

Szech'wan, complaining of sundry acts of outrageous violence and murder perpetrated upon his family by neighbouring villagers, who have succeeded by means of bribery in stifling all investigation since 1870, and who had prevailed upon the police of his district to keep him in confinement for a number of years. A newly-arrived Magistrate having at length caused him to be liberated, he has eluded the watch which had been set upon him and has come to Peking to present his appeal for justice. He has petitioned the authority of his own department three times, and the Prefect of Ch'ung-k'ing Fu twice, without obtaining a hearing.—Referred in the usual manner.

(4) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc. memorializes reporting that the walls of Lan-chow Fu, the provincial capital, have been solidly rebuilt through the efforts of certain officials on the spot, and by the labour of the soldiery, at a cost for materials of only Tls. 3,397, a contractor's estimate for the work having been upwards of Tls. 100,000. The perimeter extends to 2,310 *chang* (about 5 English miles.) Permission is asked and accorded for the submission of certain names for the bestowal of honours and rewards.

Sept. 15th.—(1) A decree appointing T'o-yün-pu 托雲布 to the post of Manchu Brigade-General at Ts'ing-chow Fu in Shantung, and an officer to act in his stead during his present employment in the field.

The remainder of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with memorials relating to the depth of water in the Yellow River and the Grand Canal, and the passage of the grain fleet, as already reported.

Sept. 16th.—No documents of importance.

Sept. 17th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, who has reported that he has caused importations of grain to be made from Manchuria, and has held out inducements to private traders to do likewise, for the relief of the population afflicted by famine, and who solicits the remission of *tekin* dues upon such importations. Orders are accordingly given to this effect.

(2) A decree cashiering and placing on trial a Manchu Colonel denounced by Ming Ngan, Military Governor of Kirin, for flagitious and rapacious conduct.

(3) The Censor K'ing Sih-yung memorializes denouncing a Taotai and Brevet Salt Commissioner named Liu Wên-kai, whom he charges with having been, many years

ago, a menial in the service of a district Magistrate in Chèhkiang. In this position he obtained official rank by purchase, under cover of false representations, as an assistant Magistrate, and has subsequently risen to his present grade. The outcry that has arisen on his applying, lately, for a certificate enabling him to present himself at the Board of Civil Office to obtain presentation to the Throne, and the storm of animadversions excited on the occasion, have deterred his fellow-provincials, holding office at Peking, from signing the customary bonds on his behalf. As the matter has come to the Censor's ears, he feels bound to bring the subject before the Imperial notice and to solicit that an enquiry be instituted and punishment meted out according to law.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 5th inst.

Sept. 18th.—(1) Ch'ung How, acting Military Governor of Fêng-t'ien, memorializes with reference to the arrangements made in connection with the introduction of organized forms of government in the region, hitherto occupied by an emigrant population of squatters, beyond the eastern frontier (*i.e.*, on the border between China and Corea.) The propositions he and his colleagues had submitted having been reported upon by the Boards and approved by Imperial rescript, he has now to represent that, following upon the suppression of brigandage in the Tung Kow 東溝 region (the valley of the Ya-lu) by the operations of 1875, the Miao Urh Kow 廟兒溝 and T'ung Kow 通溝 regions have been successively brought under control, the immigrant population turning themselves to the quarter whence renovation proceeds (*i.e.* submitting to the Imperial sway); and the measurement of the lands occupied by them beyond the frontier was proceeded with, in accordance with the celestial bounty which had sanctioned their admission to the footing of tax-paying property. Proceeding upon the principle laid down some years ago by the late acting Military Governor, Ts'ung-shih, that the expenses of the frontier administration should be defrayed from the revenue there produced, a commission consisting of the Taotai Ch'ên Pên-chih, Administrator of Frontier Affairs, a Prefect, and a General officer, was directed to employ a staff of delegates in measuring the lands and in making arrangements for the levy of duties upon timber, &c. The report of this Commission is now to the effect that the area of land beyond the border-line already admitted, first and last, to the tax register

is 1,803,000 *mow* (say about 300,000 acres); and that the newly measured land, amounting to 1,298,000 *mow*, is to pay tax at the rate of 2 candareens per *mow* under the head of the land-tax proper, with 1 candareen in addition as waste and meltage allowance, per annum. At the outset, furthermore, a deposit—*ya-hwang* 壓荒—of 1 *tiao*, local currency, per *mow*, is to be paid; and a title is to be delivered hereupon to the occupier of the land. The amount of deposit money which should have been paid last year, forming a total of 290,000 and odd *tiao*, has been allowed to stand over till after the present autumn harvest, in consideration of last year's scarcity. As regards the land admitted to the tax register within the last few years, to the amount of 505,000 and odd *mow*, upon which no deposit was collected, it is solicited that this charge may be foregone; but it is proposed that the amount of land-tax be made uniform throughout on the basis mentioned above. The revenue from the amount of 1 candareen collected as a supplementary charge it is proposed to appropriate toward the expenses of local administration, leaving the sum of Tls. 36,000 and odd as yielded by the regular amount of the tax (*i.e.*, the 2 candareens above stated.) As regards duties on timber, reed-beds, mountain produce, food-stuffs, weighing dues, iron-pan casting, etc., no definite estimate can be found for the present, and it is proposed that these should be left to be collected and paid in as they accrue, until experience shall enable a fixed annual amount to be prescribed for collection. As regards the question of administrative control, although the Boards have already sanctioned the establishment of four new districts, under the names of Ngan-tung 安東, Kw'an-tien 寬甸, Hwai-jên 懷仁, and T'ung-hwa 通化, it will still be necessary, in view of the great extent of country to be governed, to have an additional number of functionaries at points comparatively remote from the district centres, for the purposes of police control. The military forces distributed throughout the region are placed under the control, indiscriminately, of the Military Assistant Lieutenant-Governor at Hing-king and of the Taotai administering the frontier affairs, both of whom are in the position of Lieutenants of the Military-Governor. The Taotai—whose headquarters are at Fêng-hwang Ch'êng, the "Corean Gate"—will be necessarily often

absent from his post on tours of inspection, and it is proposed therefore that judicial powers be conferred, for exercise during his absence, upon delegates whom he may appoint to hear the cases remitted to his tribunal by the Sub-prefect of Hing-king or the independent Sub-prefect of Fêng-hwang T'ing. It is estimated that the cost of building the walled cities, official yamêns, cantonments, &c., required under the system now about to be introduced, will amount to Tls. 150,000 and odd; and as the revenue derived from frontier sources is not yet adequate for this requirement, it is proposed that the amount which is needed should be made up from the collections of the ensuing autumn and spring. Detailed statements relating to all these proposals are appended. Rescript: Let the Boards concerned consider and report to Us.

(2) A further memorial from the same quarter with reference to a large tract of land heretofore marked off and required to be left uninhabited owing to reasons connected with *fêng-shuei*, on the border of the Imperial Hunting Reserve on the eastern frontier. This tract has been occupied by squatters for many years past, notwithstanding the prohibition which it has been sought to enforce, and the habitual lovingkindness of the Imperial disposition is now appealed to for sanction to the admission of these cultivators to the taxpaying register as in other cases.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

(3) A memorial from the Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies at Moukden reports the arrival at Fêng-hwang Ch'êng, near the Korean frontier, of a Korean official, who has forwarded through the Military Commandant at that post a despatch 咨文 from the King of Corea, to the effect that on the 31st of March last great alarm had been felt on a report being received that a vessel of alien build had been stranded on the coast of his kingdom. The authorities who were despatched to the spot to make enquiries gathered from the language and dress of those on board the vessel that they were, beyond a doubt, shipwrecked subjects of the suzerain State; and they stated that they had come from Wên-têng Hien in Shantung (the Shantung promontory), having been blown out to sea whilst engaged in fishing and driven ashore on the Korean coast. They were accordingly taken care of and forwarded to Fêng-hwang Ch'êng. On receipt of this despatch from the King, the Vice-President observes that a regulation sanctioned in 1850

a gratuity of Tls. 30 as payable to the Korean officer in charge of distressed mariners under circumstances of this kind; and the two shipwrecked persons, Li Pei-tsêng and another, having been delivered at the frontier by the officer sent in charge of them, the precedent of 1850 has been adhered to in his case, as a distinguished remuneration for his trouble and in furtherance of the Imperial lovingkindness.

Sept. 19th.—(1) A decree expressing the Imperial regrets on receipt of intelligence of the decease of Wêng T'ung-tsioh, Governor of Hupeh. Originally attached to the metropolitan administration, he was appointed thence to the office of Intendant (Taotai), and eventually promoted to the Governorships of Shensi and Hupeh in succession. The customary honours are decreed in his favour; and his grandson Wêng Kw'ei-sun, already invested with an honorary degree, is advanced by special grace to the degree of *kü-jên* and permitted to compete at the next metropolitan examinations.

(2) A Decree. Let Shao Hêng-yü 邵享豫 succeed to the post of Governor of Hupêh. (N.B. Shao Hêng-yü vacated the office of Governor of Shensi in March, 1875, on the ground of ill-health.)

(3) A decree cashiering a Brigade-General in Formosa, named Chang Shêng-k'iei, who has been denounced by Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, for irregularities in the enlistment of men for the force under his command.

(4) A decree based upon a memorial from the high authorities at Foochow, who have solicited the remission of certain arrears of grain-tax in the prefecture of T'ai-wan Fu, amounting to 39,171 piculs of millet, outstanding since 1870. Sanction is granted to this request.

Sept. 20th.—The Police Censors of the Western division of Peking memorialize referring, preliminarily, to a decree issued by the Emperor Yung Chêng in the third year of his reign (A.D. 1725), and recorded in the collection of Regulations of the Court of Censors, in which his Majesty then called attention to the suffering which was experienced, as he had been informed, in consequence of the inclemency of the weather, to such an extent that some of the houseless poor had been attacked by frostbite. His Majesty could not doubt that among the inhabitants of the capital there must be compassionate and charitable individuals, whose impulses however would be restrained through dread of incurring risks of official inquisition were

they to take charge of persons in distress. Injunctions were therefore laid upon the Censorate to be careful that none of the destitute should be left without shelter in time of cold and during the night season; and also that charitable persons who might be willing to afford shelter to the needy should not be forbidden to do so. It should be borne in mind that, however much the duties of the police administration might consist in the prevention of wrong-doing, compassion for the poor and the relief of suffering were also incumbent upon those whom his Majesty addressed. Should any cases of death from cold thereafter reach his Majesty's ears, they should not be allowed to disclaim responsibility.—The memorialists proceed to refer, in addition, to the *P'u-tsi Tang* or Asylum for the poor established outside the S.W. gate of the Chinese city, to which an allowance of 300 piculs of millet is annually granted, with an additional grant of 500 piculs which was sanctioned in 1866. Notwithstanding this provision, however, and the food-distributing agencies which are opened, according to regulation, in different parts of the city, the relief afforded is still inadequate to meet the distress prevailing among the poorer classes. Last winter the memorialists saw the sufferers from cold and hunger lying in heaps in the streets, and the corpses of those who perished from lack of shelter, lying as they had been overtaken by death, presented a pitiable spectacle. Whilst hesitating themselves what course to pursue, they have found that a body of unemployed officials have come forward with subscriptions for the erection of a Refuge in the neighbourhood of the Southwest Gate, where a piece of land has been purchased and buildings have been erected with a view to succouring the destitute poor, so far as the means in hand will allow, under private auspices, without interference on the part of the police magistrates. About 1,000 persons can be accommodated by this arrangement, destitute, sick, or aged persons being admitted on due recommendation, and all idle and dissolute individuals excluded. It is solicited that an annual grant of 300 piculs of millet toward the maintenance of this Asylum may henceforward be contributed.—Granted by rescript, 7th inst.

(2) In a supplementary memorial the names of two officials who have subscribed Tls. 1,200 and Tls. 1,000 each to the Asylum referred to above are given, with other particulars, and permission is asked, notwithstanding a disclaimer of any desire for

reward on the part of all the contributors, to submit the list of names for the bestowal of tokens of approbation according to precedent.

Sept. 21st.—(1) The Censor Kêh Tsing memorializes reporting that when taking his turn of duty on a recent occasion as Visitor of the prison of the Board of Punishments, he received a note from the Board informing him that a prisoner named Li Urh-shun had been taken ill, which information was followed by a report, on the same day, as he was on the point of ordering medical attendance, that death had supervened. On the following day memorialist proceeded, attended by the police Magistrate of the division, together with a clerk and corpse-examiner, to hold an inquest, whereupon, from the livid appearance presented by the remains, there was reason to doubt whether death had been the result of simple illness. The officials in attendance upon memorialist did not venture, however, to pronounce a decided opinion, and he consequently summoned additionally, on the following day, two other police Magistrates and an experienced corpse-examiner, the result of whose inspection was given in the delivery of a verdict that deceased had died from the effect of poisoning by opium. Memorialist finds that the deceased Li Urh-shun was in prison awaiting trial as an accessory in a case of robbery, the apprehension of the principal in which had not been effected, and that his confinement had already lasted for a period of eight years. That his death should now be occasioned by opium poisoning is a circumstance of a suspicious nature; and the memorialist, after causing the report of the inquest to be drawn up in proper form and transmitted through the police Magistrates to the Board of Punishments, feels bound, in the interest of proper prison management, to submit a report of the case and solicit that commands be issued for an enquiry. For rescript see *Gazette* of 8th inst.

(2) K'ing Ch'un, Manchu General-in-chief at Sui Yüan, memorializes with reference to a legal enquiry in which certain of the chieftains of the Mongol tribes are involved, and solicits the suspension of the Captain-General of the Ulan Ch'ap league. For rescript see *Gazette* of 9th inst.

(3) The officer in charge of the Custom-house at the Sha Hu K'ow pass in the Great Wall reports the total collection of duties during the 12 months expiring November 7th, 1876, as amounting to Tael 44,463, which, after remitting to the Boards

of Revenue and Works the fixed amounts respectively due to them, and defraying the cost of collection, leaves a balance on surplus account of Tls. 16,607. From the 8th November, 1876, to the 20th August, 1877, the amount of Tls. 34,828 has been collected, and after deducting the expenses of collection during this period, amounting to Tls. 3,548, the balance has been handed over to memorialist's appointed successor.

(4) The Governor of Kweichow memorializes reporting the name of the officer whom he has appointed to proceed as agent for the government of that province to conduct, in the provinces of Honan and Shantung, the offices for the sale of titles which he has received the Imperial license to establish there, in view of the impoverished and needy condition of the provincial exchequer.

(5) The Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies at Moukden reports, in a postscript to his memorial printed in the *Gazette* of the 21st inst. on the subject of the shipwrecked mariners returned from Corea, that, according to the report received from the Commandant at Fêng-hwang Ch'êng, both these men have suffered from frostbite on the hands and feet to such an extent that they are unable to walk. Of the original crew of nine in all, these are the only survivors, the remainder having either been drowned, frozen to death, or died from other causes; and as a local trader, named Chu Fuh-luh, who comes from the same district as the two survivors, has expressed his willingness to take charge of and care for them, sanction is solicited to a departure from the rule which requires the individuals in all such cases to be sent on to Moukden in order to be officially returned to their homes.—Rescript: Read.

Sept. 22nd.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Governor of Shensi, who has reported that a Taotai in command of a body of troops from Sze-ch'wan, stationed in the north of the province, who had served with great success in recent military operations, was murdered on the 27th July last by an officer of his command, who attacked and stabbed him with fatal result in revenge for the refusal of a license to return to Sze-ch'wan which the assassin had applied for. It is ordained, hereupon, that the culprit, T'ang Ping-hün, be forthwith executed; and honours are decreed on behalf of his victim.

(2) Ch'ung How, Military Governor of Fêng-t'ien, memorializes submitting the names of the individuals who have been selected to fill, on probation, the offices newly established upon the eastern border

(see *Gazette* of 18th instant.) The Taotai Ch'ên Pên-chih 陳本植 is named as the person best qualified for the new Intendency of the Eastern Frontier, with head-quarters at Fêng-hwang Ch'êng, and other appointments are made in connection with the two sub-prefectures and four districts the establishment of which completes the scheme for the organization of the squatter territory.

Sept. 23rd.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial received from the Grand Secretariat, stating that a robbery has taken place in the archives under the care of that department. On the 19th inst., it is stated, on the building being visited by the Secretary on duty, for the purpose of reverently examining the Veritable Record [of one of the past reigns], he noticed that the strips of paper by which the doors of both the outer and inner rooms are fastened up were peeled away, and that the locks bore marks of having been tampered with. Scrutiny was forthwith instituted, whereupon it appeared that 218 wrappers had been abstracted. That an act of theft should actually be perpetrated within the precincts of the Imperial palace itself is scandalous in the extreme. The General Commandant of the Vanguard and Guards' divisions are called upon to institute a stringent investigation into the circumstances under which the gates of the Palace can have been passed, and to ascertain whether any farther shortcomings are traceable. The responsible officials of the Grand Secretariat are handed to the Board for the infliction of a penalty; measures are to be instituted for the apprehension, without fail, of the guilty parties; and the high officials taking turns of duty on guard are warned that they will be held personally responsible in case of any future occurrence of the kind. (Note.—It is understood that the robbery of the satin wrappers of the Imperial dynastic records as stated above is not altogether without precedent. The wrappers are periodically renewed, and it has long been customary to abstract certain numbers of them for the purpose of reselling them to the Imperial government. The daring scale upon which the present operation has been conducted appears to have rendered an enquiry inevitable.)

(2) Fêng Shên, Military Governor of Heh-lung Kiang, memorializes denouncing certain military officials for remissness in connection with a foray of mounted robbers in the neighbourhood of Payen Su-su.

Sept. 24th.—(1) A Decree. Jui Lien, General-in-chief of Sui-yüan, is permitted

of Our special favour to ride on horseback within the precincts of the Purple Prohibited City.

(2) The Board of Punishments memorializes submitting the results of the investigation held into the conduct of an officer of the Imperial body guard, who has been stripped of his rank on a charge of levying exactions among the Mongol tribes when sent on a mission to perform a sacrificial ceremony. The charges are fully proved, and sentence of one hundred blows and transportation to a distance of 3,000 *li* is adjudged according to law, the said sentence being subject to commutation, in consideration of the delinquent's official rank, to transportation to Sungaria, there to expiate his offence by exertions in the public service. According to regulation, the Amur should be substituted as the destination to which the prisoner should be forwarded; but as in this case the delinquent is a native of the Amur province, transportation would be no more in the present instance than relegating him to his home. It is proposed, therefore, that Sungaria be adhered to as his place of penitence, in conformity with a precedent of 1864, notwithstanding the suspension of transportation to Sungaria as a general rule.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 10th inst.

Sept. 25th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Ting Jih-chang, Governor of Fuhkien, who has reported the institution of a new college at Foochow for the prosecution of study on the part of candidates for the examinations. At his request, an Imperial tablet is ordered to be prepared by the Committee of Inscriptions and the Hanlin College, and transmitted to Fuhkien to be suspended in the building in token of encouragement to the lettered class.

No other documents of importance.

Sept. 26th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Yü She, Imperial Controller-General of the Kokonor region, who has reported a miraculous interposition of the God of the Sea [of Kokonor] at a time when the country was harassed by the Mahommedan insurgents. The Board of Ceremonies is commanded to consider and report upon his application for the bestowal of an additional title of honour upon the divinity in question. A memorial tablet is meanwhile to be inscribed and forwarded for suspension in his temple.

(2) A decree granting to T'ang Jên-shên, senior assistant President of the Court of Censors, three months' leave of absence to enable him to visit his ancestral tombs. Ch'êng Tsu-hao is named as his *locum tenens*.

(3) The Governor of Nganhwei memorializes reporting the transfer of a sub-Prefect named Hiung Ying to occupy the new post of sub-Prefect of Ho-yüeh Chow (Ta-tung), exchanging with Ho Sih-chên, the officer previously appointed to that post, who, although upright, industrious, and careful in the discharge of his duty, is nevertheless lacking in the power of adapting himself to circumstances.—Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Civil office.

(4) The Supervising Censor Hia Hien-king memorializes urging the importance of attention to the irrigation system of the country, upon which, as he points out, the prosperity of agriculture and security against recurring famine depends. To neglect provision against time of drought is tantamount, he urges, to expecting that one may reap where one has not sown, or to look for clothing when the rearing of the silkworm has been omitted. Whilst the lands formerly lying waste have of late years been brought gradually under cultivation, measures for the supply of water have not been concurrently proceeded with as a general rule. He therefore urges that the high authorities throughout the Empire be called upon to require a diligent attention to this subject on the part of their subordinates, who should consult existing records and refer to the experience of local notables and elders with a view to ascertaining what is best to be done. A well considered system should be drawn up, to be put into execution as a permanency.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 11th inst.

Sept. 27th.—(1) A Decree. Let Shên Hung 沈鏞 succeed to the post of Prefect of Ch'ung-king Fu in Sze-ch'wan.

(2) The Board of Civil Office memorializes submitting its report upon the case of Lin Show-t'u, Financial Commissioner of Shansi, lately impeached by the Governor-General Tso Tsung-t'ang for wilfully reducing the amounts of monthly subsidy destined for the military chest of the army of Sungaria (see *Gazettes* of 3rd and 11th inst). The memorialists refer to the regulation promulgated with Imperial sanction by the Board of Revenue, in which it is laid down that any Financial Commissioner (Lieutenant-Governor) of a province who shall procrastinate in the transmission of funds which have been ordered by the Board to be furnished from existing sources, for the supply of troops, ignoring repeated demands for their transmission, shall, on being found by the Governor-General or Governor to

have been chargeable with willful delay, be stripped of his official rank under the law relating to abuse of public functions. It is farther provided that any Governor-General or Governor giving encouragement to such conduct and neglecting to denounce the offender forthwith, shall be degraded three steps of rank and removed to another post—the offence being classed as one deliberately committed from personal motives. In the Statute-law, moreover, it is laid down that “in all cases of wrongdoing of a general nature, where the circumstances are grave in kind, the penalty shall be eighty blows. If the offence be declared as incidental to the discharge of public duty, the penalty shall be degradation by two steps, the offender remaining in his office.” In the present instance, the Board now rules that the penalty to be inflicted upon Lin Show-t'u must be based upon the regulation above quoted, entailing his deprivation of rank; whilst, with regard to the late Governor of Shansi, who, although he gave no encouragement to the act of the Financial Commissioner, nevertheless simply adopted his report, without investigating the past records, his conduct is not free from blame. It is consequently submitted that the late Governor, Pao Yüan-shên, be dealt with under the statute against general wrongdoing, and sentenced to degradation by two steps with retention of office, as the equivalent of the penalty of eighty blows.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 11th inst.

Sept. 28th.—The Superintendents of Customs for Peking memorialize reporting the amount of the collection during their year of incumbency, from September 20th, 1876, to the 8th inst. They premise, in customary form (see *Gazette* of 5th Oct., 1876), stating that the amount established by regulation under the heading of “supplementary receipts,” in addition to the fixed standard amount for the year, shews a falling off from its proper minimum in consequence of the commercial difficulties occasioned by the high price of silver at Peking, and of the fact that upon foreign imports, which all pay Customs' duty at Tientsin, the Peking Customs are debarred by regulation from levying farther charges, beside which, the producing districts generally have all suffered from the prevailing scarcity. The amounts to be accounted for, under these circumstances, are as follows:—

Fixed standard amount.....	Tls. 102,187
Supplementary.....	„ 72,212
Total of collection.....	Tls. 174,399

This shews a deficiency, under the second head, of Tls. 140,564. The Superintendents add that a seizure having been made of dutiable merchandize in the boxes of a confidential headman in the service of Wên T'ien, the late Superintendent of Customs at Canton, the amount realized by the sale of these articles when confiscated and sold under Imperial sanction was Tls. 5,546. Of this sum, three-tenths went to the gratuity fund, and the balance has been separately remitted to the Board of Revenue.

Sept. 29th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Imperial Agent at Urga, who has solicited that a Mongolian noble named Mingid Dordji be granted the position of “Probationer for the office of Assistant Agent.” The Mongolian Superintendency having reported upon the precedents affecting this proposal, and solicited a decree, it is ruled that the title applied for having heretofore been granted only as a boon by special mandate, the proposition in the present instance must be dismissed.

(2) Li P'ei-king, Governor of Kweichow, memorializes reporting the result of a trial held in a case of riotous conduct on the part of certain candidates at the examinations. The fact is recalled that at the provincial competition last year, when the licentiates were coming up for roll-call, a candidate named Hwa Kia-jui refused to await his proper turn, and endeavoured to push his way into the Examination Hall before his fellows. A disturbance arose in consequence of his being obstructed by the soldier on duty; and it was not until after repeated remonstrances on the part of the Governor, and, acting under his orders, the proctor and other officers of the examination, that the students were induced to answer at the roll-call and to proceed with the examination. In order to check such a tendency as this to insubordination, the Governor instructed, at the close of the examinations, the Prefect of Kwei-yang Fu to apprehend the man Hwa Kia-jui, and to elicit from him on trial the names of his comrades in the riot, with a view to subjecting them equally with himself to punishment. This step was reported to the Throne in due course. On trial being held accordingly, the court assembled for the purpose submitted an application upon which Hwa Kia-jui was deprived of his licentiate's garb, and the names of eight of the persons who had participated with him in the riot were ascertained. All these persons had, however, effected their

escape, without prospect of their apprehension being effected. A report to this effect having been submitted through the provincial Commissioners of Government, the memorialist has now to observe that the culprit Hwa Kia-jui, a native of the Kwei-chuh district, having graduated as a licentiate in 1874, came up in 1876 for the provincial competition, endeavoured to force his way into the hall under the apprehension that he would be too late for the roll-call. On being turned back by the soldier at the door, he presumed, on the strength of his literate's garb, to abuse and vilify the man; and, paying no heed to the remonstrance addressed to him by the Governor's adjutant, who came up on hearing the disturbance, he still endeavoured to force his way in, clamouring wildly at the same time. The Governor hereupon caused him to be put under arrest in the guardhouse in custody of the officer of instruction of the district, but a mob of the candidates, hereupon,—the names of eight of whom are known and are set forth in full, those of many others being unascertained,—forced their way into the guardhouse, insisting upon the release of the prisoner with great clamour, and in the throng and confusion the furniture was upset and doors, windows, and partitions were smashed. Order was only restored by the personal intervention of the Governor (as above stated). On the conclusion of the proceedings that have now been instituted in obedience to the Imperial rescript received, the Governor has to submit that the culprit Hwa Kia-jui confesses having sought to force his way into the Examination Hall and raised an uproar, though, as regards the assembling of a mob to attack the guardhouse, no complicity has been brought home to him. The statutes are found, on thorough search, to contain no proviso directly applicable to the offence committed, and it is necessary, therefore, to deal with the case by the process of analogy, pronouncing sentence on a mitigated basis. The Governor, accordingly, supports the judgment of the court, pronounced in accordance with the statute providing for cases in which students who fail to pass for their degree, giving vent to feelings of resentment at their lot, may indulge in outbreaks of a disorderly nature. The penalty for this is transportation, which, mitigated to the next degree, gives a sentence of one hundred blows and banishment for three years. The delinquent to be accordingly remanded to the Magistracy of his native district, whence a proposal should emanate respecting the place to be assigned for his banish-

ment. On arrival at this place, the personal penalty will be inflicted in its commuted form, and the delinquent will eventually be returned to his native place and set at liberty at the expiry of his term of banishment. The other individuals, whose names are ascertained, are sentenced to be deprived of their degrees and steps are to be taken for their apprehension. The soldier, who acted only as was his duty in barring access to the doorway, to be acquitted of all blame. The candidates who took part in the riot but whose names have not been ascertained, to be exempted from farther proceedings; and the parties found not guilty to be released. These sentences being submitted for approval, the Grand Council has received the following rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report to Us.

(3) P'an Ting-sin, Governor of Yünnan, memorializes representing the severe straits to which the Provincial Exchequer is reduced. The Imperial solicitude has repeatedly been manifested in commands for the supply of subsidies from other provinces; and the authorities of the Board of Revenue, fully conscious of the necessities prevailing on the border, have not been wanting in efforts directed toward compelling the payment of arrears due. The interests of Yünnan have had full consideration, and the provincial authorities, much as they might wish to submit farther applications, must acknowledge that they have no good ground for doing so. That the other provinces have also their own exigencies to contend with, which prevent them from fulfilling their obligations punctually, is also acknowledged. The arrears accumulated during a series of years past amount to several millions of taels; and the Provincial Government cherishes no such extravagant expectation as that of seeing this amount made good; but whilst the total sum which would have been received had the instruction issued last year by the Board of Revenue been complied with,—for the payment of Tls. 40,000 per mensem in the way of subsidies,—would only have amounted to Tls. 480,000 for the year, even this amount has not been remitted in full. Owing to the impoverishment caused by the long continued state of warfare in the province, the total amount of revenue collected from land tax and *lekin* is but Tls. 600,000; and the spectacle of the distress under which the population labours makes it clear that no increase of taxation is possible. The natural wealth existing in the copper mines cannot be developed with empty hands; and as

the proposal put forward some time ago by the Governor to raise money by means of a foreign loan, which was submitted as the last desperate resource, all else failing, has been defeated and is now impracticable, he has nothing farther to do but to fold his hands and await the assistance to be derived from neighboring jurisdictions. He has to observe, however, that, in addition to the Tls. 40,000 per mensem ordered by the Board of Revenue in the way of subsidies, an amount of Tls. 1,000,000, on account of past arrears, has farther been appropriated to Yünnan to meet the prime cost of the copper production; but, owing to the non-receipt of other funds, it has been impossible not to trench upon this fund for outside purposes. The Governor entreats that the punctual transmission of the monthly subsidies may be enjoined upon the provinces by which these are due, winding up with an earnest exposé of the financial pressure experienced in his administration.—Referred by rescript for consideration and report on the part of the Board of Revenue.

Sept. 30th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Board of Civil Office, which has reported that the transfer of a Department Magistrate from Kiangsu to act on probation as Prefect of North Formosa, as proposed by Shên Pao-chêng, is contrary to rule. The proposal is nevertheless sanctioned, on the ground of the peculiar fitness of the individual functionary

in this case, Lin Ta-ts'üan **林達泉** by name; but it is not to be availed of hereafter as a precedent.

(2) A decree sanctioning the transfer of Wu Kwang-liang **吳光亮** to the post of Brigade-General of T'ai-wan, exchanging with the officer named Chang K'i-kwang, **張其光**, as requested by the provincial Government of Fukkien.

(3) The Military Governor of Hehlung Kiang (the Amur province) memorializes reporting that of late, owing to the influx of settlers into the Hu-lan T'ing and Pa-yen Su-su region, where they have been encouraged to undertake the cultivation of waste lands, an increase in the amount of crime and disorder prevalent has ensued, in consequence of the necessarily mixed nature of the population. The country has at the same time been periodically invaded by incursions of the mounted banditti from the "Green" and "Black" Mountains, and of late years lawless individuals of the population have combined with Bannermen

and Mongols to make forays in open daylight upon the pasturage lands, whence herds of oxen or horses are driven off for sale beyond the local boundaries. This offence of cattle-lifting has grown more and more frequent, until it has become developed from isolated acts of theft into an organized system. The memorialist has now to report the apprehension of an offender at the seat of Government itself, who actually had in his possession a key manufactured to fit the lock of the city gate, his declared object being to obtain passage by this means for the horses stolen by himself and his confederates. Two of his accomplices had also been apprehended, and the names of two others elicited. Authority is solicited for the execution of the three prisoners.—Referred by rescript to the Board of Punishments.

(4) The Superintendents of the Peking Customs memorialize, in addition to their report of the amount of duties collected on merchandise during their year of incumbency (see *Gazette* of 28th instant), setting forth the amount collected under the separate head of duty on Opium during the same period. The total is stated at Tls. 11,565.7.5, beside an amount of Tls. 349.6.1 collected as an additional percentage for sundry expenses. (Note.—The amount reported under this head, on the 6th October, 1876, was Tls. 11,299.7.)

Oct. 1st.—(1) A decree based upon a report from the Governor of Shantung respecting the escape of a prisoner from the jail of the Lin-kow district in Shantung. The jailwarden is ordered to be stripped of his rank and made a prisoner for trial, and the other customary proceedings are likewise ordained.

(2) The Board of Civil Office submits its report upon the proposed exchange of offices between the Taotai of Sü-chow in Kiang-pek and the Grain Intendant of Kiangsi, as solicited by the Governor-General Shên Pao-chêng. Notwithstanding the strong recommendations submitted by the latter, the Board feels bound to disapprove the proposal, as it is contrary to regulation that officials in different provinces should make such exchanges of office. The ultimate decision is left to the sovereign will of His Majesty. (See *Gazettes* of June 22nd and July 7th.)

(3) Tso Tsung-t'ang Governor-General of Kansuh etc. reports that the post of General of the Chinese forces at Urumts'i having been vacated by its late acting incumbent, and as Poh Ch'ang **博昌**, the officer appointed

to the post by a recent decree, is understood to have been promoted from the command he was filling at P'u-urh Fu in Yünnan, and no intelligence of his having set out on his way to Kansuh has yet been received, General Kin Yün-ch'ang 金運昌, an officer of great merit and experience, has been appointed temporarily to act in this post. (N.B.—Poh Ch'ang, who was acting General-in-chief in Yünnan until the Spring of 1875, and who has since that period resided at Peking, had audience of leave a short time since on his departure for Urumts'i.)

(4) Li P'ei-king, Governor of Kweichow, memorializes reporting that an expectant Department Magistrate, named Tu Ta-ting, has been removed from the management of a branch office for the collection of the *lekin* tax on native grown opium in the prefecture of Ta-ting Fu, owing to a deficit of Tls. 1,100 and odd in the amount transmitted by him to the head-office. On the charge being brought against him by the expectant Prefect at the head of the office for the collection of *lekin* on native-grown opium, he has been summoned to the provincial capital for examination; and a decree is solicited stripping him of his rank to enable him to be subjected to trial in ordinary form.—Rescript: Let Tu Ta-ting be forthwith stripped of his rank, brought to trial, and held bound to make restitution within a prescribed time.

Oct. 2nd.—(1) A Decree. Let Chow Shêng-shu succeed to the post of Super-vising Censor of the Board of Revenue department.

(2-4) The Yamên of Gendarmerie memorializes forwarding three appeal cases, as follows:—

a. A widow named Hiang-chang She, from Szech'wan, complains of the murder of her husband by a gang of ruffians, headed by his own brother, in consequence of a dispute about some house property.

b. A woman from Kiangsu complains of the murder of her husband, who was beaten to death by certain individuals who had failed in an attempt to dispossess him of some cemetery land. Through their machinations, a verdict of "suicide by opium-poisoning" was obtained at the inquest held on his remains; and all attempts to secure a hearing locally have failed, notwithstanding appeals lodged by the complainant at the yamên of the Taotai and the Governor-General.

In each of the above two cases, the appellant is represented at Peking by a son.

c. A titular licentiate of the Ning-tsin district in Chihli complains of the murder of his father in consequence of a dispute about a share in the business he was engaged in. Justice has been denied as usual, notwithstanding repeated applications to the various superior authorities.—Referred in the customary manner for provincial rehearing.

(5) Yang Yoh-pin, Inspector-General of the Yangtze naval forces, with reference to his late application for leave of absence to enable him to attend upon his aged and bedridden parents, reports that their health is more and more impaired, and he is again compelled to crave the indulgence of an extension of his leave.—Rescript granting four months' additional congé.

(6) Li Hung-chang memorializes reporting that severe drought has prevailed in Chihli since the month of June, beside which a plague of locusts has been experienced, and that the rain which has fallen since July has been insufficient for the autumn crops. The southern prefectures of the province, in particular, have suffered from absolute drought, and in view of the impending scarcity importations of grain on a large scale have been encouraged. It is solicited that the *lekin* leviable upon all such grain in course of transportation may be remitted.—Granted by rescript dated September 17th.

Oct. 3rd.—(1) A decree, in answer to a memorial from the Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu, authorizing the opening of the establishments for the relief of distress at an earlier period than that prescribed by regulation, and granting as usual an allowance of 500 piculs of millet for their supply. An additional allowance of 400 piculs of millet is at the same time granted for the relief agency at Lu Kow-k'iao, in the country west of Peking. A farther allowance of 300 piculs of millet is awarded to the private charitable asylum lately set on foot.

(2) A decree granting 2,000 piculs of millet to the relief agencies at T'ung-chow, on the east of Peking.

(3) A decree referring to the severe degree in which the province of Shansi has suffered, during the present year, from drought, with reference to which sanction has already been given to the Governor, Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, to retain for expenditure in the province an amount of Tael 200,000 out of the revenue destined for Peking. In addition to this, Li Hung-chang was commanded to provide a sum of Tls. 100,000 toward the relief of distress in the province of Honan. The Governor of

that province was subsequently permitted to retain, as he requested, a sum of Tls. 147,000 and odd for local expenditure on the same account. In view of the widespread distress under which the people are labouring, their necessities awakening in the profoundest degree the Imperial sympathies, it is now additionally commanded that Tls. 400,000 be provided, one-half by the Board of Revenue and one-half by Li Hung-chang, of which amount 7/10ths are to be appropriated to the requirements of Shansi and the remainder to go to Honan. The Governors of these provinces are at the same time adjured, on being entrusted with sums of such magnitude, to require the officials acting under their orders to put forth their most conscientious endeavours in the work of distribution, to the end that the Imperial bounty be allowed to reach those who stand actually in need, and that no peculation be suffered to step in. It is furthermore ordained that 40,000 piculs of rice from the quantity in course of conveyance to Peking from the central provinces be detained en route and conveyed to Shansi for the supply of that province. The levy of all *lekin* and Customs' duties upon rice in course of transportation to the afflicted provinces is ordered to be remitted.

(4) Tséng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, memorializes reporting the establishment of a House of Detention at the provincial capital, on the principle proposed by the Governor of Kweichow (see *Gazette* of April 6th, 1876), in order to obviate the suffering commonly entailed upon witnesses awaiting process of trial. A range of buildings has been purchased and set apart for this purpose, with arrangements for separation of the sexes, and an allowance is provided for the daily maintenance of the inmates to be lodged there.

Oct. 4th.—No documents of importance.

Oct. 5th.—(Court Circular.) The Yamên of Gendarmerie memorialized this day reporting the apprehension of eight individuals charged with purchasing wrappers woven with dragons in gold thread. (N.B.—This probably refers to the abstraction of wrappers reported in the *Gazette* of 23rd Sept.)

(1) A decree in acknowledgment of a memorial addressed to the throne by Ho Show-ts'ze, President of the Court of Censors. His recommendations relating to the selection of military officers with proper qualifications for command, the extension of the system of laying up stores of grain, and the giving increased efficiency to the tything and mutual responsibility system, are not devoid of features of utility. The

first essential in the conduct of administration is the supply of suitable agents; and inasmuch as the welfare of the people closely depends upon the degree to which the officers invested with the functions of local government are honest or the reverse, it is all important, in the interest of supreme order, that the virtuous and capable be selected with prudent care. Injunctions are consequently laid upon the high authorities throughout the Empire to apply the most thorough endeavours in the scrutiny they conduct, and to report without fail to the Throne all individuals who may distinguish themselves by their efforts on the people's behalf. In the event of any officials who have been recommended turning out badly, the high officials who may have recommended them shall be held personally responsible. As regards military commands, recommendations are similarly called for. The granary and tything systems are also to receive the attention of all provincial governments.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor of Shensi, who has reported a local outbreak in the district of P'u-ch'êng, where a band of budmashes under the leadership of a man heretofore stripped of a military licentiateship had broken into the city, thrown open the jail and burnt down the magistrate's yamên, the magistrate himself perishing in the fray. A body of troops had subsequently captured or killed almost the whole of the offenders. Honours are decreed in favour of the murdered magistrate.

(3) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, etc., memorializes reporting on the purchase of certain batches of ponies in Mongolia for artillery service. An additional supply of animals being required for the field-guns which have of late been allotted to the various cantonments of troops, and also for the cavalry field force quartered in Chêngting Fu, officers have been sent to Mongolia to buy ponies, and the purchase of 813 head by these commissioners has already been reported to the Throne. A farther supply being now again required, three batches, amounting to 440 in all, have now been additionally purchased in the neighbourhood of Kalgan and Lama Miao.

Oct. 6th.—(1) A Decree. Let Ts'ung K'i and Shao Hêng-yü proceed by post-relay to Honan to undertake a commission of enquiry. Let the officials of their suite proceed in the same manner. Shao Hêng-yü being thus otherwise employed, pending his arrival to take up his office, let Li Han-chang combine with his other functions the Governorship of Hupeh.

(2) A Decree. Whereas, of all the provinces which have been afflicted during the present year with drought and floods, Shansi and Honan have suffered the most grievously from want of rain, We have already allotted sums of money for the purchase of grain to be bestowed upon those in need by way of relief, and have laid Our injunctions upon the authorities respectively concerned to see that their subordinates make full and proper distribution, to the end that our bounty be enjoyed by those for whom it is intended. The Tutor of the Imperial Academy, Wang Ming-lwan, now memorializes Us stating that manifold abuses continue prevalent, such as the fabrication of fictitious lists of sufferers, the receipt of grants under false pretences, the production of lists in which the same individuals are made to figure over and over again, and the exaction of money payments for the entry of names. Furthermore, that in the issue of grain, in particular, knavery is even still more to be apprehended. Stringent instructions are hereupon ordered to be given by all the Provincial Governments concerned, to cause a strict watch to be kept by their subordinates for the prevention of all such abuses.

(3) A decree issued at the solicitation of Wên Kéh, Governor of Shantung, who asks that Kung Yih-t'u, Taotai at Chefoo, be commanded to return without delay to his post. The Provincial Government of Fuhkien is instructed, accordingly, to require the official in question to return from Foochow, the leave granted to enable him to assist in the local relief agency having now expired.

(4) A Decree. Let P'an Ting-sin come to Peking and await other employment. Let Tu Jui-lien (the Lieutenant-Governor) act provisionally in his stead as Governor of Yunnan.

(5) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, memorializes exposing the shortcomings of a Brigade-General named Chang Shêng-k'iei, who while holding command in the north of Formosa, had recruited a force of 100 men, whom he had been commissioned to raise as military colonists for the east coast, from the mere sweepings of the streets, upwards of 10 per cent. of whom had deserted as soon as it was known that they were to be draughted off to till the ground, and a large proportion of the remainder being sick and infirm. The Governor adds that he is personally responsible for the appointment of General Chang to the office he lately filled, the Governor's attention having been drawn to him by the activity he displayed during

the floods at Foochow in rescuing the inhabitants by his own personal exertions. The officer in question came only last year from Tientsin to serve in Fuhkien. Conscientious as the Governor is that the offence of hushing up the shortcomings complained of in this case would be more serious than that of having in the first instance recommended the advancement of an official who has proved himself unworthy, he solicits that Chang Shêng-k'iei be now cashiered.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 19th Sept.

Oct. 7th.—(1) A decree referring to the distress prevailing in the provinces of Shansi and Honan owing to the recent drought, the result of which has been a most disastrous famine. It has already been decreed that 40,000 piculs of the grain in process of conveyance to Peking from Kiangsu and Nganhwei should be allotted for the supply of the province of Shansi (see *Gazette* of 3rd inst.); and it is now farther commanded that the whole of the remainder, amounting to 40,000 piculs and upwards, be appropriated to the province of Honan. Steps are to be taken by Li Hung-chang and the Governor of Honan to effect its transportation to that province. Touching the amount of Tls. 400,000 which, by the recent Decree, the Board of Revenue and Li Hung-chang were commanded to provide, three-tenths of which were to go to Honan, it is now ordained, in view of the requirement experienced in the last-named province for immediate supplies of grain, that the entire amount of the Tls. 200,000 to be provided by the Board of Revenue is to be forwarded to Shansi, whilst, as regards the Tls. 60,000 which were to be appropriated to Honan, this amount is to be paid out of the Tls. 200,000 to come from the Chihli exchequer, and to go toward the purchase of grain on account of Honan. Li Hung-chang is to send agents to Manchuria to purchase supplies with the amount in question, and to cause the same to be conveyed by water to Honan, in order that they may arrive the more expeditiously. Should there be any difficulty in the way of purchasing the full amount at once, the needful quantities are to be advanced from the stores of grain accumulated in Chihli for sale at reduced rates, as Li Hung-chang may think best. The Governor of Honan is to submit proposals for any needful remissions or postponement of taxation.

(2) A Decree. Let Wên-kwei 文桂 go to be Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Hangchow.

(3) The Governor of Honan memorializes reporting a case of triple murder by a burglar. The offender has been sentenced, according to law, to suffer death by the lingering process (*ling-ch'e*).

(4) The Governor-General of the Two Hu provinces memorializes reporting the decease on the 7th ultimo, of the Governor of Hupeh, Wéng T'ung-tsioh, whose official career he summarizes, from his appointment to the office of Taotai in Hunan, after serving as a Secretary in the Board of War at Peking, to his promotion in 1874 to the post of Governor of Hupeh. The virtues and abilities of the deceased are warmly eulogized, and particulars are supplied respecting his sons and grandson. (For rescript see *Gazette* of 19th Sept.)

Oct. 8th.—(1) A decree naming some 25 officials (nominated by the Hanlin college) to be placed on the list for appointment to the office of Censor.

(2) A decree ordaining that, in view of the distress occasioned by drought in Shansi, Honan, and Shensi, a series of propitiatory services shall be held on the 10th inst. at the various State temples.

(3) The Governor of Shensi memorializes reporting the assassination of a Taotai in command of troops, named Hwang Ting, who was murdered in his bed on the 27th July last by a military subaltern to whom he had refused leave to return to Szech'wan, his native province. Sanction for the execution of capital punishment upon the offender is solicited. (For rescript see *Gazette* of 8th inst.)

(4) The high provincial authorities of Fuhkien memorialize reporting that the Taotai at Shanghai, Fèng Tsün-kwang, contributed last year for the relief of the sufferers from the floods at Foochow 1,000 piculs of rice, 2,000 wadded garments, and 1,600 pieces of cotton cloth, together with a supply of medicines. It is requested that, in conformity with the regulations prescribed with reference to contributions for the relief of distress at Tientsin, honorary distinctions may be conferred upon the Taotai's progenitors for three generations.—Sanctioned by rescript.

(5) Kin Shun, Military Governor and Commander-in-chief of the Ili region, etc., memorializes reporting the measures adopted with reference to the wounded and disabled men and officers of the force which effected last year the recapture of Kumudi, Urumtsi, and Manas. Officers have been appointed to superintend the conveyance of these sufferers back to their native districts, a sum for the defrayal of travelling expenses having been given to

each individual, calculated upon the length of journey in each case. In view of the great distance, not less than 3,000 miles, which will have to be traversed, and the compassion which is due to the sick and crippled invalids by whom this toilsome journey is to be accomplished, the Imperial lovingkindness is appealed to for instructions requiring the provincial authorities to cause transport to be provided for them from point to point, by a circular from the Board of War addressed to the Governments of Hupeh, Honan, Ngan-hwei, Shensi, Kansuh, Sze-ch'wan, Kweichow, and Chihli.—Granted by rescript.

Oct. 9th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor of Shansi, who has submitted for perusal an explanation tendered by Lin Show-t'u, the Financial Commissioner of the province, lately cashiered on a charge of disobeying the regulations prescribed for the supply of funds to the army of Tso Tsung-t'ang. In this case, as Lin Show-t'u argues that he has not been guilty of the fraudulent misrepresentation charged against him, it is right that a public statement of the particulars should be made for his satisfaction. The Board of Revenue is commanded, therefore, to institute a searching investigation into the facts as referred to in the memorial and its enclosure, and to report on the same without any approach to partiality.

(2) A decree cashiering the jail-warden of the Li-ch'wan district in Hupeh and directing him to be placed on trial in connection with the escape of a prisoner. The District Magistrate is held subject to the penalty incurred by him in consequence of the escape.

(3) The Grand Secretariat, headed by Li Hung-chang, memorializes stating that the Veritable Records of the past reigns, and the Homilies of former sovereigns, being deposited in the great archive room of the Secretariat, it is the rule that the volumes of these works which are laid each day before his Majesty should be taken out, in due turn, by the clerk on duty, attended by the servants of the department. It has now been reported to the Secretariat by the Assistant Reader Chung Siu and his colleagues, that on the 19th September the clerk on duty, on proceeding to the archive room, found the strips of paper used in sealing up the doors to have fallen off, and both the large and small locks to have been apparently tampered with. On inspection being made it was found that five of the archive presses had

been opened, but that nothing was missing beyond 218 of the wrappers enveloping the books within. The receipt of this intelligence has been astounding to the memorialists, who proceeded personally to inspect the place; and they solicit that the police authorities be commanded to take stringent measures for the apprehension of the depredators who have had such audacity as to commit a robbery within the palace precincts themselves. The Grand Secretaries residing in Peking and the subordinates directly responsible submit themselves also for the penalty they have incurred through failure to guard against such an occurrence. —For rescript see *Gazette* of Sept. 23rd.

(3) Yung Ts'üan, late Military Governor of Ili, memorializes reporting upon the amounts of grain harvested on account of supplies for the army in that region, in connection with the transfer of his command to his successor. Having been commanded by decree in 1871 to proceed to the west (*i.e.*, to the Russian territory) to make arrangements with the Russian officials for taking over affairs in Ili, on returning thence in 1872, when his head-quarters were established at Tarbagatai, land was at once brought under cultivation by military colonists in order to furnish supplies for the army. Statements have already been laid before the Throne of the quantities of grain sold at reduced rates, and other details connected with this matter; and he has now to submit a report for the period from September 1874 to June 1877. The balance of grain left in hand at the beginning of 1875 was 1,289 piculs of barley (*siao mēh*), and the quantity harvested in that year was 2,135 piculs. In the following year, 7,895 piculs were obtained. Details of the issues made from this stock are next given.

Oct. 10th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, who has requested that an official of the Hanlin college named Wu Ta-ch'eng may be sent to Tientsin to assist the Territorial and Customs' Taotais in the operations connected with the distribution of relief. Orders are given accordingly.

(2) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fohkien, memorializes soliciting a mark of Imperial approbation for a new educational institution established at Foochow under his auspices. Commencing with the apophthegm that the fundamental requisite in the administration of government is the supply of suitable agents, and that the source whence such agents are to be looked for consists in the fostering of study, he proceeds to extol the wise and

beneficent system under which the reigning dynasty has covered the land with an educational organization, placing official centres of instruction in every city, and permitting colleges to be founded, in addition, in all directions. The result has been seen in the abundant development of ability that has marked the history of the last two hundred years. The province of Fuhkien, itself the scene of the educational labours of the sage (Chu Hi) of bygone times, has long been famed for its intellectual activity; and three Colleges have long existed at its capital city. In these institutions, however, the curriculum is exclusively devoted to the arts of poetry and style; no leisure is afforded there for the study of the canonical Books, the historians, and questions of the day. In 1872, the late Governor of the province, Wang K'ai-t'ai, set on foot an establishment named the *Che Yung T'ang*

致用堂, or Institute for Practical study, to which scholars were encouraged to repair in numbers for the purpose of attending monthly classes devoted to the canonical Books and the historians. Graduates of both the provincial and prefectural examinations and simple licentiates were equally admitted, and an examination was to be held in the second moon of each year by the Governor-General and Governor in person. The services of a President for the institution were engaged, to hold monthly examinations; and a sum of Tls. 20,000 was appropriated from unemployed public balances to be placed at interest in order to furnish the requisite means for defraying the expenses to be incurred. It was arranged that the attendance should consist in ten indoor students, receiving Tls. 4 per mensem each, and 20 outdoor, receiving Tls. 3. The memorialist, on taking office as Governor of Fuhkien, observed that want of means prevailed among the greater number of the scholars of the province who were distinguished alike by respectability and erudition, for which reason he set aside last year, from the balance of the relief funds provided, a sum of Tls. 5,000 which was put out at interest, thus enabling six additional indoor and twelve additional outdoor students to be taken on the rolls of the establishment. Following the example set by the scholars of past ages, the curriculum has been divided into two branches, *viz.*, the interpretation of the canonical Books 經義, and political economy 治事. In the memorialist's humble opinion, what it is essential to aim at is that as large a number of scholars as possible should seek

to follow the example of the worthies of the past, and to study doctrinal literature in its application to practical questions

經濟. Every individual who is now trained to make his mark in scholarship is one more added to the list of public officials who will follow the right path in days to come; and by this means suitable agents may be effectively obtained, setting aside the vain repute of erudition which keeps itself apart from the work and ways of actual life. The memorialist concludes by soliciting that a tablet with an Imperial inscription may be conferred upon the *Che Yung Shu Yuan*, or College of Practical Results, which has thus been organized, in conformity with earlier precedents in favour of the three other Colleges existing at Foochow. —Granted by rescript, 25th Sept.

Oct. 11th. Ting Pao-chêng, the newly appointed Governor General of Sze-ch'wan, sets forth in a long and elaborate report his proposals for a re-arrangement of the provincial salt monopoly system as regards its ramifications in the adjoining province of Kweichow. In addition to the proceeds of the land tax, the revenue from salt is the only important item in the receipts of the Sze-ch'wan exchequer. In the peaceful times heretofore prevailing, the salt of Sze-ch'wan was largely consumed in Kweichow and Yunnan, in the first named of which provinces the contractors for the gabelle had agencies in various prefectures, at which the amounts of several tens of thousands of licenses were annually disposed of. Since the rebellion, however, the province of Kweichow having been laid waste in every direction, and the population dispersed or annihilated, so that not a tenth of its former numbers is now in existence, the old salt agencies have virtually ceased to exist. Sze-ch'wan has consequently lost its source of revenue, and what remained to it, on the side of Hupeh, has been threatened by repeated proposals for a return to the old system of supplying that region from the Hwai-ngan salt producing area. The arrears of revenue on the Kweichow provincial account amount to upwards of Tls. 1,000,000, and no prospect of recovery has presented itself. The result of an enquiry instituted by the memorialist's orders is a proposition that the system of supplying the province of Kweichow with salt from Sze-ch'wan shall be resumed, but with the modification that the salt be conveyed to the distributing centres by Government agency, and sold there to the licensed contractors. The

mercantile agencies which formerly undertook the business on Government account, being large Shensi firms, with an aggregate capital of upwards of Tls. 10,000,000, were in a position to undertake the needful heavy preliminary outlay contingent upon the traffic in salt; but these concerns have been broken up in consequence of the recent troublous period, and the firms which are now in existence are merely joint-stock concerns formed by Kweichow and Sze-ch'wan traders, with comparatively limited means. Enumerating the difficulties which stand in the way of a development of the salt traffic, the Governor-General refers to the multitude of fees which are arbitrarily exacted at every turn from the license holders, and to the number of *lekin* offices which are met with in all directions in the province of Kweichow, which is overspread by an absolute network of such barriers. The entire revenue annually derived from *lekin* in the province of Kweichow, including the amounts yielded by printed calicoes and timber—the two staples of trade—does not exceed Tls. 100,000. This is of slight avail to the public interest, whilst the trader, harassed in addition by cumulative levies of Customs' duties, the exactions of officials and their underlings, and the rapacity of local *prepotenti* and village bullies, is too often deterred altogether from making a venture. The scheme now submitted with a view to ameliorating this state of affairs, consists in the establishment of salt agencies of the Sze-ch'wan Government at various points in Kweichow; and as the undertaking is to be of an official character, care will be taken in that province to sweep away all the local imposts and exactions heretofore prevailing at barriers controlled by prefectural and district officers. In Kweichow, however, it remains to be stated, the exigencies of the public service have led to the imposition of a levy of 10 per cent.

見十抽一 on all salt arriving at the distributing agency, this impost being known as the *ta li* **大厘** or great *lekin*.

Of this, however, the memorialist has heard that it does not all find its way into the public exchequer. In the course of transport, moreover, salt is further burdened with levies designated "half *lekin*," "little *lekin*," local consumption duty or *octroi* (*loh ti shuei*), and so forth, to which have to be added the exactions imposed at the various examining offices and the unauthorized tax-stations kept up by the district authorities in general. As the result, each *yin* of salt (amounting probably to about

500 catties) conveyed to Kweichow, undergoes taxation to the amount of several tens of taels. At the same time, salt stands for not more than one-half of the total revenue of about Tls. 100,000 annually raised in Kweichow by the *lekin* tax on both salt and merchandize; and the memorialist now proposes that the province of Sze-ch'wan shall undertake to furnish to Kweichow a sum of Tls. 50,000 or 60,000 per annum from its own exchequer, to be increased hereafter if the trade expands, as a substitute for the above amount, a decree being at the same time solicited, commanding the Government of Kweichow to give orders for the exemption, henceforward, of the Sze-ch'wan salt from all taxation at the *lekin* barriers, and to allow no amounts to be levied by way of Customs' duties other than those which are specified in the Board of Revenue's regulations. As regards the expenses which will be entailed for the establishment of the proposed agencies and the transport of salt to these points, it is estimated that an amount of Tls. 500,000 will be required. The exchequer of Sze-ch'wan is absolutely bare, and the only source of supply that can be thought of is the Treasury of Shantung, from the Governorship of which province the memorialist has lately come. The measures of economy which he had there instituted, have left available reserves in the treasuries of the Salt and Rice departments; and he proposes therefore that Tls. 300,000 be advanced by way of loan from those departments, with an additional Tls. 100,000 from the *lekin* revenue, the whole to be repaid to Shantung within eight years by annual instalments. The remaining Tls. 100,000 could be raised in Sze-ch'wan itself.—The proposals are referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

Oct. 12th.—(1) A Decree. With reference to a memorial We have received from Tso Tsung-t'ang, soliciting that marks of Our approbation be bestowed upon the officials who have attended to the raising of troops and the forwarding of supplies of funds on behalf of his army in the field—in view of the success which has attended the operations in Turkestan, it behoves Us to single out, for the present, as recipients of reward, those officials who, headed by the Assistant Military Commissioner Liu Tien, have distinguished themselves by their exertions in the control of the populations in rear of the army, in the raising of troops, and in the providing of financial supplies. Upon Liu Tien We confer the insignia of the first degree of rank; upon T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shansi, the peacock feather

of the second degree, &c., &c. (A list of 5 or 6 other officials, similarly rewarded, here follows.) For the rest, be it as is proposed.

(2) A Decree. The Board of Punishments memorializes Us stating that a condemned felon, brought up for final sentence at the Palace Assize, has cried out for justice before the tribunal, whereupon the appointment of a high Commission of enquiry is applied for. In the case of the appellant for justice Wang Yeo-shêng, alias Wang San, let the Grand Secretariat join with the Board of Punishments in arraigning him once more for trial and report to Us thereupon. (N.B. The Palace Assize, held annually in the ninth moon, takes cognizance of the capital cases awaiting authority for the execution of sentence, and on its report depends the the issue of the death-warrant, which is signified by a circle placed in red against the name of the condemned prisoner. From the Board of Punishments' prison at Peking, twenty-six condemned criminals were lately sent up before the Assize, headed by the well-known ex-General Ch'êng Luh, whose trial and condemnation in 1874 for a wholesale massacre committed under his orders on the Kansuh frontier was a prominent incident in the history of that year. Three times respited, he will probably now escape the execution of his sentence. The appeal of Wang Yeo-Shêng, referred to in the above decree, was based on the inculpation of an alleged fellow-culprit, who had hitherto been exempted from prosecution in a case of homicide.)

(3) The Court of Censors memorialize forwarding an appeal lodged by a native of Chehkiang, complaining of the murder of his brother by a gang of ruffians, who cut up the corpse in six pieces and hid them away, enquiry having been subsequently stifled through collusion on the part of the District Magistrate's underlings.—Referred for provincial rehearing in the usual manner.

(4) The Imperial Controller-General of Kokonor reports having held a durbar of the Mongol princes and nobles, according to regulation, at the time for presenting the autumnal sacrifices to the god of the Sea of Kokonor. (See *Gazette* of 11th Oct. 1875).

Oct. 13th.—(1) A Decree. Let Chang Têh-luh 張得祿 be transferred to fill the post of Brigade-General of Ku-chow in Kweichow. Let Yang Yü-k'o 楊玉科 succeed to the Brigade-Generalship of Kao-chow in Kwangtung, which thus becomes

vacated. (N.B. Yang Yü-k'o is, with Ts'ên Yü-ying, the joint hero of the reconquest of Yünnan from the Panthay insurgents; and he was for some time, in 1875-1876, acting General-in-chief of the forces in Yünnan. For his removal from that province see *Gazette* of 29th August last.)

(2) A Decree. The Censor Liu Ngên-p'u memorializes Us soliciting that the cultivation of the poppy be forbidden. The growth of the poppy plant is in a high degree detrimental to the production of the food supply of the people, and Decrees have heretofore been issued commanding the provincial governments to take stringent measures for prohibiting it. We are now informed by the Censor abovenamed, that the plant continues to be largely cultivated, without authority, in all parts of the province of Shansi, and he urges that a public manifesto be issued proclaiming the interdiction, as also that specific penalties be enacted for the case of district officials who may prove guilty of neglect in the matter. Let the Governor of the province, Tsêng K'woh-ts'üan, institute an enquiry with all due diligence, making it his positive duty to forbid the practice without exception. Should the district officials continue to shew an absence of energy in the execution of their orders, and to be guilty of winking at the continuance of a practice of which they are well aware, let them forthwith be rigorously denounced to the throne.

(3) A Decree. In the matter of the sev-re affliction which has this year befallen the province of Shansi in consequence of drought, We have repeatedly issued decrees appropriating funds to purposes of relief; but inasmuch as it may be feared that abuses will be committed by the officials and underlings of the provincial administration in the distribution of supplies, whereby Our bounty would be prevented from reaching the masses for whom it is intended, We command that Yen King-ming, formerly holding office as a senior Vice-President of the Board of Works, be appointed to travel throughout the afflicted region, and to superintend with all due diligence the administration of the relief agencies. In the case of any reprehensible conduct, or malpractices in the shape of embezzlement and the like, let him impeach the offender in a memorial addressed to the Throne.

(4) The Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Hangchow memorializes representing the impossibility of obtaining the raw material required for the silk fabrics he is ordered to supply for

Palace use at the rates prescribed by the Board of Revenue regulations, to which it has been enjoined upon him that return should be made. He represents that existing circumstances render compliance with the former rates impossible. Not only has production been largely diminished since the rebellion, but two new elements, viz., the imposition of the *likin* tax and the foreign demand for raw silk, have come in to enhance the market value. He is obliged to renew the representations already heretofore advanced on this subject, and to entreat a postponement of the revival of the old tariff of rates for the purchase of raw silk and dye stuffs.—Sanctioned by rescript.

(5) The Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Nanking reports the completion of an order for 500 rolls of yellow brocaded satin, required for the current year's supply, which has been executed at a cost of Tls. 16,540.

Oct. 14th.—(1) The Governor of Yünnan memorializes reporting the result of a trial held in a case in which a subaltern military officer in the prefecture of P'u-urh Fu has been charged with committing a murder. The sentences propounded upon the persons implicated in the case are submitted for sanction and referred by rescript for report on the part of the Board of Punishments.

(2) The high authorities of Fuhkien memorialize reporting the arrival at Foo-chow of a Liu-ch'üan junk, with thirteen persons on board, which had been driven over to the Chinese coast by stress of weather. The junk being quite seaworthy, the Liu-ch'üans on board have professed themselves as perfectly capable of navigating her back to their own country, and they have been furnished with a month's provisions, and allowed to depart accordingly.

(3) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, memorializes soliciting the bestowal of an Imperial title of honour upon the Dragon God whose temple has long stood at Wu-lung-shan (Black Dragon Hill), outside the north-east gate of the city of Nanking (commanding the Straw-shoe Channel.) The beneficent interposition of this deity has been manifested, not alone on behalf of the ordinary navigation near this point, where, through the perils of a rapid current, vessels are peculiarly exposed to danger, from which they are constantly rescued by the services of the life-boats which shoot out to their assistance, but in particular in connection with the works carried on for the fortification of the Wu-lung-shan. At a critical stage of the

works, when half the soldiery employed in executing them were prostrated by epidemic disease, a salutary change was produced on prayers being offered up at the temple by the officers in command, and the works were completed without a drawback. The other fortifications which were taken in hand at different points along the Yangtze, from Nanking to Silver Island, required the services, also, of continual transport by water up and down stream; and throughout the course of this undertaking manifest interposition of a supernatural character was experienced in the protection of the vessels engaged in the service from wreck or loss, notwithstanding the tempestuous weather they encountered. The Brigade-General in command of the troops, and his officers, having subscribed for the rebuilding of the temple, and the facts being vouched for by the Lieutenant-Governor and sundry other of the provincial authorities, the memorialist solicits that, in conformity with the Imperial regulation to this effect, a title of honour may be conferred upon the local deity and that his temple be added to the list of those at which semi-annual sacrifices are offered by the authorities.—Referred by rescript to the Board of Ceremonies for report.

Oct. 15th.—A decree, referring to the prevailing distress from famine in the provinces of Honan and Shansi, together with the appropriations in money and grain already made toward its relief, but expressing the apprehension that notwithstanding what has been done, the masses of the people may still be exposed to want during the interval between the autumn and the spring harvests. It is consequently ordered that from the current winter's quota of Peking tribute grain to be provided by the province of Shantung, there shall be allotted 160,000 piculs, to go in equal proportions to the two afflicted provinces. The Governors of Honan and Shansi are to take steps for the transport of these supplies to their respective jurisdictions, and to cause the same to be duly distributed as a token of the Imperial sympathy for the suffering population.

No other documents of importance.

Oct. 16th.—(1) A decree sanctioning, on the application of Shên Pao-chêng, Governor General of the Two Kiang, and Yü Luh, Governor of Nganhwei, the bestowal of a title of canonization upon the late K'iao Sung-nien, who died in 1875, whilst holding the office of Director-General of the Yellow River, and who had rendered eminent services during the Taiping rebellion.

(2) The acting Governor of Shantung memorializes reporting the escape of a prisoner under sentence of death from the gaol of the Lin-kü district, by breaking through the wall of the prison, after ridding himself of his fetters, whilst the watchmen were asleep during a storm of rain on a certain night in July last. The jailwarden is denounced in the usual manner. For rescript see *Gazette* of 1st inst.

(3) In a supplementary memorial, the acting Governor of Shantung refers to the measures carried into effect for the relief of the distress from famine in the early part of the year in the prefectures of Ts'ing-chow and Lai-chow, particulars concerning which had earlier been reported to the Throne in a memorial (not published) from the late Governor of the Province, Ting Pao-chêng. A sum of 30,000 or 40,000 Taels, as was previously reported, was to be scraped together by the late Governor from the different treasuries of the province, in the course of last winter, for the purpose of providing means for the issue of rice-gruel in the afflicted districts, and Tls. 43,000 in all were actually issued to the various district Magistrates for this purpose. This amount, however, was small, and it was soon expended; and although charitable persons 善士 and the notables and people of Wei Hien and other districts contributed nobly, the destitute were numbered in tens of thousands, and, as time went on, private efforts became exhausted. The local authorities could not justifiably ignore the condition of affairs, and in order to provide means for the relief of the crowds of starving persons who thronged about the relief agencies, funds were issued from the provincial Treasury to the amount in all of about Tls. 30,000, divided among the various district Magistracies, in addition to which 20,000 piculs of rice and 12,000 articles of clothing were subscribed by the notables and people. A lamentable picture is drawn of the havoc caused among the population of the afflicted districts by the famine, which, in the Lin-kü and adjacent districts, where it was most severely felt, is said to have left nine dwellings depopulated out of ten. Imperial acknowledgments of the contributions afforded by the respective individuals are solicited.

Oct. 17th—(1) A decree, referring to the continued want of rain in the neighbourhood of Peking, and the severe suffering entailed by drought upon the provinces of Shansi, Honan, and Shensi, in consideration whereof propitiatory services were

held on the 16th inst. at the various State temples. The rainfall vouchsafed since then has been inconsiderable; and it is consequently ordained that on the 19th inst. a farther series of propitiatory services are to be held, his Majesty proceeding in person to the Ta Kao Tien, and the Imperial princes respectively to offer incense at other shrines.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang provinces, who has reported the measures he has adopted for encouraging the destruction of locusts, and the collection of their eggs during the winter. In the course of the present year, he states, the crops have suffered greatly in the provinces of Kiangsu and Nganhwei from swarms of locusts, the ground being actually covered to the depth of a foot and more by their bodies in the localities where they have alighted. The local authorities had been called upon to use their most active efforts toward the capture and destruction of the insects; but the Governor-General now represents that, better even than the destruction of the locust itself in the winged state (the *hwang* 蝗), is the extermination of its larva, the *nan* 蟥; whilst most efficacious of all is the collection of the eggs from which the larva proceeds. Instructions have consequently been issued to the district authorities to fix a price at which eggs will be bought, as an encouragement to efforts directed toward the radical extirpation of the plague. The measures reported as having been taken are approved; and a continuance of vigilant care for the energetic carrying out of the proposed system is enjoined upon the high authorities. Negligence on the part of any of their subordinates is to be denounced in stringent terms to the throne.

(3) A Decree. Let Li Wei-shuh 李維述 succeed to the post of Brigade-General of the Yeo Kiang command in Kwangsi.

(4) The Governor of Hunan memorializes reporting that an officer named Ho Shu 何樞 has been selected to fill the vacancy in the office of Prefect of Ch'ang-sha Fu, the provincial capital. This functionary is at present 50 years of age, a native of the province of Honan, who, being at the time an honorary licentiate, was appointed in 1850 to a post in one of the minor Government offices at Peking, and who subsequently took his degrees at the provincial and metropolitan examinations. In 1875 he was transferred to

Hunan in the grade of Prefect, and was appointed to hold office in Ch'ang-têh Fu. He is now strongly recommended for the vacancy above-mentioned. — Referred by rescript to the Board of Civil Office for consideration and report.

(5) The Governor of Chehkiang memorializes reporting the proceedings taken in the case of an old man named Ts'ao Chow, who obtained an interview with him in July last, stating himself to be an expectant District Instructor, and who submitted a paper which purported to contain certain statements of importance relating to the sea-wall conservancy, but which on being examined was a mere rambling and opolix mass of trash, of which, consequently, no farther notice was taken. Some ten days later, however, the same individual submitted a printed book, entitled "Record of the Experiences of Three Generations," which, to the Governor's intense amazement, he found to be ostensibly issued with his own approval and containing an introduction professedly emanating from his own hand. The contents of the work were a tissue of defamatory libels affecting the principal officers of the provincial administration, in connection with a dispute in which the writer was embroiled with a deputy Superintendent of the Salt Revenue, the feud arising out of an endeavour on the writer's part to effect a sale of some family property connected with the Salt department in which he had been opposed by some of his younger kinsmen. After reciting the particulars of the case, and dwelling upon the fact that libellous attacks upon the character of individuals and defamation of high officers of the Government are serious offences in the eye of the law, the Governor states that as the Judicial Commissioner of the province is newly appointed and has but lately taken office, he can have no motive to shew partiality, he has charged that officer with an enquiry into the conduct of which the Deputy Superintendent of the Salt Revenue is accused, concurrently with the trial of the person guilty of putting forth the defamatory libels as above-mentioned.

Oct. 18th.—(1) A decree premising with the observation that among the Histories of all the successive dynasties that have occupied the throne of China, the palm of conciseness and systematic regularity is invariably awarded to those drawn up in the style of Annals of Imperial Acts 帝王本記, and that the compilation of

records of this description has already taken place with reference to the reigns of the successive Sovereigns of the reigning House. It is now ordained that a similar work be undertaken with reference to the reign of his Majesty lately deceased, the Emperor Muh Tsung I, (T'ung Che), the fame of which, alike for civil virtues and for martial triumphs, is diffused to the uttermost ends of creation. The Veritable Record of his late Majesty's reign has already been completed up to its sixth year (1867); and the State Historiographers' Office is now commanded to depute a staff of officials to make a transcript or duplicate copy of the Record so far as it has already been laid before the Throne, and to compile from thence the personal Annals as aforesaid, the work continuing in proportion as the Record itself is carried on toward completion. The duplicate copy of the Veritable Record is to be preserved for reference in the Historiographers' Office.

(2-3) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu memorializes soliciting the issue of Imperial allowances of grain to the charitable asylums at and near Peking.—For rescripts see *Gazette* of 3rd inst.

19th Oct.—(1) A series of decrees appointing examiners, sub-examiners, etc., for the competition about to commence for the military *tsin-she* degree.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from the Hanlin Assistant Reader Chang P'ei-lun, who has solicited that advice to the Throne be publicly called for, by way of discovering a remedy for the calamitous condition of affairs. In reply it is observed that officials of high or low degree throughout the Empire have repeatedly been called upon to express their views on matters affecting the public weal, with the object of obtaining that wisdom which lies in the multitude of councillors. During the present year, a number of the provinces have been afflicted with natural calamities in divers forms, in the shape of flood, drought, and plagues of locusts; and for the relief of the distress thus occasioned, grants of both money and grain have been allotted by the State. In view of the fact, however, that united endeavours should be brought to bear, among high and low alike, with reference to all such questions as those of the prevalence or otherwise of a spirit of negligent adherence to routine in the civil administration, the existence of causes for dissatisfaction among the people, and the possibility of flaws being forthcoming in the method of conferring official appointments and the exercise of the functions of government, the whole official body, of

whatever rank, is adjured to put forth the expression of whatever views may be individually entertained, in order to further the earnest desire which is cherished by the Sovereign to aim at increased rectitude of conduct in face of the visitations with which the Empire is afflicted, and not to be deaf to advice or remonstrance.

—As regards a statement put forward in a postscript memorial by the same writer, to the effect that certain eunuchs have introduced actors and caused plays to be performed within the precincts of the Palace, that buying and selling, attended with noise and disorder, goes on within the enclosure occupied by the manufacturing department of the Imperial Household, and furthermore that gambling-tables have been set on foot there, the stringent prohibition of which is solicited, the Comptrollers of the Household are required to make immediate investigation, and to deal out severe punishment should the facts be discovered to be as is stated.

(3) Wên Kêh, newly appointed Governor of Shantung, memorializes reporting his assumption of office on the 21st August.

(4) Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien (Manchuria), in a postscript memorial, reports that, having deputed an agent to visit Shanghai in the course of a journey some time ago to procure a supply of firearms for the drilled field-force employed in the province, this officer, the Taotai Kao Ts'ung-shun, has lately returned and reported that, whilst passing through Shanghai, he had carefully selected a stock of arms in concert with the acting Taotai at that place, Liu Jui-fên, and had prepared shipments, which were not yet ready, however, to be despatched. The memorialist has hereupon desired the Taotai at Shanghai to forward the arms at once. As regards ammunition, an officer had been despatched to Tientsin to take charge of the requisite shipments, and through the care of the Grand Secretary and Governor-General Li Hung-chang, a supply of lead, bullets, percussion caps, fuses, cartridges, etc., has been sent forward. The memorialist being informed that the foreign breechloading guns manufactured of late in Germany by Krúpp (*K'ê-lu-pu*

克鹿卜), are manageable, strong, and effective weapons, he has requested H. E. Li Hung-chang to order the Tientsin Arsenal to purchase a certain number on his behalf. He has further directed the officer named Chang Kin-lung to raise a body of artillerymen, both officers and privates, to practise the use of these guns.

Oct. 20th.—(1) A decree giving utterance to the Imperial condolences on the decease of the mother of Li Hung-tso, President of the Board of Works, etc., etc. A sacrificial service is accorded in her honour, the sum of Tls. 2,000 is awarded for the expenses of her funeral, and the local authorities are commanded to do what is needful toward the due conveyance of her remains to the place of sepulture at her late home.

(2) A Decree. Let Ho Show-ts'ze 賀壽慈 succeed to the post of President of the Board of Works. Let Sü T'ung 徐桐 become his successor as President of the Court of Censors. (N.B.—By the decease of his mother, as above recorded, the President of the Board of Works is compelled to go into retirement for twenty-seven months. Li Hung-tso vacates, consequently, his appointment as a member of the Yamèn of Foreign Affairs, to which he was gazetted in December last, as well as his position as one of the five members of the Grand Council. He is a native of Tientsin.)

(3) A decree sanctioning a proposal submitted by Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, for the erection of a temple in honour of the deceased Governor-General Tsêng Kwoh-fan, which the notables of Sü-chow Fu, in northern Kiangsu, have asked to be allowed to build in commemoration of the late Governor-General's eminent services in the suppression of the Nien-fei rebellion.

(4) The Governor of Shensi reports an outbreak on the part of certain lawless natives of the P'u-ch'êng district, known as the *Tao Fei* or sword wearing marauders. The P'u-ch'êng, Fu-p'ing, Lin-t'ung, and Wei-nan districts (of the prefecture of Singan Fu) have for many years past been infested by bands of depredators armed with swords, who were accustomed to make the salt-marshes at the point of junction of the four districts above-named their common head-quarters. Although less trouble has been given by this class of persons since the rebellion came to an end, the suffering caused by the drought during the past summer in the country north of the Wei, has led to renewed activity on their part. A highway robbery of provisions having taken place early in August near the salt-marshes, one of the leaders of the band, named Chang Ta-wa, was apprehended by the district Magistrate of Wei-nan, with a number of his followers, and committed to prison. A native of the district, who, for his connection with the *Tao Fei*, had been

deprived of his degree as a military licentiate, and who had a grudge against the Magistrate on this account, raised a band of followers, to the number of 200 or 300 men, with whom, at daylight on the 3rd September, he scaled the city wall, cut down the soldier on duty at the gate, broke into the prison, released Chang Ta-wa and his comrades, and set fire to the yamèn. The Magistrate, on assembling a body of soldiers and police to capture the assailants, was attacked by them, and perished after being wounded in sixteen places. His wife, son, daughter-in-law and grand daughter-in-law were wounded at the same time. The attacking party subsequently retired to their customary haunts, whither they were pursued a few days later by a military force. A number of prisoners were taken after a succession of encounters, beside others who were killed on the spot, and the band has been entirely broken up.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 5th inst.

(5) The acting Governor of Shantung reports that on the 14th September the whole of the vessels of the grain-fleet, 430 in number, had after immense exertions been passed out of the Shantung territory (into the jurisdiction of Chihli) and placed in the waters of the river Wei. The vessels had been brought to a standstill on reaching Lin-ts'ing owing to the extraordinarily shallow state of the Wei, in which the depth of water was but 1 *ch'ih* 4 *ts'un* to 1 *ch'ih* 7 or 8 *ts'un*, whilst there was not a drop to spare in the Canal itself; and as there was no prospect of such a rise as would have allowed the sluices to be opened, the only expedient remaining was that of discharging the junks, and floating them over empty. This was accordingly done, and the fleet has been thus got across on the date above-mentioned.

Oct. 21st.—(1) A decree appointing T'ung Hwa 童華 to the post of a junior Vice-President of the Board of Civil Office. He is to continue to act (in the stead of Kwoh Sung-t'ao) as a Senior Vice-President of the Board of War.

(2) A decree appointing Fêng Yü-k'i 馮譽驥 an acting senior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

(3) The Governor of Kiangsi, Liu Ping-chang, memorializes reporting the institution of a House of Detention for witnesses at the provincial capital, on the system originally proposed by the Governor of Kweichow.—(See *Gazette* of 6th April, 1876.)

Oct. 22nd.—The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with the memorial in

which Ho Show-ts'ze, President of the Court of Censors, presents his views regarding the radical means of cure which should be sought for the ills under which the State is at present labouring. Among the multitudinous affairs of Government, he observes, there must necessarily be points of superior importance, and of such the most paramount is the application of radical means of cure, after probing to the uttermost the vital questions of the moment, as the true method of securing strength to the State. Convinced of the anxiety with which their Majesties the Empresses and his Majesty the Emperor devote themselves to the labour of ensuring the highest form of order, he ventures to submit the views he has formed on the four following subjects.

a. Purification of the Government service. The necessity for an increased degree of strictness in the scrutiny of individual qualifications is insisted upon, both with a view to the advancement of meritorious individuals, and also to ensure the detection of indifference to the interests of the people. It is requested that the high authorities generally be authorized to lay recommendations before the Throne of such among their subordinates as they consider able and deserving, such patronage to be exercised, however, under a direct personal responsibility for the results.

b. Selection of efficient commanders for the due discharge of military trusts. The paramount importance of obtaining a supply of duly qualified military officials being recognized, it is farther to be observed that, whilst during the years of warfare entailed by the Taiping rebellion, military genius was forthcoming in an abundant degree, the officers who distinguished themselves during this period have for the most part fallen in the field, not more than one in ten being still in existence. The memorialist is convinced that the men are wanting who could supply the place of Tso Tsung-t'ang and Kin Shun in the western campaign, or of P'êng Yü-lin and Yang Yoh-pin in their command of the naval forces on the Yangtze. It would also be no easy matter to find many such examples of daring valour, who made themselves dreaded by the most desperate of the rebels, as Pao Ch'ao and Ch'ên Kwoh-jui. When a retrospect is taken of the last 20 or 30 years, it is seen that a commander distinguished by such breadth of view, in the application alike of theory and practice, as Tso Tsung-t'ang, was singled out by Loh Ping-chang when

filling the position of a simple clerk; that so skilled a general as T'a-ch'i-pu was brought forward by Tsêng Kwoh-fan from the rank of a mere subaltern; and that commanders so distinguished for their devotion, talent, and bravery, as Lo Ts'eh-nan and Li Sü-pin, were raised from absolute obscurity by Tsêng Kwoh-fan and Hu Lin-yih. The moral drawn from these reflections is that Tso Tsung-t'ang, Li Hung-chang, Ting Pao-ch'êng, Liu Kw'ên-yih, Liu Ch'ang-yeo, and Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, all of whom, after long experience of warfare, have been invested with the government of provinces, should be called upon to recommend for advancement such officials as they may consider eligible for important commands.

c. The extension of the system of storing up provisions of grain. The importance of laying up such stores against a time of scarcity is exemplified by the suffering occasioned during the present year by floods, drought, or locusts in at least ten of the provinces of the Empire. At the present moment the provinces of Shansi and Honan are applying for funds from the Peking exchequer, Fuhkien and Kwangtung are asking sanction to measures of relief, Kiangnan is applying for postponements of the levy of taxation, whilst other provinces, not yet heard from, may be expected to have a tale of financial exigencies and popular sufferings, involving no less a number than several millions of souls, yet to bring forward. The remedy for such a state of destitution as now prevails is the accumulation of stores of grain, to be raised by local or official contributions, under encouragement in the shape of Imperial distinctions to be awarded in return for such services. The granary system carried out in Shensi by the Governor, T'an Chung-lin, the memorialist has heard, is conceived on a very efficient plan; and had it not been that, owing to the dearth in the adjacent provinces of Honan and Shansi, causing the provincial dealers to strip themselves of their own stocks in their eagerness to profit by the rise in prices, the supplies stored up in the granaries, to the amount of nearly a million piculs, would have enabled even a real famine to be faced without apprehension. It is urged that injunctions be issued for an extension of the granary system to the provinces generally.

d. The rigorous enforcement of the rules of the household registration or "tything" system, in order to strike at the root of possible outbreak of disorder. The memorialist ascribes the spread of the Taiping rebellion to negligence on the part of high

officials, who rebuked certain of their subordinates for excess of activity when they proposed to institute measures of household registration within their districts. The number of disbanded braves and unemployed persons who have overspread the country since the cessation of hostilities, has led to the organization of secret fraternities, such as the Ko Lao Brotherhood, outbreaks of which have from time to time been ventured upon when occasion offered; and in addition to this, an inflammatory propaganda is maintained by the initiated in pseudo-religious sects, which constitute, owing to the numbers of adherents they never fail to secure, a hidden danger of the most serious magnitude. The "tail-cutting" practices 剪取髮辮之案 which prevailed last year spread from the provinces to Peking, causing a general alarm and dread of supernatural terrors to take possession of the public mind. The authorities of the city and suburbs having hereupon issued registration tickets to each household, and having made search in the quarters comparatively remote from ordinary control, and taken stringent measures to ensure the detection [of evildoers], barely a fortnight elapsed, even although no arrests were made, before the rigorous measures of precaution which were thus taken brought the disturbance to an end. It appears that in Kiangsi, Hupeh, and Nganhwei criminal proceedings have been checked by an effective working of the registration system; and it is now earnestly recommended that measures to the same end may be universally enjoined.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 5th inst.

Oct. 23rd.—(1) A decree referring once more to the prevailing drought, and to the apprehensions that may be entertained lest corrupt practices on the part of the officials employed in distributing the sums allotted toward the relief of distress should divert the Imperial bounty from its destined recipients. Li Hoh-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, is commanded to make a tour of inspection throughout the whole of the afflicted region in Honan, and to scrutinize the operation of the relief agencies at work, denouncing to the Throne any instances he may detect of mismanagement or embezzlement. For the province of Shensi, the former Lieutenant-Governor, Chang Ying, is appointed to act as Assistant Relief Commissioner.

(2-3) Decrees appointing the Minister Mao Ch'ang-hi, President of the Wu Ying Tien (the Imperial printing department), and the Assistant Grand Secretary Shên

kwei-fên, President-in-chief of the Veritable Record commission.

(4) The Yamên of Gendarmerie memorializes forwarding an appeal on the part of a student named Su Yen-nien, of the province of Ngan-hwei, who complains of the murder of his father by a certain man named Li Yeo-nien and others, in consequence of a dispute about some land. He complains that the murderers have not been apprehended.—Referred in the usual manner.

(5) Wang Ming-lwan, Tutor of the Imperial Academy, memorializes dilating upon the abuses which are concomitant to the distribution of relief to the sufferers from famine, and which nothing but a high degree of intelligence and experience on the part of the district Magistrates can discover and obviate, whilst, when detection by any chance ensues, the officials are compelled to connive at the offence through dread of the penalty to which they themselves would be exposed. Four descriptions of knavery are enumerated in this connection, to wit, the *hêh hu* 黑戶 or "dark name" trick, by which a fictitious name is recorded as a recipient of relief, the amount of which is pocketed by the cashier; the *t'ao hu*, or *non est inventus* trick, by which sums are received on behalf of individuals who have gone off to a distance, their names still being kept on one register whilst, very possibly, they are at the same time figuring upon another; the *ts'eh-fei* or "registration fee," which is extorted from sufferers before they are allowed to have their names set down; and the *chêh-fang* 放折 or "deduction," which is contrived by the issue of allowances on a reduced scale, such as that of a minor on behalf of an adult, or of the quantity prescribed for partly destitute to those who are wholly in want. manifold abuses are perpetrated, also, in connection with weights and measures. The memorialist solicits the issue of stringent commands requiring the exercise of proper vigilance on the part of the district authorities throughout the afflicted region, in order to guard against malpractices of the kind.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 6th inst.

Oct. 24th.—(1) Extracts from the Supervisorates. The Board of Civil office having reported, recommending that K'ung Ling-i 孔令貽 be permitted to succeed to the title of *Yen Shêng Kung* 衍聖 (Duke Continuator of the Sage, Confucius), the following rescript has been received: "Be it as is proposed." (N. B.—For record of the decease of K'ung Siang-k'o, the late representative

of the Confucian lineage, see *Gazette* of Dec. 10th, 1876.)

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Kung Süan, who has exposed certain malpractices on the part of contractors for Imperial building works. This class of persons, it appears, by forming a "Ring" with the clerks employed in the public offices, contrive to have supplementary estimates and increased allowances granted to them on the plea that defects not previously discoverable have revealed themselves in the progress of works of demolition and repair. The Board of Works is commanded hereupon to frame regulations which will render such malpractices impossible for the future.

(3) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Tung Tsün-han, who has reported that on the 16th inst. a case of flagrant burglary occurred at the residence of an assistant Secretary of the Board of Works, in the outer city of Peking; and furthermore that, according to information he has received, a criminal association styled the Cleaver Society has been formed in one of the districts of the province of Chihli, the affiliated members of which have distributed themselves secretly about Peking for purposes of robbery. That such outrages should be ventured upon in the immediate precincts of the Imperial residence is scandalous beyond measure; and stringent commands are issued for the arrest without fail of the guilty parties, and for the maintenance of efficient night patrols.

(4) A decree based upon a further memorial from the Censor Kung Süan, who has denounced an assistant Police Magistrate for failure to arrest the perpetrators of an act of robbery and murder which took place in the vicinity of Peking in August last. The incriminated official is stripped of the insignia of his rank and required under penalty of farther proceedings to effect the apprehension of the criminals within a given time.

(5) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, memorializes returning thanks in an exuberant strain of gratitude, for the permission accorded to him to return for three months to his native province for the care of his health. On the 28th August his courier returned bringing back the memorial he had submitted to the Throne (see *Gazette* of 13th Aug.), upon which the rescript was noted: "A separate rescript issued;" and on the same day he reverently perused in the *Gazette* of August 13th the Decree in which his congé was granted. He handed over the seal of his office and

his other trusts to the Lieutenant-Governor Pao Hêng, appointed to act in his stead, on the 10th September, and was about to hasten on his way to his native place in obedience to the Decree received.

(6) The Governor of Kiangsu submits the customary recommendations on behalf of the officials who have been engaged in the grain transport service during the past season, in the course of which 658,400 piculs of grain have been shipped from Shanghai by junk or steamer to Tientsin in a highly satisfactory manner, as the quota due from the Soochow, Sungkiang, Ch'ang-chow, and T'ai-ts'ang prefectures.

25th Oct.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from K'ê-she-pu, a Supervising Censor in charge of the Western division of Peking, who has reported the apprehension of a Mussulman native of the city, named Tsow Wu, who has long been notorious as a gambler and thief, and who had induced certain thieves from the Tung-ngan District to join him at Peking in the commission of acts of robbery. The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu is commanded hereupon to cause the delinquent to be brought to trial and punished, after the facts of the case have been elicited, at the scene of his offence.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Hu provinces reports the total of revenue collected at the Custom-House established in recent years at the Wu-ch'ang for the collection of duties upon timber and bamboos, for the benefit of the Board of Works, during the twelve months expired on the 10th of July, 1877, as having amounted to Tls. 39,989.9 shewing an excess of Tls. 12,300 over and above all the fixed amounts for which the collector in charge was answerable. The officer in question is accordingly continued in office for another year.

(3) The Governor-General of the Two Hu provinces reports the escape of three prisoners from the jail of the Li Ch'wan Magistracy, during the customary storm of thunder and rain and whilst the warders were, as usual, sound asleep under shelter, on the night of the 10th May last. Of the three prisoners, two were subsequently recaptured; but the third, who was under sentence of death, has defied all the efforts made to discover his whereabouts. The officials responsible in this case are accordingly denounced for punishment.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 9th inst.

Oct. 26th.—(1) A decree ordaining a renewed series of propitiatory services to be held on the 28th inst., at the principal State temples, in view of the deficient

rainfall at Peking within the last month or two, and the drought experienced in Shansi, Honan, and Shensi.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from the Board of Revenue reporting upon the protest submitted by Lin Show-t'u, late Financial Commissioner of Shansi, against the charges brought against him by Tso Tsung-t'ang, of reducing without authority the amount of the subsidies required from the provincial exchequer. His excuses are rejected by the Board as unwarranted by the facts of the case; and the conduct of the Governor of Shansi, Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, in forwarding his statement without a prior investigation, is disapproved. The Board of Civil office is directed to take note of this disapproval.

(3) A Decree. The Censor She She-t'ai has memorialized Us stating that the price of provisions is rising daily, entailing distress and penury in consequence upon the Banner soldiery. He recommends that the amount of commutation pay issued in silver be reduced, and the issue of grain be augmented. Let the Board of Revenue consider and report to Us.

(4) The Governor of Kweichow memorializes reporting the issue of a trial at which the late acting Magistrate of the Yung-t'ung district was arraigned on a charge of having imposed an assessment without lawful authority upon certain communes of the Miao-tsze aborigines within his district, under pretence of raising funds for measures of reorganization. The delinquent having been stripped of his rank by a Decree dated in August 1876, and ordered to be brought to trial, he has been arraigned, and testimony has been adduced shewing that he had levied a sum, in all, of Tls. 6,050, by demands for forced contributions from sundry individuals. Of this amount he had expended Tls. 1,450 on the rebuilding of his Yamên, but he has not accounted for the remainder. His offence is declared to fall within the provisions of the statute relating to the unauthorized levy and appropriation of imposts, in cases of which kind the amount levied is to be taken into consideration in applying the enactments on abuse of the prerogative of law. It is provided in this connection that where the amount involved reaches the sum of Tls. 80, the penalty shall be death by strangulation after imprisonment to await confirmation of the sentence; and a sentence to this effect has been pronounced in the case of the delinquent Wu Yen-yao. Minor sentences are passed upon certain of his accomplices. —Referred by rescript for the consideration of the Board of Punishments.

Oct. 27th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor She She-t'ai, who has represented that malpractices are indulged in by certain clerks of the Board of Works in connection with the outlay of government funds authorized for the construction of roads and bridges. Certain public works of this description being now in progress in the vicinity of Peking (probably in connection with the Imperial Mausolea—*Trans.*), false returns of expenditure are stated to be handed in through the agency of a contractor's "Ring." The Board of Works is commanded to investigate these charges.—In this memorial (the Decree concludes), none of the characters designating the Imperial Mausolea have been elevated according to rule. Let the Board of Civil office formulate the penalty due for this offence.

(2) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, memorializes submitting the statement handed to him by the Financial Commissioner Lin Show-t'u, lately dismissed from the public service, in attempted self-exculpation. By a comparison of dates and amounts, he endeavours to shew that he had not been guilty of the disregard of orders imputed to him.—For rescript, see *Gazette* of 9th inst.

Oct. 28th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, who has represented that the prefect of T'ai-yüan Fu (the prefecture in which the provincial capital is situated), Ts'ing Ngan by name, has shewn himself wanting in discrimination in dealing with judicial cases remitted to his hands and regardless of the exigencies of the situation in administering the work of famine relief. It is commanded, hereupon, as is requested, that the official in question be removed from his office and degraded to fill a lower post in the rank of Sub-Prefect. A successor to the Prefectship thus vacated is to be chosen from among the functionaries of that rank now in Shansi; and the ensuing vacancy is to be filled by the officer named Chwang Sih-kih 莊錫級, (from Peking.)

(2) A decree cashiering the Magistrate of the Hing-t'ang District in Chihli, on being impeached by Li Hung-chang for the levy of forced contributions under pretext of the necessity for levying a force of braves to preserve order in connection with some pending measures for the readjustment of taxation in particular cases.

Oct. 29th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor-General and Governor of Kwangtung, who have

reported that in consequence of the devastation caused by floods last summer in the neighbourhood of Canton, they had sent agents to Shanghai and Chinkiang to purchase rice for issue to the public at moderate prices, and who request sanction to the exemption of such importations from all levies of Customs' duty and other taxes. This is accorded.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, sanctioning his proposal to establish agencies for the sale of official ranks in the provinces of Chihli, Kiangsu, Nganhwei, Hupeh, Hunan, Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Szech'wan, Chêhkiang, and Kiangsi, the proceeds to be devoted to the relief of the prevailing distress from famine, as the funds otherwise forthcoming are declared to be inadequate. The honorary forms of reward which may be purchased in pursuance of this plan are to be reported in due course by the various provincial governments, whilst, for substantive official ranks or mere honorary titles, the Board of Revenue is directed to make out 2,000 blank certificates and forward them to the Governor of Shansi for disposal.

(3) The Governor-General of Chihli, Li Hung-chang, memorializes reporting the capture and execution of large numbers of brigands who have taken advantage of the distress occasioned by drought to infest the highways in the southwest of the province. These depredators are connected with an organization which sprang up, with similar objects, in 1868, at the time of the incursion of the Nien Fei banditti, and which took the name of the *K'an Tao Hwei*, or Cleaver Brotherhood. The existence of bands of malefactors under this name was pointed out in August last in a memorial addressed to the Throne by the Censor Liu Ngên-p'u, a copy of which was forwarded to the memorialist. He now details the measures taken for the apprehension and summary execution of members of the fraternity. (See also *Gazette* of 24th inst.)

(4) The Governor of Chêh-kiang memorializes with reference to the works of restoration of the great sea-wall in Hangchow Bay. The estimate originally made a number of years ago for the cost of this work was upwards of Taels 8,000,000; but by means of economical management during the ten or twelve years that the work has been in progress, the outlay has been kept within some Tls. 6,000,000 or thereabouts. A length of 1,240 *chang* (or say 14,000 feet English measurement), being sections II and III

of the work as originally estimated for, still remains unexecuted, and this it is necessary to go on with in order to complete the work entirely. The memorialist has made three personal visits of inspection to the site, the portion numbered as section III being of particular importance, owing to its greater exposure to danger from the force of the waves, and requiring special strength of construction. On reference to the printed Description of the Sea Wall, he finds that when several thousands of *chang* of the structure were destroyed by the typhoon of A.D. 1735, the one section which remained uninjured was the part known as the Lao Yen T'ang, measuring 500 *chang* in length; this having been built in A.D. 1715. In its construction, blocks of stone measuring 5 *ch'ih* (say 5 feet 6 inches English) in length by 2 *ch'ih* in depth, and 1 *ch'ih* in width were employed, laid as headers and stretchers, the blocks being tongued and grooved on their upper and lower faces respectively. The wall had a thickness of 20 courses, and was 30 *ch'ih* in height. To obtain blocks of similar dimensions at the present day is practically out of the question, as a question of cost; and a great length of time is required, moreover, in obtaining blocks of the size now required in constructing the sea-wall at Hai-yen. The cost estimated for in that locality, viz., Tls. 790 per *chang*, is very much higher than the amount of Tls. 480 per *chang* which is fixed for the Haining section. The memorialist refers to the plan adopted a century or more ago in building the stone embankments which are still standing in the Sung-kiang prefecture (near Shanghai), in which the blocks were secured together by iron bolts (鉄蕭) and tongues

(鉄荀.) In the memorial in which the then Governor-General of Kiang-nan described the system adopted, he referred to the necessity of offering resistance to the immense power of the waves, which by sucking a single stone from its place would shake the entire fabric, and he explained that the system of joints as above described had been adopted, these inner bolts giving a solidity to the structure such as was far superior to the plan of securing the blocks by means of clamps exposed on the outer surface. The Governor, after consultation with the chief provincial authorities, has now decided with reference to the pending works, that the 620 *chang* constituting section II shall be constructed according to the plan previously adopted, except that greater height must be allowed, in order to obviate the danger of the waves

breaking over the embankment, in consequence of the site being exceptionally low. Persons who viewed the subject superficially have recommended with a view to economy, that the substructure of piling should be raised higher, in order to give greater elevation, but this plan is scouted as providing too insecure a foundation. It is consequently proposed to make the height 20 instead of 18 courses, thus bringing the face of the wall to a height of 20 *ch'ih*, each block having a breadth of 1 *ch'ih* 2 *ts'un*, and a depth of 1 *ch'ih*, the length varying from 3 to 5 *ch'ih*. The outer courses it is proposed to join together by iron bolts and tongues as in the case of the work above-mentioned near Shang-hai, the bolts employed for the purpose to be of the best wrought iron, 4 *ts'un* in length by 1 *ts'un* diameter, and three and one-tenth *ts'un* circumference, each weighing about one *catty*. In order to effect the boring of the blocks of stone with as little liability to fracture as possible, it is intended to employ steel drills for the purpose, which are to be manufactured at the Arsenal already existing at Hangchow, and to be worked by skilled artisans. The extra work undertaken in this respect, and in the careful facing of the stone blocks, will necessitate an addition of Tls. 54 per *chang* to the original estimate of Tls. 480. The estimate of Tls. 297,600 for the 620 *chang* of work to be done, will consequently require an addition of Tls. 33,400.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned take note. (N.B.—For a description of the Hangchow sea-wall see *Journal of the Shanghai Branch Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol. I, New Series, 1864, p. 136.)

Oct. 30th.—(1) A decree cashiering or degrading a long list (covering three pages of the *Gazette*) of District Magistrates in Shansi, on denunciation by the Governor of the province, Tséng Kwoh-ts'üan, for corruption or misconduct in various forms.

(2) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansuh, &c., &c., memorializes laying before the Throne a series of recommendations of the high officials whose services in keeping up the supply of funds for the army of the West have contributed to the success that has attended its efforts.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 12th instant.

Oct. 31st.—(1) A decree in acknowledgment of a memorial from Li Hoh-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, who has reported a generally satisfactory condition of the river at the commencement of the "hoar-frost" period (23rd Oct.) Although the volume of water during the past summer has been comparatively weak, still

the deposition of silt has been interrupted, and at those points where the force of the current has jeopardized the safety of the embankments, danger has been averted through the exertions of the officials acting under Li Hoh-nien's orders. The receipt of this intelligence calls for an expression of devout thankfulness. Ten sticks of Tibetan incense are despatched, to be offered by the Director-General in the temple of the God of the River, as a token of gratitude for the protection vouchsafed. Rewards are likewise conferred upon the officials commended by Li Hoh-nien.

(2) A Decree. The Board of Ceremonies memorializes Us reporting on behalf of Li Hung-tsoo, lately serving as President of the Board of Works, that he solicits permission to observe a three years' period of mourning for his birth-mother, *née* Yao, lately deceased, on the ground that there is no other representative of his actual lineage forthcoming. Let the Board of Ceremonies consider and report to us hereupon. (Note. From the foregoing it appears that Li Hung-tsoo, late member of the Grand Council, Yamén of Foreign Affairs, etc., whose retirement on account of mourning was noticed in the *Gazette* of 20th inst., must have passed out of his own family into some other by adoption. This fact would exempt him, under ordinary circumstances, from the necessity of observing more than one year, instead of three, for the "mother who bore him;" but in default of next of kin, the full duty may still be held to be incumbent upon him. No less than eight degrees of maternal relationship, such as nursing-mother, stepmother, etc., are enumerated by Chinese law, the *pén shéng mu*, or actual birth-mother, as in this case, being naturally the closest.)

Nov. 1st.—(1) A decree based upon a report by the Censor Kung Süan, to the effect that the extra police of the outer city of Peking have apprehended four of the party of burglars by whom the house of an official was entered and plundered a month ago, a quantity of stolen property and of burglars' tools being at the same time captured. The prisoners are handed over to the Board of Punishments for trial.

(2) A decree, based upon a report from the office of Gendarmerie, commanding increased stringency in the operations of the various police authorities of the capital, in view of a recent increase in the amount of crime prevalent.

(3) The Board of Punishments memorialize stating that at the Assize which was

held on the 10th October in the apartment without the T'ien Ngan gate of the Palace, and constituted by the Board together with the representatives of all the offices of State, twenty-six felons charged with capital offences, both male and female, whose cases, whether of recent or remote origin, awaited final revision at the Palace, were brought up for judgment. In each case, after a thorough scrutiny of its particulars, sentence of immediate execution or a respite was determined upon. Among the prisoners was one named Wang Yeo-shêng, *alias* Wang San, under sentence of decapitation, who cried out declaring himself a victim of injustice when arraigned for trial; and the memorialists hereupon deputed certain officials to hold an investigation of his case. According to the report received from them, prisoner declared as follows:—"I was a subaltern officer of the Plain White Banner of the Imperial Household troops, and was induced on the 3rd May, 1876, by an individual named Wang Kih-kw'an, with whom a *giro* member of the Imperial clan, named Jui Kwang, had quarrelled, to join him in an attack upon Jui Kwang, in the course of which the latter was mortally wounded. On being arraigned this day at the Palace assize, I do not see Wang Kih-kw'an brought before the Court. As I alone am placed on trial, I have cried out protesting against injustice done me." The memorialists have to submit, hereupon, that the prisoner in question was condemned to death, some time since, by a Court convened for the purpose of investigating the charge against him, the sentence being based upon the statute which provides for cases of murder of members of the Imperial kindred of the *giro* class; the individual named Wang Kih-kw'an being also apprehended and separately dealt with, all of which was duly reported to the Throne. In order that it may now be ascertained whether in making his personal appeal for justice the prisoner in this case has sought to shift the blame on another through dread of the fate to which he was himself doomed, or whether any injustice has actually befallen him, it is proper that solicitation be made for the appointment of Imperial Commissioners to join with the memorialists and the Imperial Clan Court in instituting a further trial; and that the name of Wang Yeo-shêng should be withdrawn from the list of condemned felons submitted to the Assize.—For rescript see *Gazette* of Oct 12th. (Note. It is probable that the case above referred to, a very noteworthy incident in the

history of Chinese criminal procedure, may be no further mentioned in documents appearing in the *Gazette*; and it may be well therefore to add a few words by way of explanation. The Court before which this appeal *in extremis* was made, is the Autumn Assize so frequently spoken of in Chinese proceedings, being the Court held for the revision of all capital sentences pronounced throughout the Empire during the previous twelve months, in cases where summary execution has not been decreed. The prisoner in this case, being sent up in person by the Board of Punishments, in whose custody he was, is said to have been encouraged to make his appeal by the knowledge that his principal, Wang Kih-k'wang, had been exempted from punishment through connivance on the part of members of the Board; and it is predicted that the case will be allowed to drop into oblivion, the appellant possibly regaining his liberty after some eight or ten years of imprisonment.)

(4-5) Memorials by the Censorate, forwarding appeals on the part of natives of Chihli and Hunan, who complain of murders of relatives which have been left unredressed.—Referred in the usual manner.

Nov. 2nd.—(1) A Decree. Let P'eng She-ch'ang 彭世昌 succeed to the post of Censor for the Shantung division. Let Wên T'ing-shên be employed in the rank of Sub-Prefect. Let Wu Ta-t'ing 吳大廷 be re-employed in the rank of Taotai and Superintendent of Maritime Customs. (N.B.—This officer was formerly Taotai at Taiwan.)

No other documents of importance.

Nov. 3rd.—(1) A decree conferring rewards in the shape of various degrees of promotion upon the officials who have been employed in the task of compiling the Veritable Record of the reign of his Majesty lately deceased. The list fills seventeen pages of the *Gazette*, embracing the names of 71 persons.

(2) P'eng Yü-lin, Inspector-General of the Naval forces along the Yang-tszekiang, memorializes reporting the completion of one of his periodical tours of inspection, ascending the river from its mouth to the Tung-t'ing Lake. He takes the opportunity of describing once more his bodily infirmities, in despite of which he continues to exert himself so far as he is able in the rigid discharge of his duty.

(3) Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., reports in a postscript memorial upon the coinage question within

his jurisdiction. On the 15th April, 1876, he received a despatch from the Board of Revenue embodying its report upon the proposal submitted to the Throne by the Censor Liu Kwoh-Kwang, who, on the ground of the progressive diminution in the amount of current Government *cash*, asked that orders be given for the coining of *cash* of the proper standard in each province, with a view to the due maintenance of the currency system. The Board's observations hereupon were as follows:—"The whole of the copper heretofore required for the coining in the various provinces was procured from Yünnan; but the communications were interrupted by the outbreak of the rebellion a quarter of a century ago, the copper mines have been abandoned, and the provinces in which mints were in operation have one after the other reported the necessity of suspending the coining, owing either to the impossibility of providing themselves with copper, or to the exigencies imposed upon them by a state of warfare. The result has been that illegal coining has flourished, and popular distress has been daily on the increase, seemingly without prospect of reaching an end. With these considerations before the Board, it issued, in May, 1875, instructions to the various provincial governments, when forwarding specimen *cash* with the title adopted for the new reign, desiring them to procure copper as of old and reopen their mints, in compliance with the standing regulations. The governments of the provinces of Kwangsi and Hunan have reported hereupon, that owing to the embarrassed state of their finances, they could not raise the funds requisite for the prime cost of the copper, for which reason they requested to be allowed to postpone operations. The Board replied disapproving the proposal, and calling upon the governments concerned to devise ways and means for the reestablishment of their mints, in order that proper weight might be given to the regulations affecting the production of currency. The Censor above-named has now dwelt in his memorial upon the evils contingent upon the lack of a proper coining, and has solicited that the Board be commanded to decide upon the regulations which should be adopted in the matter; and his views are undoubtedly inspired by a desire to rectify existing defects, in the interest of the people. In the matter of the coining, however, the first question to be attended to is that of administration. In the year 1874, the Governor of Yünnan, Ts'ên Yü-ying, reported having obtained by way of experiment from four of the copper smelting-

works in the province 1,000,000 catties of metal (say 600 tons—see *Gazette* of June 29th, 1875), which was to be forwarded to Peking for the *cash* coining. It had not, however, been ascertained thus far how much metal the four smelting works could yield per annum. There were, in addition, between 30 and 40 other works, which were in a state of total abandonment; but the Board has received no information as to the success of the endeavours made to induce merchants to undertake the working of these places. There is reason to apprehend, therefore, that if the provinces generally were to resort to Yünnan for supplies of metal, their demands could not be satisfied. On the other hand, it is known that copper is an article of import by foreign merchants at ports along the coast; and if agents were sent to the various ports with instructions to purchase copper, whether native or foreign, whilst at the same time the Governor of Yünnan proceeded to take steps without delay for the opening of the now abandoned smelting-houses, a supply which would be adequate to the requirements for coining purposes might without doubt be obtained. The Board, however, would not take upon itself to lay down a law as to the point at which any given province should obtain its supplies of copper or as to the financial source from which it should draw its funds for purchases of material. Excluding from consideration the provinces of Yünnan and Szech'wan, in which mints have already been set going, producing the ordinary standard *cash*, and in which there is no occasion to require the coining of ten-*cash* tokens (such as form the currency of Peking), the Board solicited that Imperial injunctions be laid upon the governments of all the remaining provinces, desiring them to take measures for restoring the coining system and for putting down the evil, as alleged by the Censor, of illicit issues from private mints. A rescript followed, in the words 'Be it as is proposed.'—On receipt of the foregoing instructions, the memorialist, whilst admitting the signal importance of the establishment of mints for the production of *cash*, must submit that means are not forthcoming within his jurisdiction for the heavy expenditure that must, as a preliminary step, be provided. The subsidies due from other provinces fail to arrive, the provincial exchequer is exhausted, and the campaign in progress beyond the Wall is not yet at an end. He would urge therefore that he be allowed to postpone farther action until such time as peace has been restored and funds are once more in hand. In the

meanwhile active measures shall be taken for the suppression of unauthorized issues of *cash*, with due care, at the same time, to punish any attempts at extortion under pretext of dealing with the individuals engaged in illicit operations. It is requested that the Board of Revenue be instructed accordingly.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue take note.

(4) The Governor of Honan memorializes reporting a donation of Tls. 1,000 by the Literary Chancellor of the province to the funds subscribed for the relief of distress, and soliciting a mark of Imperial approbation on the giver's behalf.—Referred by rescript for report by the Board concerned.

(5) The Censor Liu Ngên-p'u memorializes as follows, in a postscript to some representation separately presented:—Your servant would farther submit that since the extensive cultivation of the poppy plant has prevailed in the province of Shansi, the production of cereal crops has gradually fallen off. No stores of grain whatever are laid by among the people, and at the first pinch of drought and scarcity severe distress is immediately the result. Who, under such circumstances, will give credit to the assertion, though it be made, that whatever evil is prevalent is not caused by the growth of the poppy? It appears that successive Governors of the province have stringently prohibited the growth of the plant; but their orders, unfortunately, have not been actively obeyed by the district authorities, and the consequence is that upon tens of thousands of acres of productive land there is scarcely a spot devoted to the yield of grain. Hence it ensues that at the present moment wealthy households, although not unprovided with money, find themselves unable to buy rice.

If the present moment of energetic resolve be not availed of to effect a radical and perpetual extirpation of the evil, Your servant apprehends that the day when measures for the relief of famine in the province in question shall cease is not to be looked for. He would therefore entreat that injunctions be laid upon the Governor of Shansi, directing him to issue publicly a stringent interdict, to hold firmly by his own views, and not to allow himself to be shaken by frivolous suggestions. A scale of penalties should also be drawn up for cases of neglect on the part of district officials, and the accepted maxim that "food is the people's Heaven" should be earnestly proclaimed for general observance, severe punishment being meted out to such as wilfully persist in wrongdoing. The object to

be aimed at must be that of adding an acre of grain-producing soil in proportion as every acre is withdrawn from the growth of the poppy, with the result that henceforward means of coping with scarcity will be forthcoming, and the Imperial anxieties, now active by day and night, need no longer be intruded upon. This postscript memorial is accordingly with all reverence submitted.—For rescript see *Gazette* of October 13th.

Nov. 4th.—(1) A decree of the Empresses Regent bestowing honours and rewards upon the officials who have distinguished themselves by their exertions in the superintendence of the construction of the Mausoleum of the Emperor lately deceased, whose services have been reported upon by the Prince of Kung and his colleagues in the Imperial commission. A list extending to thirty-three pages of the *Gazette* here ensues, the catalogue beginning with an officer of the rank of Prefect, who is ordered to be advanced to the head of the list of officers of his own grade eligible for immediate employment, and is farther rewarded with the peacock-feather decoration. A large number of non-commissioned officers and men of the Banner forces in Peking are also included in the distribution of honours and promotions.

(2) The Governor-General of the Two Kwang memorializes reporting the decease of the Brigade-General Mèh Lung-t'ao, who was appointed by decree of the 19th May last to the Yeo-kiang command in Kwang-si. A despatch from the Brigade-General commanding in North Formosa reports the decease of the officer in question while attached to the military forces in the Island, on the 7th July last. (See *Gazette* of Oct. 17th.)

Nov. 5th.—(1) A Decree. Let Ying Han 英翰 succeed to the post of Military Lieutenant-Governor of Urumts'i. (N.B.—Ying Han, who was degraded in September, 1875, from the office of Governor-General of the Two Kwang, for his patronage of the gambling lottery scheme, was again restored to favour toward the close of last year, and appointed by decree of 13th Dec., 1876, to act in the post in which he is now confirmed.)

No other documents of importance.

Nov. 6th.—A decree based upon a memorial from Wèn Kêh, Governor of Shantung, reporting upon the safety of the embankments of the Yellow River. A memorial tablet is commanded to be inscribed and forwarded to the Governor, to be suspended in the Temple of the River God in token of

devout thanksgiving, and ten sticks of Tibetan incense are bestowed as an offering in the same quarter.

Nov. 7th.—(1) A Decree. The Grand Tutor of the Imperial Academy of Learning, Pao T'ing, in his memorials tendering counsel in pursuance of Our appeal for the submission of advice, has represented that in the present calamitous state of affairs, when the nation is labouring under grievous afflictions, and the Sovereign is occupied incessantly, by day and night, with earnest endeavours to conduct aright the task of government, everything depends upon the activity with which the functionaries of the State, from the highest to the lowest, throughout the Empire, bring their natural gifts to bear and devote their utmost energies to the accomplishment of their duty, with the object of striving unitedly to relieve the prevailing difficulties. If it be true, as the memorialist asserts, that the heads of the central departments of State and the high provincial authorities are in the constant habit of shuffling off the responsibilities of their office and following supinely a course of routine, so that their subordinates are left without fear of superior control—and that the Ministers actually charged with the guidance of the affairs of State have neither the courage to assume responsibility nor the will to expose themselves to dislike, the public service becoming, for this reason, daily more and more remiss, and the interests of the people daily more and more exposed to harm, so that indignation combines itself with menace, whilst the miseries produced by natural calamity are constantly repeated;—if this be true, then, indeed, while the Sovereign in all earnestness aims at what is right, His servants make but a pretence of responding to His appeals. How shall it be possible, in such case, to roll back the spread of multiplied abuse, and to promote the cause of righteous government? Let the Ministers of the Grand Council of State and the high functionaries at the head either of the central departments or of provincial governments henceforward hold themselves bound to aim vigorously at a just and loyal discharge of their duty, shrinking from no encounter with unpopularity or ill-will. In the grave questions relating to the bestowal of public employ and the exercise of the functions of administration, let them duly scrutinize the reality of all pretensions, and bring a careful judgment to bear upon the decision of every point, making themselves in this wise an example to their subordinates. The functionaries of the public service in

general, throughout the Empire, should furthermore exert themselves with industry in their respective spheres. Let them not indulge in illusory pretence and practice of dishonest misrepresentation, continuing to tread in the path of the evil habits that have hitherto prevailed. In that which concerns the Yamèn of Foreign Affairs, whose position connects it with the external interests of the State, the conduct of international questions depends in a signal degree upon its selection of agents and the trust it reposes in its representatives. It is the duty of the heads of this department to bring scrutiny to bear upon abilities and character, and to give employment in proportion to individual capacity. Let them laxly suffer none who can be characterized as frivolous, corrupt, or unworthy, to gain admittance in their ranks, and thus to entail detriment upon the public cause.

With reference to the proposals set forth in the Grand Tutor's supplementary memorials, recommending that measures be devised for the instruction and education of members of the Imperial kindred, and that exemption from *lekin* taxation be granted in perpetuity in favour of all kinds of grain, let the departments concerned consider and report to Us.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from Li King-ngao, Governor of Honan, who has submitted a report upon the extent of the famine-stricken area in his province, and solicited sanction for the official issue of relief. The application is acceded to, and it is commanded that in the 23 departments (*chou*) and districts (*hien*) enumerated in the memorial, rations for one month be in the first instance issued. The following scale is farther to be observed. Where the distress reaches the extent of 90 per cent. (of intensity?) subsistence for three months is to be granted to the most destitute, and for two months to those who are reduced to a less degree of destitution. Where the distress is rated at 70 or 80 per cent., the scale as above is to be applied for two months and one month respectively; and where it stands at 60 per cent., one month's subsistence is to be granted to the most destitute. One month's rations are to be bestowed upon the villages where the famine rate stands at 50 per cent. In the two Districts of T'ang-yin 湯陰 and Lin 林, (prefecture of Chang-têh Fu), irrespectively of the question of famine-rate or of the degree of individual distress, two months' rations are to be bestowed upon all alike. Three

other *hien*, namely, the Hih, Sin-hiang, and Hwei districts, forming part of Wei-hwei Fu, are named as requiring no relief-measures. The subsistence issued is to be distributed as the regulations provide, in accordance with the recognized famine-rate, and the Governor is authorized to cause this to be proceeded with in the districts and villages enumerated in the list he has submitted, taking care to provide against malpractices on the part of the official underlings employed in the service.

Nov. 8th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Liu Ch'ang-yao, Governor-General of Yunnan, &c., who has submitted recommendations on behalf of sundry officials for services rendered in the capture of Chang Ch'ung-yang, a leader of train-bands in Yün Chow, and the destruction of his insurgent following. The promotions solicited are accorded.

(2) A decree commanding a fourth series of propitiatory services to be held on the 10th inst., at the various State temples, for the purpose of supplicating rain on behalf of the afflicted provinces.

(3) Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Szech'wan, memorializes reporting the re-hearing of a case referred back for trial after appeal at Peking. By decree dated March 25th, 1875, the complaint lodged by one Hu Shun-hing, on behalf of the appellants, Kiang Ch'un-mow and others, was referred back for provincial investigation, the particulars of the case (see *Gazette* of April 7th, 1875) relating to alleged acts of extortion and oppression on the part of the Magistrate of the department of P'ei Chow. The memorialist now reports that the individual named Hu Shun-hing has appeared before the commission appointed to investigate the charges preferred, and has declared that the appellant, Kiang Ch'un-mow, a military licentiate who had been deprived of his grade, had trumped up the allegations set forth in his appeal in order to satisfy a grudge he bore against the district authorities for refusing him a place in the local tax-collectorate, and had unauthorizely added the names of the district notables to his own as answerable for the appeal. He had hired deponent to go with him to Peking, in order to appear as attorney on his behalf for the presentation of the appeal at the Censorate; but subsequently to the examination which was held thereupon, being short of funds for travelling expenses, he sent deponent back to Szech'wan and personated him as the individual sent back in custody to prosecute the appeal according to regulation. A

communication has, furthermore, been received from the Governor of Shansi declaring that Kiang Ch'un-mow died from the effects of illness whilst on the journey, on the 19th April, 1875, in the K'i district in that province. The result of the investigation now held entirely disproves the allegation advanced in his petition of appeal; and sentence is recorded against him, according to law, of banishment to a distant frontier, for the offence of bringing charges, proved groundless, against persons exceeding ten in number. Being deceased, however, his case requires no farther consideration, his family being authorized, however, if they see fit, to reclaim and bring back the coffin containing his remains from Shansi. The witnesses have been released, and those who have not appeared are granted exemption.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments consider and report to Us.

Nov. 9th.—(1) A decree referring for consideration on the part of the Imperial Clan Court and the Board of Revenue, the proposals laid before the Throne by the supervising Censor Li Hung-mo, to the effect that provision should be made for the support of the Imperial clansmen (*tsung-shih*), with a view to the proper maintenance of the foundations of the State. (N.B. The *tsung-shih* referred to are the very large body of individuals who are so unfortunate as to be descended in remote degrees from scions of the Imperial house. Whilst debarred from earning a livelihood in honest pursuits, the pensions doled out to them, diminishing in amount at each successive generation, are insufficient for their support, and as a natural consequence, crime and misconduct are rife among them, as the pages of the *Gazette* frequently make known.)

(2) A decree cashiering or degrading a long list of district officials in Yunnan, on impeachment by the Governor-General Liu Ch'ang-yao, for misconduct or incapacity.

(3) The Censor She T'ai memorializes representing, with reference to the expenditure for the making of roadways and repairs of bridges on the line between Peking and the Imperial Mausolea, that whatever works of this description were necessary during the reign of Tao Kwang (*i.e.*, prior to 1850), the amount of outlay reported on each occasion did not exceed Tls. 10,000 in any of the districts traversed on the road to the Western Hills. On the eastern road, moreover, the accounts sent in from the various districts were on an average about Tls. 3,000 to Tls. 4,000 in each district. This was the settled rule for many

years. Of late, however, according to the memorialist's information, the clerks of the Roads and Bridges department in the Board of Works are in the habit of controlling a monopoly of the contract undertakings on occasions of the kind, with the result that the outlay has been swelled to upwards of Tls. 20,000 in each of the districts traversed. The memorialist apprehends that abuses of this kind may be forthcoming in connection with the two lines of roadway recently constructed for the conveyance of the remains of the lately deceased Imperial concubines to their respective resting-places; and he asks that injunctions be laid upon the Board of Works to take measures for keeping the Expenditure within its former limits.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 27th October. (N. B.—Two lines of road, each upwards of 100 miles in length, were levelled and repaired a month or two ago, to facilitate the progress of the coffins of two of the Imperial concubines, one belonging to the seraglio of Tao-kwang, and the other to that of Hien-fêng, who died at about the same time, to the Mausolea at the Eastern and Western Hills respectively.)

(4) Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien, memorializes submitting the result of the trial of a lunatic for the murder of his father and two other persons. The accused, named Kù San, was a deaf and dumb idiot, aged 28, who lived with his father and his married cousin and her husband in a village of the Siu-yen department. On a certain night in August last the accused, in some unexplained access of madness, seized an iron hoe and hacked the three persons above-named, beginning with his father, to death. The facts having been established by the evidence of witnesses, the accused has been sentenced to suffer death by the "slow and disgraceful" process (slicing in pieces) for the crime of parricide, which sentence has been carried out, according to law, at the scene of the crime.

(5) The Censor She T'ai memorializes observing that, in consequence of the drought experienced in the province of Chihli, the prices of rice have gone up, and that steps should be taken to mitigate the suffering consequently experienced by the crowded population of Peking. Some twenty or twenty-five years ago, in consequence of the financial exigency of the period, the issue of rations in kind to the Banner soldiery was in part commuted for money payments; but of late years the grain of the southern provinces has been enabled to reach Peking, and the granaries of the capital

may be said to be abundantly stocked. There is an excess, annually, after the issue of all the various quantities by way of rations, to the amount of several tens of thousands of piculs; and it may be feared that deterioration in quality will ensue if these stocks be laid up for any great length of time. The memorialist therefore prays that the proportion in which the allowances are issued in grain to the Banner soldiery may be augmented by some 10 or 20 per cent., as a means of lowering the market price of rice.—Referred by rescript already published for consideration on the part of the Board of Revenue.

Nov. 10th.—(1) A decree referring to the proper Boards for consideration a memorial presented by the police Censors of the Central division of Peking, urging that additional incentives in the shape of honorary rewards be held out to the notables engaged in conducting the work of household registration.

(2) A decree permitting Wên Che 文治, Assistant Supervisor of Instruction, to resign his office on the ground of ill-health.

(3) A decree in answer to a memorial from Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the two Hu provinces, who has denounced an ex-District Magistrate, living in retirement at his native place, of heading a factious opposition on the part of his clansfolk against the levy of the land-tax due by them. The offender is ordered to be deprived forthwith of his rank and proceeded against according to law.

(4) A decree granting a donation of Tls. 3,600 from the funds of the Imperial household to provide a supply of wadded clothing for the destitute poor of Peking, as solicited by the police Censors in conformity with previous precedent.

(5) The Censor Tung Tsün-han memorializes urging the re-introduction of the system of household registration as a police measure at Peking, in view of the great amount of daring crime that has lately been prevalent and that is threatened by the agency of a secret society of malefactors, known as the *K'an Tao Hwei* or Chopper Society, members of which have established themselves, he is informed, at Peking. He lays particular stress upon the necessity of closing all gambling-houses and opium-shops, as the common resort of thieves and bad characters.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 24th October.

Nov. 11th.—A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor of Shensi, who has represented the necessity of postponing

the collection of the land-tax in a number of the districts of that province, owing to the distress which has been caused by the prevailing drought. The usual Spring rains failed at the proper time, and the second wheat crop gave but a scanty yield in consequence. Throughout the summer the drought has been still more intense, and in view of the suffering thus entailed upon the people, the institution of measures to relieve them from the immediate pressure of taxation is urgently called for. It is decreed, hereupon, that in 15 departments and districts north of the river Wei, and in 33 other divisions of the province, which are severally enumerated, the arrears of land-tax due for the latter half of last year, together with some other arrears, shall be postponed until after the spring harvest of 1878, when they are to be collected in addition to the taxes then falling due. Proclamations to this effect are to be posted throughout the Province, and care is to be taken to guard against malpractices on the part of the official underlings.

Nov. 12th.—(1) A decree. Let Poh Jun 傅潤 succeed to the post of Prefect of Sung-kiang Fu in Kiangsu.

(2) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, lays before the Throne a report in outline of the measures devised for the relief of the distress prevailing in consequence of drought, on receipt of the statements forwarded from the various local authorities to the provincial government, shewing that no less than seventy-six sub-prefectures, departments, and districts are labouring under the visitation of actual famine. The memorialist repeats the heartrending description he has already given, in previous representations on the same subject, of the almost universal dearth and suffering experienced throughout his province, things having gone from bad to worse since the period of his accession to office in the Spring. He recapitulates the various measures which have lately been announced by decree for the relief of the famine-stricken population, stating that he has sent agents to Manchuria and to the rice-producing district about Kwei-hwa Chêng to buy grain with the funds provided, but he adds that all the hopes that had been entertained of an autumn harvest of buckwheat and other minor foodstaples have been extinguished by the continued drought, and that it has not even been possible to get the seed into the ground for the autumn sowing. Whenever clouds have gathered

with the promise of heavy rain, they have been dispersed by gales of wind, and the showers that have fallen have been too slight to do much good. At the provincial capital, the tael of silver exchanges for no more than 1,300 to 1,400 *cash*, whilst rice is at 2,400 to 2,500 *cash* per *tow* (equal probably to about 10 catties.) In the southern districts, the tael of pure silver exchanges for only 1,100 and odd *cash*, and the commercial tael for no more than 900 and odd *cash*, whilst the price of rice is upwards of *two taels* of silver per *tow*. The first essential in the measures for famine relief, the memorialist would observe, is the transportation of supplies, and in the present instance the great extent of country affected and the long duration of the drought have combined to strip the southern section of the province absolutely bare. There remain neither the bark of trees nor the roots of wild herbs to be eaten, and ordinary food supplies have absolutely disappeared. The land is filled with the sound of lamentations, and the corpses of those who have perished of starvation by the waysides are to be seen on every hand. Words are wanting to describe the awful extent of the calamity. The most active efforts are being made to bring forward supplies of grain from various quarters as above-mentioned; and applications will shortly be submitted, on receipt of the necessary returns, for exemptions and postponements of taxation in the afflicted districts.

Nov. 13th.—Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, memorializes reporting the measures he has adopted, under Imperial orders, in connection with the provision of relief for the districts afflicted with scarcity around Peking and for the province of Shansi. He acknowledges the receipt of a decree forwarded to him on the 23rd ult. by a Council despatch, which was based upon a memorial presented by a member of the Hanlin College named Ho Kin-show, who had urged the speedy provision of a substantial amount of funds to enable grain to be purchased and issued at a reduced price; and he proceeds to observe that the provinces of Chihli, Shansi, and Honan have suffered this year under a protracted drought, Shansi being the province in which the severest degree of the calamity has been experienced, and in which, also, scarcity and dearth have reached the highest point. As immediately adjoining the domain of the Imperial capital, at the same time, the province of Chihli also demands attention in the shape of

relief measures. The recommendations submitted by Ho Kin-show, tending to a distribution of grain at reduced rates, are prompted undoubtedly by a wise foresight, and it is undeniable that the system in question has always been regarded as occupying a foremost place in the measures called for in seasons of flood or drought. Already, in September last, the memorialist despatched agents to Manchuria, as he reported at the time to the Throne, to make purchases of food supplies; but, as regards the proposal advanced by Ho Kin-show, that the memorialist should advance from his provincial Treasury some 200,000 to 300,000 Taels, and should negotiate a foreign loan in addition, to make up the total to Tls. 1,000,000, such an amount as this, as is observed with perfect truth in his Majesty's sacred commands, is not easily got together at a moment's notice. A sum of Tls. 110,000 was some time ago provided by the provincial authorities at Tientsin and Pauting Fu, and sanction has now further been applied for in a separate memorial to appropriate an additional Tls. 100,000 from the fund accumulated in copper *cash* for the military chest of the field force in Chihli, making a total of Tls. 210,000, the whole of which is to be devoted to the requirements of the province of Chihli, apart from all that is being done on behalf of Shansi and Peking itself. As regards the question of a foreign loan, to negotiate such an arrangement is a matter of exceeding difficulty, and the interest required, besides, is very heavy. Such a proposal may therefore be dismissed from consideration. With reference to the suggestion that the memorialist should despatch agents to Shanghai, Manchuria, Tung-ch'ang Fu (in Shantung) and Jeh-ho, to buy up grain, and should establish a forwarding depôt at Tientsin, placing agencies at T'ai-yüan and P'ing-yang in Shansi, and at K'ai-fêng and Hwai-K'ing in Honan, for the sale of supplies at reduced rates, with a staff of officials to manage the undertaking and other officials to superintend the transport, besides establishing an agency at Peking for the issue of grain on the same system—the scale of the operations thus contemplated is far too extensive, and neither the money nor the men available would suffice to meet its requirements. The details of the proposed scheme, moreover, are not in all respects free from objection. Tung-ch'ang Fu, one of the localities specified, has itself suffered from drought, and there is no grain to be purchased in that part of the

country; whilst Jeh-ho lies at a great distance off, and the river Lan is at present with difficulty navigable. A demand exists in that region, moreover, for grain to supply the requirements of the Manchu garrison soldiery. The resource most available is after all to be found in the pulse and millet crops of Manchuria, and in the rice of the southern provinces. Coming to the question whether the requirements of Shansi and Honan had best be met by the despatch of supplies from the side of Chihli, it is necessary to consider the nature of the prevailing circumstances, and to ascertain the prices of foodstuffs and the cost of transport, in order to enable an opinion to be properly formed. The memorialist has learnt by enquiry from the officials deputed from Honan to visit Tientsin that the following are the market prices of grain, other than rice, which prevail in that province at present. Millet

(*siao mi*, 小米, *setaria italica*) is purchased by the commercial *tow* measure at 190 catties to the *tan* (picul), at the rate of 6,300 *cash*, or something over Tls. 4.2 per picul, which makes the picul of 140 odd catties, at the Government *tow* measure, come to about Tls. 3.2. Kao-liang (Barbadoes millet, *sorghum vulgare*) sells at 4,400 to 4,500 *cash* per picul of 180 catties, or about 3 Taels in silver; which, at the Government *tow* measure, making the picul contain some 130 and odd catties, is equal to about Tls. 2.2. In Manchuria, the common millet or *siao mi* may be bought at Tls. 2.4 per picul, Government rate, and Barbadoes millet at Tl. 1.4 per picul. From this it appears that in Honan the price of each of these descriptions of grain is only some 8 *mace* per picul higher than it is in Manchuria. Were supplies to be purchased from the provincial funds of Chihli and forwarded to various distributing agencies for sale, the prime cost would be enhanced by the expenses of sea transport from Manchuria to Tientsin, transportation by canal to Wei-hwei, and carriage by road to Hwai-K'ing, and the total amount involved by way of freight and cartage, expenses of administration, transshipment, and escort, would be found to reach something like 1 Tael per picul, or more than the difference in the prevailing market-prices in Honan. Under these circumstances it would scarcely be possible to make sales at reduced rates. It is reported, moreover, that there is barely more than a foot of water in the Yellow River below Tao K'ow 道口 in the province

above-named, so that grain-laden vessels would not be able to navigate this channel, and there would be more than 200 *li* of land transport, consequently, to face, entailing a heavy addition to the cost of moving supplies. Neither would it be advisable to attempt the shipment of grain by sea to the mouth of the Ta Ts'ing Ho, that is to say, the new mouth of the Yellow River, with the view of reaching K'ai-fêng Fu by this means. Sea-going vessels are unable to enter the Yellow River, and in the absence of tow-paths it would be difficult in the extreme to drag country boats up against the stream, whilst the numerous shallows to be encountered would be a continual source of obstruction. The memorialist, who made use of the Ta Ts'ing Ho for the transport of munitions of war during his campaign against the Nien Fei in Shantung (ten years ago), knows full well what difficulties are to be looked for in that quarter. He would observe that in certain parts of the province of Honan, such as Kwei-têh and Ch'ên Chow, there has been a middling yield from the autumn harvest, and in the departments of Tsining and Tsao-chow (in Shantung), and Ying-chow, and Show-chow (in Nganhwei), all bordering upon Honan, there has also been a harvest. In Ts'ao-chow the Yellow River is accessible, and in Ying-chow and Show-chow there are the Hwai Ho and the Sha Ho open as means for the conveyance of supplies. In previous memorials, the importance of economizing in the matter of transport has already been dwelt upon; and it has to be observed, in addition, that the agent sent by the Governor of Honan to Tientsin took away some time ago the Tls. 60,000 which were ordered to be appropriated to that province, whilst a request for the payment of the balance due has just come to hand, which serves to prove that there must be supplies available for purchase in that province. It is not necessary, therefore, that the government of Chihli should undertake to provide them. As regards the state of affairs in Shansi, the region there affected is of great extent, and the adjacent provinces, also, are themselves afflicted with scarcity. The Governor writes that millet (*siao mi*) is selling at the rate of Tls. 14.6 per picul of 290 cattles, or say Tls. 7.3 per Government picul; and Kao-liang millet at Tls. 7.3 per picul of 240 cattles, which is equal to Tls. 4.1 per Government picul. The cost of common millet is consequently upwards of Tls. 4 per picul higher in Shansi than in Honan, and that of Kao-liang millet

Tls. 1.9 per picul higher. The proportion, as compared with the prices in Manchuria, is Tls. 4.9 and Tls. 2.7 higher per picul, respectively. The cost of transport from Tientsin, in view of the great distance to be traversed, and the difficulties of the road, will be immense, but there is no alternative, and every effort must be brought to bear to afford the assistance needed. Under the memorialist's orders, the managers of the China Merchants' Company have already provided, from funds got together at successive intervals, the amount of 18,000 piculs of rice, which have been shipped, partly by the Ts'ing Ho to Paoting Fu, and partly by the Grand Canal to Pêh-t'ow Chên in the Kiao-ho district, from whence the supplies will be carted to Hwai-luh Hien (on the Shansi border.) At this place an agency has been established by the government of Shansi to take charge of the grain and transport it to T'ai-yüan Fu and other parts of the province, for issue at reduced rates. This system is already efficiently at work. For the relief of the western divisions of Shansi, lying from 200 to 300 miles westward of the provincial capital, and separated from it by the high range of mountains called the Han How Ling, where the scarcity and dearth are the most severely felt, 7,000 piculs of grain have already been got together by contributions raised at the instance of Wu Ta-ch'êng, the official detached from Peking for service in the famine-relief administration under the memorialist's direction, and this quantity has been sent forward to the suffering region. Wu Ta-ch'êng is devoting himself indefatigably to the work. For the relief of distress in the immediate neighbourhood of Peking, the managers of the China Merchants' Company, the Taotais Chu K'ingang and Tong King-sing have provided funds for the purchase of supplies of rice in the South, which are to be delivered at Tientsin before the river closes; and the same officials will establish a forwarding dépôt at Tung Chow and an agency at Peking for the sale of the grain at reduced rates. Unprincipled monopolists will by this means be prevented from maintaining exorbitant prices. The arrangement is one of an ordinary commercial nature, and the memorialist submits that it should be left to be conducted by the officials above-named, and that there is no necessity to appoint any of the Peking functionaries to interfere with them. He accordingly lays the foregoing general report of the measures he has adopted before the Throne.—Rescript: We highly approve

the resolutions taken. Let further steps be proceeded with as circumstances may direct when the supplies of grain arrive.

(2) Li Hung-chang reports, in a post-script memorial, the receipt of a despatch from the Yamèn of Foreign Affairs with reference to a late student of the *T'ung Wên Kwan* (School of Foreign Languages) named Ch'ang Siu, 長秀, who, during

the ten or twelve years he has spent in that establishment, has acquitted himself very creditably. He has lately been placed on the roster for service in Chihli as an expectant District Magistrate, and the Yamèn asks that on his reporting himself at the provincial capital he may be sent back to the School. The official in question has reported himself at the provincial capital, and has been found to be very fairly proficient in his knowledge of a foreign language. In view of the fact that there are a great variety of foreign questions to be dealt with by the memorialist in his capacity as Superintendent of Trade for the Northern ports, it is submitted that by employing Ch'ang Siu in the foreign affairs department of the provincial government the knowledge he has acquired would not be thrown away, whilst he would, at the same time, be in a position to familiarize himself with administrative duties. It is requested, therefore, that he may be retained at Tientsin for duty there; and a despatch to this effect is addressed to the Yamèn.—Rescript: It is noted. (Note.—The individual above referred to, a Peking bannerman, is understood to be one of two students of the School of Languages who have graduated of late at the metropolitan Examinations, and have thus become eligible for official employment in the ordinary course.)

Nov. 14th.—Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, submits a general report of the condition of affairs in that province in respect of the prevailing scarcity, in obedience to decrees issued on the 13th and 23rd October, as rescripts to memorials presented respectively by the Censor Liu Ngên-p'u and the Hanlin Compiler Ho Kin-show. In the former document it was urged that funds should be borrowed to enable distributions of grain to be made at reduced rates, and that relief works in the shape of well-sinking should be inaugurated; and in the second that false returns are sent in by the district authorities as to the harvest obtained; the fact being that throughout the greater portion of the province a deficient yield has been experienced. The Governor-

General reports that a severe drought prevailed during the first part of the summer, and that an outburst of locusts took place in some localities, whilst, although rain came at length in the first week of August, it was only partially felt. To the north and east of Peking there has been a fair crop, but in the immediate environs of the capital and to the westward, including Yih-chow, the harvest has been only middling; and in the Tientsin, Chao-chow, Ting-chow, Taiming, Shun-teh, and Kwang-ping divisions the yield has been poor. In Ho-kien Fu and three other divisions drought has been most severely felt; and on the whole, the rainfall and consequent yield have been extremely capricious in even closely adjacent localities. The distress, however, has not been nearly so severe or widely extended as is represented by Ho Kin-show. Some time ago, already in view of the actual scarcity, the Governor-General called upon the provincial authorities to advance from the Treasury the sum of Tls. 110,000, with which he despatched agents to purchase grain, other than rice, in Manchuria, for purposes of distribution as might be necessary, and he further held out inducements for importations by private enterprise from all quarters. He has, therefore, virtually anticipated the recommendations laid before the Throne. In view of the fact, moreover, that farther provision is needed for the long period yet to be looked forward to before the coming Spring, he has taken counsel with his principal subordinates, and determined upon borrowing a sum of money from the fund set apart for the maintenance of his field-force, which is deposited at interest in the hands of pawnbrokers. The amount of 150,000 strings of cash, equivalent to about Tls. 100,000, has been called in by his orders, to make good an advance already taken from the coast defence fund, and with this sum in hand further purchases of grain have been ordered to be made in Manchuria. The market there has been already stripped of all the old stock of grain, and the new season's supply is only beginning to arrive at Newchwang; but the purchases which will be made during the winter will be delivered so soon as the river opens again next Spring. There have already been allotted to the districts that have suffered most severely, viz., King Chow, Fu-ch'eng, Kiao Ho, Hien Hien, Ho-kien, &c., the amount in all of 25,000 piculs of *kao-liang* millet, for which the authorities have been directed to send to Tientsin; and official agents have moreover been sent to all parts of the country to examine the state of

affairs and institute measures of distribution, either gratuitous or otherwise. In the Tai-ming prefecture, funds have been borrowed from the *lekin* revenue, and further amounts have been raised by the authorities for the purchase of winter wheat, both for sale and for advances as seed-corn. There is reason to expect considerable importations of grain at Tientsin on private account, before the river closes, which will help to eke out the deficiencies on the part of Government; but large sums of money will still be requisite to meet the expenditure for relief in the various districts affected. It is proposed to raise another sum of Tls. 100,000 toward this end, taking it if necessary from the military chest of the Pau-ting Fu field force; and wherever possible the system of relief works in the shape of well-sinking, which has already been instituted to some extent, will be carried into practice. It is requested that encouragement may be held out to the wealthy to contribute toward the prevailing need, and the liberality of a resident of Ho-kien Fu, named Han Yuh-t'ang, who has subscribed Tls. 3,000, is submitted to notice. Precautions against acts of rapine and disorder have not been omitted.—A rescript expresses approbation of the foregoing report.

Nov. 15th. — Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, memorializes representing the vast proportions of the requirements entailed by the famine in that province, and soliciting permission for an extension of the sale of office system in order to provide funds for relief. The memorialist acknowledges with gratitude the sums already sanctioned by Imperial command, to wit, the amount of Tls. 200,000 which permission was given to appropriate from the revenue due to Peking, beside the authority vouchsafed for the institution of sales of office as an auxiliary measure, and in addition to this, the subsequent grants of Tls. 240,000 out of the Coast Defence funds, Tls. 140,000 from the treasury of the Board of Revenue, and 50,000 piculs of grain from the Kiangpeh and Nganhwei contingent. The extent of the prevailing distress is, however, overpowering. Almost the entire province is stricken with famine, and the cost of transport alone adds enormously to the degree in which the dearth of food is felt. Already, up to the present moment, 76 departments and districts are officially returned as in a famine-stricken condition, and the number of individuals reduced to want and dependent upon official support is not less than from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 souls. Should

the supplies fall off, it is to be feared that the whole of the southern part of the province will become wholly depopulated. Without funds to the extent of at least 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 Taels for the distribution of relief during the coming winter and spring, means will be wanting for the work in hand. Under these circumstances the Governor solicits sanction to the raising of funds by the sale of office, and entreats that he may be supplied with 2,000 certificates issued in blank by the Board of Revenue, for distribution to purchasers in the different provinces.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 29th October.

Nov. 16th.—(Court Circular.) The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu reports the fall of between 3 and 4 inches of snow at Peking, yesterday.

(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Ming Ngan, Military Governor of Kirin, who reports that in the course of last month the country in the neighbourhood of San-sing was visited by a terrific storm of wind and hail, causing the cultivated land to be swept by a flood, and the inhabitants deprived of shelter. The memorialist is commanded to provide relief for the sufferers, by the distribution of rice and money allowances.

(2) A decree expressing the Imperial gratitude for the fall of snow and rain experienced on the 15th inst., after the supplications repeatedly offered up on behalf of the provinces afflicted with drought, and directing that on the 18th inst. a series of thanksgiving services be held at the various State temples, his Majesty officiating in person at the Ta Kao Tien.

(3-5) Sundry memorials from the Police Censors and the Yamèn of Gendarmerie with reference to the late case of burglary with violence at the house of an official residing in the outer city of Peking. The various authorities chargeable with negligence in the matter are impeached according to rule.

Nov. 17th.—The Governor-General and Governor of Kwangtung report that, in consequence of the great rise in the price of rice at Canton, owing to the floods of the past spring and summer, they have made appropriations of public funds for the purchase of supplies to be issued at reduced rates, and they solicit sanction to the exemption of the shipments from the payment of Customs' duty and *lekin*. Having received the Imperial commands enjoining upon them that relief is to be afforded to the sufferers by the bursting of the river embankments and consequent inundations, they have communicated in the first instance

with the Governor of Kwangsi, requesting that the *lekin* tax be remitted upon rice coming eastwards, and they have taken steps, likewise, to prohibit the artificial enhancement of the scarcity by the action of speculators; beside which they have called upon the population generally to put such stores as are laid up in local granaries upon the market. Finally, as the provincial exchequer has no funds immediately available, a sum of Tls. 100,000 has been raised by loan from the Shansi (or European?) bankers—*Si-shang*—and an additional amount of Tls. 10,000 has been borrowed from the local granary funds, provided with which, official agents have been sent to Shanghai and Chinkiang to make purchases of rice for shipment to Canton. It is requested, in conformity with the precedent already set, as the memorialists learn through the *Gazette*, in the case of Fuhkien under similar circumstances, that all payments of Customs' duty and *lekin* may be remitted upon the cargoes thus to be forwarded to Canton for issue to the population at reduced rates.—Sanctioned by rescript.

Nov. 18th.—(1) The Governor-General and Governor of Kwangtung report that, in order to encourage the importation of grain at Canton by private enterprise, the provincial government has arranged for the issue of licenses to all traders who may come forward with security given on their behalf by substantial concerns, each license being made out for the amount of 2,000 piculs of rice, on importation of which, between the 7th October, 1877, and the 2nd January, 1878 (being the 9th to the 11th moon current), it is proposed, with Imperial sanction, to grant exemption from all Customs' duty and *lekin* tax payments. It is forbidden, at the same time, to make use of these licenses by way of cover to the smuggling in of other descriptions of merchandize.—Rescript: It is noted.

(2) The Governor of Nghanwei memorializes that, in addition to the scarcity occasioned in that province through drought, great destruction to such crops as had come forward had been caused by flights of locusts. The various district authorities, aided by the military, have done all in their power to exterminate the insects, either by drowning out the larvæ in the reedbeds in which they make their appearance, or by causing pits to be dug, into which the swarms are driven and burnt or buried. Agencies have also been opened on all sides at which the locusts are bought in when collected by the peasantry, who

bring them in by the peck and bushel. In various districts, the quantities thus delivered vary from some thousands to several tens of thousands of catties and upwards. Since August, according to the reports sent in from the various Magistracies, the plague has been entirely eradicated, and the growing crops had suffered no substantial injury. Indemnity had been awarded so far as possible to the owners of land which had been trodden down in the pursuit of the flights, in order to enable them to make a fresh sowing.

Nov. 19th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the two Kiang provinces, and Yü Luh, Governor of Nghanwei, who impeach the present department Magistrate of Wu-wei-chow, on a charge of having some time ago, whilst acting Magistrate of the Ning-kwoh district, purchased certain property within the limits of the district, which is contrary to law; and encouraged his nephew, Wu Wên-wei, to encroach upon the property of other persons. On a complaint being lodged, moreover, he failed to make a truthful report of the circumstances. As solicited by the memorialists, he is handed over to the Board of Civil Office for the adjudication of a penalty; and the further arrangements proposed in the memorial are approved.

(2) The Board of Revenue memorialize submitting their report, in conformity with the Decree issued on the 9th October, with reference to the case of Lin Show-t'u, lately removed from his office as Financial Commissioner of Shansi, who had endeavoured to clear himself from the charge of having disobeyed instructions in the matter of the remittances due to the military chest of Tso Tsung-t'ang's army. The same ground is gone over as in the previous memorials that have appeared in this matter, and it is shewn that Lin Show-t'u had no warrant for his assertion that a reduction of the monthly subsidy from Taels 50,000 to Taels 30,000 had at any time been sanctioned. On the general question of the supplies for Tso, the Board include the following observations. In January, 1876, when reporting conjointly with the Tsung-li Yamên on the memorial in which Tso Tsung-t'ang represented the straitened state of his finances at the moment of his advance beyond the Wall, the following statements were quoted from his report:—According to the arrangement originally decided upon, the amount which should be contributed annually in the shape of

subsidies from the different provincial governments and Custom-houses, for the expenses of the army of Kansuh, formed a total of Tls. 8,200,000 and odd; but out of this no more than some Tls. 7,000,000 came under Tso's personal control (the remainder being allotted to various other commanders in the field.) The amount actually sent forward on account of these subsidies was about Tls. 5,000,000 per annum. These receipts, the Board proceed to explain, took place during the three or four years antecedent to 1876.—Returning to the case of Lin Show-t'u, the Board decline to sanction his attempted defence, and submit the decision to his Majesty's judgment. (For rescript see *Gazette* of Oct. 27th.)

Nov. 20th.—(1) A Decree. Let Ch'êng Tsu-hao 程祖誥 succeed to the post of a Senior Vice-President of the Court of Censors.

(2) The Board of Ceremonies memorialize setting forth the tenour of a representation made to them by Li Hung-tso, late President of the Board of Works, on the subject of the period of mourning which he feels bound to observe on the death of his mother, although he was removed in early life from the family of his real parents, by adoption as heir to an uncle who had died without begetting posterity of his own. He had, himself, one elder brother, who died shortly after reaching years of maturity, and also without leaving issue, for which reason Li Hung-tso's own first-born son was adopted back in the main line as heir to his deceased brother. In 1855, Li Hung-tso's own father died, upon which, as regulation prescribes, he observed (although adopted into his uncle's family) a year of mourning on behalf of his parent; and in 1866, on his adoptive mother having departed this life, he entered upon the three years' period of mourning prescribed in such cases. The mother who bore him having been removed by death on the 19th October last, he has to submit that he is left, after all, as the most direct representative of the family line, since his son, who had been adopted as above stated to continue the inheritance of his elder brother, was cut off prematurely a short time after his marriage in 1870. He consequently feels bound to observe the period of three years of mourning on behalf of his deceased parent.—The Board feel bound to submit the question for Imperial decision. For rescript see *Gazette* of 31st October.

Nov. 21st.—No documents of importance.

Nov. 22nd.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Vice-Presidents of the Granaries, who have reported the completion of the delivery of the grain due from the Southern provinces at T'ung-chow and Peking. Their recommendations of the officials who have exerted themselves in this matter are approved.

(2) A decree referring for consideration on the part of the Board of Revenue, a memorial received from the Censor Lin Kung-shu, who has recommended that certain quantities of rice be allotted for sale to the public at reduced rates, through the agency of offices to be established for the purpose in the suburbs of Peking.

(3) A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor of Shensi, who has reported the mutiny of a battalion of irregulars, their dispersion, the capture and execution of the ringleaders, and the submission of the remainder. The Governor reports that, on his having ordered a battalion of the Sze-ch'wan irregulars heretofore commanded by the Taotai Hwang Ting, to proceed to take up their quarters at Ch'ang Wu in the Fên Chow department, and on this body of troops having marched as far as the King-yang district (in Si-ngan Fu), their officers, headed by one Kiang Ming-chung, had the audacity to put pressure on the men, and to induce them to force their way into the city, where they set to work to burn and pillage, and to slaughter the garrison and townspeople. From this point they marched on Ma Kia T'ai, where they offered resistance to a Brigade-General named P'an Kwang-tow, wounding this officer in the fight that ensued. Troops being sent in pursuit of the mutineers, they were surrounded on the 7th inst. in a valley named Tsze Wu Yüh, and vigorously attacked. The two leaders, named Kiang Ming-chung and Sü Jui-yün, were captured and executed, and the rest of the party threw down their arms and surrendered themselves. The proceedings thus reported are approved as having been taken with sufficient promptitude; but as the whereabouts of two of the ringleaders is declared to be as yet unascertained, it is commanded that enquiry be made to discover whether these men were killed in the fight or have made their escape. Stringent orders are to be given to the various military forces to allow not a solitary individual to evade the pursuit of justice. Proper steps are to be taken to afford relief to the sufferers from the inroads made by the mutineers at King-yang and elsewhere; and the Department Magistrate, named Ts'ing Shêng-lan, who was in command of the battalion, is stripped of his

rank ; orders being at the same time given to make enquiry whether his conduct had been instrumental in causing the outbreak, in which case he is to be impeached in due form.

(4) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Lin Kung-shu, who has drawn attention to the miraculous interposition vouchsafed on repeated occasions by the presiding deity of a temple at Shang-hang in Fuhkien, where, in 1858, an attack on the part of the longhaired rebels was averted by a miracle on his part, and supernatural aid has repeatedly been granted in times of pestilence and flood. He solicits the bestowal of a title of honour upon the deity ; and the provincial government is ordered to make enquiry into the circumstances and report upon the case.

(5-6) Decrees appointing Na-lung-ah and Lin Kung-shu respectively to act as Police Censors for the Central and Western divisions of Peking.

(7) A decree referring to the distress entailed by the drought of the past season, which has caused a serious rise in the cost of the necessaries of life, and to the fact that considerable numbers of the famine-stricken inhabitants of Honan and Shansi may be expected to have migrated in the direction of Peking in search of means of subsistence. The Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu is commanded to report upon the measures he may deem advisable for the establishment of additional relief-stations, in conformity with the precedent of last year.

(8) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'ian, Governor of Shansi, memorializes further on the state of affairs in that province, premising with a laudation of the simple-minded and well-disposed character of the population, who stand in this respect highest of all throughout the Empire. Their patient endurance of the extreme of hardship, even to death from starvation, without a murmur, is the result of the outpouring of the gracious benevolence of the Sacred Rulers with which the people of Shansi have been laved. In their present affliction, the Imperial solicitude of which they have been the object has provided repeated appropriations of funds, and has set apart for their relief supplies of grain to the extent of 50,000 piculs of rice from Kiangsi and Hupeh, and 80,000 piculs of millet from the winter collection in Shantung, in addition to which the Governor of Shensi has been commanded to render such aid as he may find possible out of the grain which is to be furnished to him from Honan and Hupeh. Whilst expressing his admiration and gratitude for

these tokens of exceeding grace, the memorialist has to submit that according to letters received from the Governor of Shensi, the rice which is forthcoming from the south is limited in quantity, and, in view of the difficulties of transportation either by land or by water, he fears that even the whole of this will not be able to reach Shensi, so that it is impossible to say as yet, until the deliveries actually take place, whether he will have any rice to spare for Shansi. From this, the memorialist observes, it would seem that the needs of Shensi must be as great as those of his own province ; and he would not venture to ask that the wants of one be satisfied whilst the other should be left a prey to famine. He must represent, however, that nearly ten more districts, reports from which have now been received, must be added to the 76 which have lately been declared as actually famine-stricken ; whilst the selling price of rice, namely, from 2,400 to 2,500 *cash* per *tow* (of 18 catties), has not yet begun to decline, and the tael of sycee exchanges in the towns of the southern half of the province for little over 900 *cash*. The two officials who were sent to Peking to receive the sum of money, Tls. 200,000, allotted by decree, may be hoped to arrive with this supply by the end of the 10th moon (December 4th) ; but this sum will suffice for no more than the requirements of relief during the ensuing half month, and the memorialist must confess to a feeling of great dread. Applications for relief pour in unceasingly from the various Districts, and the Governor, with his chief subordinates, has nothing to afford them in reply. Still, he cannot venture to leave them absolutely with all hope cut off, lest the result be commotion such as would on the one hand cause the people's lives to be sacrificed and on the other ill-requite the Celestial bounty. Under the circumstances, he feels bound to entreat that 60,000 piculs of rice from the quantity due for 1878 from Kiangsi and Hupeh may be appropriated to supply the present needs of Shansi. If his request be acceded to, he would beg that orders may be given to the Governor-General of Hu Kwang and the Governor of Kiangsi, directing them to provide and pay over the amount representing the above quantity of grain, including freight, to Li Hung-chang, by whom it should be placed in the hands of the Taotai Chu K'i-ngang (head of the China Merchants' Steamship Co.), to be administered solely by himself. If this be done, it may be hoped that with the aid of the 50,000 piculs of grain previously allotted,

the lives of some hundreds of thousands of the people of the province, now in jeopardy, may be saved.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report to Us.

Nov. 23rd.—(1-3) Decrees granting the privilege of riding on horseback within the precincts of the Palace to Sü T'ung, Chinese President of the Court of Censors; She Tsêng, a Comptroller of the Household; Mu-t'u-shen, Military Lieutenant-Governor of Ch'ahar; Ngên Ch'êng, a Vice-President of the Board of Civil office; and Yung Luh, a Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, etc.

(4) A decree commanding that a gratuity of one month's extra pay be given to all the soldiery of the capital, both Manchu and Chinese, in consideration of the hardship of their service during the cold weather now drawing on.

(5) A Decree. Let Wang Wên-shao **王文韶** (Governor of Hunan) come to Peking for audience. Let Ts'ung Fuh (the Lieutenant-Governor of the province) temporarily act in his stead.

(6) A decree based upon a report presented by Ting Pao-chêng, Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, setting forth the result of his investigations into the massacre committed at Tung-hiang, in Sui-ting Fu, by Government troops, complaint concerning which was brought forward last year by the Censors Wu Chên and Li T'ing-siao (see *Gazettes* of September to December, 1876.) It has been ascertained that Yüan T'ing-kiao, the complainant whose appeal, lodged at Peking, gave rise to the investigation, was a noted trickster, who had sought to make the official readjustment of taxes an excuse for levying funds for his own benefit. When this man first collected a band of followers, and proceeded to commit acts of disturbance, notwithstanding that the Prefect of Sui-ting Fu, then in office, had consented to continue the tax-levy on its former basis, the then acting Magistrate of the Tung-hiang district, reporting without proper cause that the safety of the district city was in peril, made application for troops, and at the same time increased the amount demanded by way of extra taxation under his predecessors. These steps added fuel to the fire of Yüan T'ing-kiao's agitation; and although the troops sent forward under the command of General Li Yeo-hêng remained at the outset in a stationary attitude, the Magistrate opened a recruiting office for a force of irregulars and set measures on foot for the levy of a *lekin* tax on grain. This led to the recruiting office being

attacked and pillaged, and to an assault, which was repulsed, being made by Yüan T'ing-kiao and his followers upon the encampment of the military. The peasantry, after this, fearing that the troops would attack them relentlessly, shut themselves up in their fortified posts; and the soldiery, on the other hand, believing that the country-folk were bent on resistance, made a vigorous attack upon them, with the result that several hundreds were slaughtered. The report of the facts, as ascertained, is consequently now submitted. It is commanded, hereupon, that Yüan T'ing-kiao, for his manifold offences in fomenting disturbance, heading attacks upon the authorities of Government, etc., be summarily beheaded. The district Magistrate whose improper conduct is exposed in the report, is stripped of his rank and banished to the military post roads to expiate his offence. The two brevet Brigade-Generals Liu Tao-tung and Lui Yüeh-ch'un are held answerable for the excesses committed by the troops under their command. Both are cashiered, and the former is sentenced to transportation to Sungaria, and the latter to banishment into servitude on the military post roads. The brevet General Li Yeo-hêng is considered to have behaved in a manner unworthy of his office in failing to keep his subordinates under proper discipline, and he is cashiered, together with the district Magistrate of Tung-hiang who preceded the official referred to above, as he is shewn to have failed in the duty of putting an end to the exactions introduced by his predecessor in office, which encouraged the outbreak of Yüan T'ing-kiao. Both the Prefect of Sui-ting Fu and the late Governor-General of Sze-ch'wan, Wu Tang, are declared to have been guilty of maladministration and misrepresentation in this case. As the Prefect has already been degraded to the rank of Assistant Department Magistrate, and the Governor-General is dead, no farther proceedings are called for in their case. The late acting Governor-General, Wên Kêh (now Governor of Shantung), is declared to be free from blame in connection with this affair, except in so far as the failure to detect the impropriety of General Liu Tao-tung's conduct in carrying the female members of his family with him while on active service is concerned. For this shortcoming his name has already been submitted to the Board for Censure; but it is ordered that he be exempted from further proceedings.

(7) The Censor Li Hung-mo draws attention to the neglected condition of large numbers of the Imperial clansmen

(*tsung-shih*), descendants, in more or less remote degrees, of sovereigns of the reigning line. Some sixty years ago, owing to the increase which had then already made itself felt, seventy households were transplanted to Moukden by command of the Emperor Kia K'ing, the wisdom of which step is fervently commended. At the present day, however, the growth of this class has reached a degree which makes the question of maintenance far more difficult than ever. Cases of litigation in which *tsung-shih* are concerned are of frequent occurrence; and in the majority of such instances, it is found that they arise from mortgages of their property or in connection with loans. The Censor would suggest that the Imperial Clan Court be commanded to devise measures for removing a number of *tsung-shih* families to occupy tracts of land in the region lately brought under control on the Korean frontier.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 9th inst.

(8) The Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Soochow reports the completion and despatch to Peking of the satins, etc., required on account of the year 1876, one of the periods of delivery on a large scale. It has been customary of late years, for the purposes of such deliveries, to receive from the provincial treasury the sum of Tls. 82,000, whereupon 4/10ths of the full quantities of material which should be supplied, according to regulation, to the Board of Revenue and to the Imperial Household are provided and despatched. For the delivery of 1876 a sum of the above amount having been provided, purchases of the raw material were made at the rates of prices laid down in 1875; and although these were below the market rates for silk (as already reported), the memorialist has made up the difference by a contribution from his own salary. Manufacture having been begun, there were provided, in the first place, 1,000 rolls of satin for the Board of Revenue. Owing to the greater proportion, among these, of satin damasked with the dragon pattern, compared with former years, the cost has been also higher, the total amount having been Tls. 29,400. With the balance of funds, 4/10ths of the material due to the Imperial Household have been proceeded with; and nothing remains available for the additional 1,000 rolls of satin called for by the Board of Revenue. An appropriation of funds must be awaited before farther steps can be taken. An officer is now despatched to Peking with the following materials for Imperial use, viz:—370 rolls of satin;

3,400 rolls of silk gauze; 600 large handkerchiefs; 800 catties of sewing-silk; 500 catties of white silk; and 3,000 pieces of fine calico.

(9) The Tutor of the Imperial Academy, Pao T'ing, in a postscript memorial, dwells upon the increasing numbers of the Imperial clansmen (see also above, No. 7), and urges the necessity of enlarging the provision made for their education, and for rescuing them from the distress to which many of them are reduced by poverty. He asks that some tens of thousands of taels may be provided from any available source, to be lent in sums of 50 taels to impoverished *tsung-shih*, in order to keep them from the hands of the usurers to whom they are now compelled to resort.

In a further postscript, the memorialist, remarking that although the *lekin* tax is a measure at variance with the principles of benign administration, it is an expedient which the financial exigencies of the times make it impossible to dispense with, submits, nevertheless, his opinion that it should be removed from all necessities of life and augmented in the case of mere luxuries.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 7th inst.

Nov. 24th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Kwoh Ts'ung-ki, who has urged that measures be taken by the various provincial governments to provide for the wants of the famine refugees who may migrate into their respective jurisdictions, and also that the lands now lying waste to a great extent in the provinces of Kansuh and Nganhwei be utilized for the relief of these sufferers. He recommends that allotments be made, next spring, of these waste lands, the occupants being provided with seed-grain and farming implements, and to be allowed a period of five years before the land is advanced to the tax paying status. The high authorities of the provinces concerned are called upon to consider the proposals in question.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censors of the Shantung department, who have called attention to the increase which has taken place of late in crimes of theft and robbery at Peking. The department of the Censorate over which the memorialists preside is that which is specially charged with supervision in this respect; and it is their duty to denounce to the Throne any cases in which the magistrates of police are guilty of connivance with the criminal classes on the part of their subordinates, and similar malpractices. Stringent injunctions are laid upon the authorities concerned to see

that due report is made in all cases of criminal offence.

(3) The Governor of Nganhwei memorializes reporting the returns of the Native Custom House of Wuhu for the year expired on the 10th July, 1877. According to established regulation, this Custom House should yield the following annual amounts, viz :—

	Tls. m.c.c.
To the Board of Revenue...	156,919.0.7.5
Do. do., supplementary	73,000
To the Board of Works ...	70,146.1.5.5
Do. do., supplementary	47,000

Total taels...347,065.2.3.0

The actual collection during the period ending as above has been as follows :—

	Tls. m.c.c.
Board of Revenue.....	60,510.1.1.0
Board of Works.....	70,686.5.5

Total taels...131,196.6.6.0

In explanation of the inability experienced to make up the amount required by regulation, the following facts are stated. The duties heretofore leviable on account of the Board of Revenue were wholly derived from the merchandize conveyed backwards and forwards by the large firms doing business with Kiangsu, Chêhkiang, Szech'wan, and Kwangtung; whilst the duties accruing to the Board of Works were yielded by the wood-rafts coming down from Hu-kwang, and the trade in bamboos and lesser timber produced in the province itself. The rebellion, however, had entirely impoverished the trade of the port, and even where produce of superior value is actually forthcoming, still, since the opening of the ports to foreign trade, steamers have plied continuously between them, and the moment a transit pass is issued by the Maritime Customs to foreign imports brought in or native produce exported, all that is allowed is to subject the goods to examination, no levy of duty upon them being permitted. The collection of duties thus wholly ensures to the benefit of the Maritime Customs. In other respects, owing to the devastation the province has undergone, the production of bamboos and timber has been inconsiderable of late years; whilst the arrivals of rafts of heavy timber from upstream have also greatly fallen off. When to these causes of decline in the yield of revenue is added the fact that in the course of the current year a "New" (Maritime) Custom

House has been opened at Wuhu, entailing a still farther diminution in the extent to which merchandize is subject to duty at the Regular Custom House, it will be seen that the falling-off in revenue is due to natural causes only, and is not attributable to any want of activity in the work of collection. Detailed returns of income and expenditure are enclosed.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned consider and report.

(4) Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the two Hu provinces, memorializes acknowledging the receipt of a despatch from the Board of Revenue, communicating the tenour of the proposal advanced by the Governor-General of Szech'wan that the province of Hupeh should lend the sum of Tls. 100,000 toward the amount required for a reorganization of the salt-distribution system in Szech'wan and Kweichow (see *Gazette* of 11th October). The memorialist represents, hereupon, that the sources of revenue in Hupeh are exhausted, and heavy arrears have accumulated on the score of the subsidies due to Peking and other provinces. At the present moment, also, the bonds issued to foreign merchants are falling due; and the memorialist, after taking counsel with his principal subordinates, has to represent that the provincial treasury is absolutely bare, and that he must ask that the requirement to furnish funds to Sze-ch'wan be waived.—Rescript: It is noted.

Nov. 25th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Literary Chancellor of Kwangtung, Wu Pao-shu, who has represented the prevalence of abuses in the official examination system in that province. The practice of employing substitutes is extensively prevalent, owing to connivance on the part of the bondsmen who vouch for the individual candidates; and the memorialist prays that a scale of penalties applicable, in such cases, to the official directors of instruction, be instituted. The Board of Ceremonies is commanded hereupon to draw up the scale of penalties recommended.

(2) A decree based upon a report from the Governor-General of Hu Kwang, who has denounced the district Magistrate of Ts'ung-yang, in Hupeh, as an official of indifferent reputation at best, and who of late has encouraged his police-runners to dig up and remove trees from the property of the country-people of his district, whereby a popular outbreak has come near to being precipitated. The delinquent is stripped of his rank with sentence of perpetual exclusion from the public service.

(3) A decree in reply to a memorial from the Police Censors of the Central division of Peking, who have applied for a grant of millet on behalf of the relief agencies at different points in and around the city. For the eight rice-gruel stations which are established on behalf of the destitute poor, a monthly issue of 330 piculs of millet is required; and it is commanded that from the 1st day of the 11th moon (5th December, 1877), the Censors of each division are to make application through the Board of Revenue to the Granaries for the amount respectively due. They are to take steps, in conjunction with the local notables, to ensure a proper issue of the relief thus afforded, and to allow no embezzlement to be indulged in.

(4-6) Memorials from Liu Chang-yeo, Governor-General of Yunnan, etc., reporting the suppression of sundry local outbreaks and acts of brigandage. (See *Gazette* of 8th inst.)

(7) The Governor-General of Fuhkien, &c., memorializes reporting that Kwang Min 廣敏, lately appointed from Peking to fill the post of Taotai of the Yen-Kien-Shao Intendancy, having arrived in the province, has been directed to take up his post.

Nov. 26th.—(1) A decree referring to memorials heretofore received from the Censors Liang King-sien and others, who are shewn to have made representations relating to the distress arising from drought in Shensi, and to have impeached certain district officials on the charge of indifference to the interests of the people, stating, also, that the Lieutenant-Governor and Financial Commissioner, Tsiang Ning-hioh, is in a state of infirm health. The Court of Censors has also memorialized giving cover to a statement presented by a body of the notables of Shensi, alleging that the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor have suppressed intelligence of the actual condition of affairs in that province in connection with the famine. The Governor, T'an Chung-lin, has now memorialized stating that for the purpose of investigating the degree to which the province has been afflicted by drought, he sent agents some time ago to the various districts, upon whose reports he has based his memorials soliciting remissions or postponements of taxation, and has also proceeded to make purchases of grain. He has issued proclamations setting forth ten suggestions for famine relief, and he declares that on no account would he be guilty of viewing with indifference the sufferings of the people. Furthermore, that when

outbreaks had been fomented at Han-ch'eng and elsewhere, he had despatched troops to arrest the offenders, but that there had been no such thing as wanton massacre of the unoffending, neither had he surrounded himself with troops for his own protection.—The statements set forth in the memorial are approved as not otherwise than satisfactory; and the Governor is commanded to institute all measures that may be requisite for the relief of distress. The Board of Revenue is called upon to allot the sum of Tael's 50,000 to be forwarded to Shensi for disbursement under vigilant superintendence on the Governor's part. It is further noted that in his postscript memorial, the Governor declares the charges brought against the Financial Commissioner to be without foundation. As the official in question is shewn to have recovered from his illness, and as it appears that the accusation of his having allowed one of his followers named Yü to monopolize his confidence, and having levied forced contributions, etc., is untrue, no farther proceedings in this matter need be taken.

(2) A Decree. Let Li Ying 李楹 succeed to the post of Prefect of Yü-lin Fu in Shensi.

(3) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor, Chang Kwan-chun, who has represented that the officials lately deputed by Li Hung-chang to make purchases of grain, on orders being given, at his request, commissioning the Taotai Chu K'i-ngang to import rice from the southern provinces for issue at reduced rates at Peking, have been making purchases in the immediate neighbourhood of the capital, and have even bought up Government rice in Peking itself, thus causing a rise in the market prices. If this allegation be true, what has been done is the reverse of beneficial to the interests of the people. Li Hung-chang is commanded to make searching enquiry, and to forbid his agents to purchase grain in any of the districts near Peking. He is also to station officials at Tientsin, to examine the rice delivered, and make sure that it actually comes from the South. Further examination of the passes granted for the conveyance of supplies is to be made at T'ung Chow; and the police authorities of the capital are to take measures to prevent a traffic in rice from the granaries of the capital.

(4) Yung Ts'üan, late Military Governor of Ili, reports having handed over the seal of office on the 21st September to his successor, Kin Shun.

Nov. 27th.—(1) A decree, filling thirty-eight pages of the *Gazette*, setting forth the various townships (村 *ts'un*), in number from some scores to several hundreds respectively, in various districts of Shantung, in which, on application submitted by the provincial Governor, postponements of taxation are granted in consequence of the suffering experienced through flood, drought, locusts, alkalization of the land, or the silting over of the surface of the soil. Proclamations are to be issued in each district to make the remission publicly known.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial presented by Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, who has reported a donation of Tls. 17,000 to the relief funds, made by a notable of the P'ing-yao district, a brevet Taotai by rank, named Li Chên-she 李箴視, in fulfilment of the wishes of his deceased mother. Already, during the reign of Hien Fêng, the donors' parents, now deceased, had contributed to the necessities of the State, and had been rewarded with titles of the second degree of rank. The proper Board is now commanded to consider and report upon the form of reward that should be bestowed in the present instance.

(3) A decree commanding, at the instance of Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, that all *likin* taxes and Customs' dues be remitted upon the grain in course of transportation through Honan and Nganhwei to the province of Shansi.

(4) The Governor-General of the two Kiang and the Governor of Kiangsu memorialize asking permission to disburse from the provincial exchequer the sums required to meet the expenses of capturing the flights of locusts which have overspread the province, on both sides of the Yangtze. The drought of the season is likely to have encouraged the development of fresh broods, and although the most active efforts have been instituted to effect their extirpation, it has not been possible to achieve this altogether. In the one district of Mu-yang, a sum of Tls. 2,400 is reported as having been advanced by the Magistrate for the work in hand, and the sum total required will be so immense that it will be impossible to provide it save by an appropriation, such as can be made only with Imperial sanction, from the regular provincial revenue. It is proposed that the following scale of purchase-money be offered to encourage the destruction of the broods, viz: for the grub, before emerging from the earth, 80 *cash* per catty; for the larva in its

first stage of development, 10 to 20 *cash* per catty; for the insect fully developed, 5 to 10 *cash* per catty.—Rescript: Be it as is proposed. Let the Board concerned take note.

Nov. 28th. (1) A decree confirming the arrangements proposed for the relief of distress occasioned in the neighbourhood of San-sing, in the province of Kirin, by a destructive hurricane. A deputy military Lieutenant-Governor, named Ulêhingah is removed from his office on the charge, preferred by the Military Governor of the province, of having been dilatory and inefficient in affording relief to the sufferers.

(2) A decree sanctioning the opening of additional offices for the distribution of food to the destitute poor in and around Peking, as recommended by the Governor of Shun-t'ien Fu. The Board of Revenue is directed to issue 1,500 piculs of millet and Tls. 3,000 in money for the requirements of these stations.

(3) Yü Luh, Governor of Ngan-hwei, memorializes reporting that when, in 1872, certain disturbances had broken out on the borders of that province and of Honan, after the apprehension of the leader of the rising, Li Liu by name, which took place in Honan, the Government forces in Ngan-hwei farther effected the capture of this malefactor's son, Li Maots'ze, at that time six years of age. The child was handed over by the Governor then in office to the District Magistrate of Hwai-ning to be kept imprisoned until he should reach the proper age to be dealt with according to law; and the Magistrate of the said District has now reported that the prisoner has reached the age of 11, and acknowledges that he is the son of the insurgent leader Li Liu, but that owing to his tender years at the time he knew nothing of his father's treasonable designs. The law runs as follows:—"The children and grandchildren of rebels, if not themselves privy to the treasonable designs of their parents, shall be delivered into the hands of the Imperial Household to be castrated, and shall be forwarded to Turkestan and given over as slaves to the soldiery. If beneath the age of ten, they shall be confined in prison until they shall have reached the age of eleven, whereupon the sentence of the law shall be carried into effect." As the prisoner in question has now reached the prescribed age, execution of the sentence of the law must be proceeded with; and submission to this effect having been made by the Provincial Judge, on application made by the Prefect of

Hwai-k'ing Fu, the Governor has approved the same, and has communicated with the Board in due form. He requests that instructions be issued accordingly.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.

Nov. 29th.—Yen King-ming, an ex-Vice-President of the Board of Works, (and formerly Governor of Shantung) memorializes acknowledging the receipt, on the 18th October, at the village in the Ch'ao-yih district, under the prefecture of T'ung-chow Fu, in the province of Shensi, in which he has taken up his abode since his retirement from office, of the decree dated October 12th, by which he is appointed to act as Commissioner to visit the famine-stricken districts in Shansi and to supervise the distribution of relief. By the same decree, the Governor of Shansi is commanded to provide a sum of money for his travelling expenses. The memorialist represents that he has been relieved from the discharge of public duties for upwards of ten years in consequence of his ill-health, adding that he is now past sixty, and enfeebled in both mind and body by constantly recurring attacks of sickness; but that he feels bound to exert what strength he has left in the discharge of the trust now confided to him. He will be able, possibly, to travel 30 or 40 *li* per diem, and will go provided with medical care. As he will need no large retinue, having no position to maintain like that of an official in actual employ, and will be exempt from the other expenses entailed upon functionaries thus situated, he respectfully declines the receipt of the amount, 1000 Taels, which the Governor of Shansi has forwarded to him for his expenses, and begs that it may be appropriated toward the famine relief fund.—Rescript desiring the memorialist to consult in all matters with the Governor, Ts'eng Kwoh-ts'üan, and insisting on his acceptance of the sum for his expenses.

Nov. 30th.—A decree sanctioning the arrangements submitted by Ts'eng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, and the special High Commissioner, Yen King-ming, with reference to the distribution of relief in eighty-two sub-prefectures, departments, and districts enumerated as afflicted with scarcity in the province above-named. One month's rations are ordered to be bestowed upon all the sufferers from want, without distinction, whilst, as regards more permanent measures, a difference is to be marked between the degrees of absolute, severe, and partial privation. In the first category, subsistence for four months is to be provided, in the second for three, and in the last for two months.

No other documents of importance.

Dec. 1st.—(1) A decree referring to information heretofore received from a certain (unspecified) quarter to the effect that a party of soldiery had committed a flagrant act of robbery with violence in the Ch'ang-hing district in Chehkiang, in the course of which the owner of the property attacked was murdered, and that the judicial authorities had been bribed to screen the guilty parties. Commands were hereupon issued to the provincial Governor, Mei K'i-chao, to institute a stringent investigation into the case. The Court of Censors now report that a native of the Ch'ang-hing district, Hu Shun-kow 胡順狗 by name, has sent a representative to lodge a complaint at Peking, declaring that his father had been killed by the soldiery whilst committing acts of pillage, and that the officials deputed to enquire into the affair had wilfully sought to screen the offenders. The Governor is commanded, hereupon, to obey in trembling the decree previously issued, and to cause the Judicial Commissioner of the province, acting under his orders, to have the parties to this case brought before himself personally, with all the papers relating thereunto, and to institute a rigorous enquiry in conformity with the principles of justice, to the end that the actual facts may be elicited, whereupon sentence is to be pronounced according to law, and the same submitted to the Throne. The complainant's representative, Hu Chung, is to be sent forward in custody by the Board of Punishments, in conformity with regulation, to give his evidence in confrontation with the other parties summoned for trial.

(2) A decree acknowledging a memorial from Wên Pin, Director-General of the Grain Transport, who has reported the safety of the Grand Canal embankments up to the *Shwang-kiang* period (Oct. 23rd.) A donation of ten sticks of Tibetan incense is allotted hereupon, to be forwarded to Wên Pin and offered by way of thanksgiving at the temple of the River God.

(2) Li Hoh-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, acknowledging the receipt of the decree dated October 21st, in which he is commanded to supervise the distribution of relief in the province of Honan, makes report as follows:—The relief agencies established at the provincial capital last winter by means of funds locally subscribed under encouragement on the part of the provincial Governor and the memorialist, were kept open until the middle of June, when they were closed in the hope that the summer rains would arrive at their usual period and avert

farther distress. This expectation, however, has not been realized. The three prefectures North of the Yellow River, together with the prefectures of K'ai-fêng and Ho-nan, and the departments of Shen-chow and Ju-chow, have remained until now without rain. It has been determined to establish four relief agencies at the provincial capital, viz., one in each of the suburbs, which were opened successively on the 22nd and 27th October, when upwards of 49,000 destitute persons flocked around them to receive a pittance of food, their numbers increasing, moreover, daily. The haggard and woe-begone aspect of these unfortunates the memorialist describes as pitiable in the extreme. With the exception of Kwei-têh Fu, Ch'ên-chow, Hû-chow, Nan-yang Fu, Ju-ning Fu, and Kwang-chow, the entire province has suffered from drought, and measures have been taken to issue relief through the various local authorities. For the wants of the provincial capital, a sum of Tls. 18,000 has been placed in the hands of the district Magistrate on the spot to buy grain for the use of the relief agencies; and Tls. 15,000 have been allotted to the district Magistracy of Tsi-yüan. To other districts and departments sums of from Tls. 1,000 to Tls. 2,000 have been allotted. In order to provide, moreover, for the famine refugees who may have wandered from the neighbourhood of their homes, it has been determined to establish two large agencies at the district city of Yen-tsin in Wei-hwei Fu and at Miao Kung in Hwai-k'ing Fu respectively.

Dec. 2nd.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, and the special High Commissioner, Yen King-ming, who have requested that four officials may be detailed to assist them in the work of famine relief. A "compiler" of the Han-lin College, named Li Yung-ts'ing, a Secretary of the Board of War, an ex-Taotai, and an ex-Prefect, whose services are thus applied for, are ordered to proceed to place themselves under the memorialists' orders.

(2) A Decree. Let Ying Lien (at present Assistant Military Resident at Tarbagatai), come to Peking for duty. Let Sih Lun 錫倫 succeed him in the office he vacates. Kung T'ang 恭鏜 is invested with rank as an officer of the Imperial Guards of the second rank, and is appointed hereby to the post of Commandant of the Forces at Urumts'i. Let the above-mentioned officials proceed by post-relay to their stations.

(3) A Decree. Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang provinces, memorializes Us impeaching divers officials who have become infected with the vicious habit [of opium-smoking.] The prohibition against the smoking of opium which the law sets forth is stringent in the extreme; and it is the bounden duty of all officials holding authority over the people to be blameless in character and to cherish sentiments of honourable self-respect, in order that the example set before the eyes of the population may be devoid of impropriety in itself. According to the memorial now laid before Us, it is a matter of public notoriety that the Taotai Liu Hien and the other officials named have been infected with the vice. Their conduct is worthy, indeed, of all reprobation. In the case of Liu Hien, Intendant of the Hwai-ngan and Yang-chow division in Kiangsu—Tu Wên-lan, an expectant Taotai—Li Têh-p'u, Magistrate of the Suh-ts'ien district—and the expectant Magistrates Tsêng Shao-hün and Li Chêng, We ordain that all the above-named individuals be forthwith stripped of their rank, by way of exemplary punishment. For the rest, be it as is proposed. (N.B.—The above list of officials singled out for disgrace on account of opium-smoking is larger and more marked than usual. The provision of the law referred to makes the practice of smoking opium on the part of officials or soldiers an offence punishable with death.)

Dec. 3rd.—(1) The Governor of Honan, Li K'ing-ngao, memorializes reporting upon the measures instituted in that province for the relief of the prevailing distress, to the same effect, in general, as the report from the Director-General of the Yellow River, whose report was published in the *Gazette* of the 1st inst. The Governor states, in addition, that in the 28 departments and districts which he has already reported to the Throne as affected in varying degrees by scarcity, the number of persons requiring relief is upwards of 2,000,000; and in order to issue the amount of subsistence, calculated at the rate of 5 *hoh* of rice to each adult and half this quantity to minors, the quantity of rice required is 300 000 piculs per mensem, at the ordinary rate of issue as an auxiliary to other means of livelihood (*fu sü* 撫恤.) A still more considerable quantity would be required if the issue be made on a larger scale (*Kia-chên* 加賑) With the sums allotted to the province, viz., the Tls. 147,900 which were sanctioned in the first place from the quota due to Peking, the

Tls. 200,000 contributed from the Maritime Defence chest at Tientsin, and the 40,000 piculs of grain ordered from Kiangsi and Nganhwei, a provision of some 140,000 or 150,000 piculs of rice has in all been got together, which, however, does not come up to one-half of the requirements stated above. In order to eke out the means at hand as far as possible, it has been determined to substitute in all cases the issue of rice-gruel for rice itself, two large bowls-full to be given per diem to the actually necessitous.

(2) Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Two Hu provinces, memorializes reporting his assumption of the seal of office as officiating Governor, in obedience to the decree which he has read in the *Gazette* of October 6th, commanding him to act in that capacity pending the arrival of the newly-appointed Governor Shao Hêng-yü. He took charge of the seat, accordingly, on the 21st October.

Dec. 4th.—(1) A Decree. Tso Tsung-t'ang has memorialized Us reporting that the army advancing for the recovery of Kashgaria (*Sin Kiang Nan Lu*) has re-occupied successively the cities of Kharashar and Kuché. In the seventh moon (August last), Liu Kin-t'ang, Taotai of the Si-ming Intendancy in Kansuh, advanced at the head of all the forces under his command from Turfan, marching westwards. The leader of the Mahommedan (Dungan) insurgents, Bayen Hu, abandoning Kharashar, fell back across the K'ai-tu river, all the Turki ("turbaned") Mahommedans on the west bank of which were compelled by him to join in his retreat. On the 1st day of the ninth moon (Oct. 7th), Our army entered the city of Kharashar, and on the 9th October the town of Kurla was re-occupied. Upon this, Bayen Hu again retreated westward by way of Yang Sar, but being vigorously pursued by Liu Kin-t'ang, at the head of the advanced guard, for a distance of several hundred *li*, the insurgents were come up with at the Mahommedan village of Pukao'rh, where they offered battle. Our troops attacked them boldly, and in successive encounters inflicted a loss in killed upon the rebels of some 1,500 men. On the 18th October Kuché was taken, and numberless other fortified towns and villages of the Mahommedans were recovered. The number of Mahommedans who have been delivered from the authority imposed upon them by the insurgents amounts to some hundred thousand.

The offensive operations thus carried into effect have been conducted most success-

fully. Let Tso Tsung-t'ang continue to direct the farther advance of the various forces engaged, profiting by the victories already achieved to destroy or capture with as little delay as possible the rebel leader Bayen Hu, and to restore to a state of order the territories appertaining to Our rule.

We sanction the submission of a list of the officers and men who have distinguished themselves on this occasion, with recommendations of reward. Let the names of those who are reported as having been killed in action, viz., the General Wang K'ing-fuh, Brevet Brigade-General Tséng Wên-têh, first captain Yang Yüeh-ch'ang, brevet first-captains Yang Pao-lin and Li-K'ing-ts'ing, second-captain Liao Han-k'ing, lieutenants Sun Têh-shêng, K'ang-fuh, and Liang Têh-shêng, and sergeants T'êng C'hên-chung and Yen Têh-shêng, be handed over to the Board of War for the proposal of posthumous rewards on a distinguished scale, for the comfort of the spirits of the devoted dead.

(2) The Censor Lin Kung-shu memorializes soliciting that an additional number of relief-agencies may be established in the suburbs and environs of Peking, to provide for the greatly increased number of applicants—For rescript see *Gazette* of Nov. 28th.

(3) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the Two Kiang, memorializes reporting that the licensed salt monopolists of the Hwai-ngan division have responded to his appeal for subscriptions on account of the distress occasioned by floods at Foochow, providing in all a sum of Taels 20,000, which amount the memorialist, naturally anxious to provide for the necessities of his own native city, will forward with all despatch to Shanghai to be transmitted by the China Merchants' Company, by one of their steamers, to its destination.

Dec. 5th.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Tséng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, memorializes requesting sanction to the postponement of all remittances due from that province to the military chest of the army engaged in the campaign against Kashgaria.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report to Us.

(1) T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shensi, reports an outbreak of mutiny on the part of a body of irregulars, some 200 in number, who, on being ordered with other detachments to move to the westward of Si-ngan Fu, into the districts disturbed by movements of banditti, were persuaded by two of their commanding officers to rebel against the orders received, being falsely assured

by the latter that if they marched on to the destination assigned them they would probably be sent on to join the army of the west, and expose themselves to great hardships. It would be better, these instigators remarked, to loot the town of King-yang, which was close at hand, and make off to their homes in Sze-ch'wan with the plunder; and they threatened with death any who should refuse to follow them. Whilst the rearmost division, numbering 200 men, declined to join in the movement, the van division, headed by lieutenant Kiang Ming-chung and another subaltern named Wang Têng-kao, hereupon made an irruption into the district city, cutting down the sentinel at the gate, and having set fire to the place began to plunder the inhabitants. The District Magistrate assembled a body of braves to resist the assailants, who were at length driven from the place with a loss of five of their number, who were killed by tiles hurled at them from the housetops by the inhabitants, six of the townsfolk and soldiers being killed on the other side. So soon as intelligence of the affair reached the Governor's ears, a body of troops was despatched in pursuit of them, and they were surrounded in a mountain defile, where the leader Kiang Ming-chung, and another named Sü Jui-yün, were taken prisoner, and some 10 or 15 of the mutineers were slain. The loss on the side of the Government troops was one killed and several wounded. The two captured ringleaders have been put to death, and their heads have been sent round the military cantonments and the scene of their misdeeds by way of exemplary warning. Active measures have been taken for the apprehension of the two minor leaders who have thus far escaped capture.—For rescript see *Gazette* of 22nd November.

Dec. 6th.—(1) A decree referring to a memorial presented some time ago by the Censor Li Kia-yoh, who accused the Lieutenant-Governor and Financial Commissioner of Honan, Liu Ts'i-hien, of levying merciless exactions from the famine-stricken districts, greatly to the detriment of the region under his control, and a Taotai named Yin Kêng-yün of interfering unwarrantably with public business and of committing malpractices under fictitious pretexts, as also the Taotai named Liu Ch'êng-chung of being in infirm health, and allowing his duties to fall into a lax condition of management. On receipt of this memorial a decree was issued appointing Ts'ung K'i and Shao Hêng-yü to proceed to the spot to institute an enquiry (see *Gazette* of 6th October.) At a later period, the Censor Yü Shang-hwa

memorialized representing the Governor of Honan, Li K'ing-ngao, as negligent, incapable, and regardless of the principles which should be his guide. This also was communicated to the commissioners above-named, with instructions to investigate the truth of the allegations made. They have now memorialized reporting as follows:— With reference to the statement, contained in the list of accusations, to the effect that the Prefect of Wei-hwei Fu, Li Têh-yü by name, had been removed from his post for reporting his prefecture as famine-stricken, it is found that although this officer's attendance was called for by the Judicial Commissioner for the purpose of attending to the trial of certain cases, yet his removal from his post was, in fact, due to an application made by the Financial Commissioner owing to his having reported the Prefecture as famine-stricken. An enquiry into the proportion of revenue collected in the distressed districts shews that from 50 to 90 per cent. of the total amounts due had been got in during the first half of the year, and this goes to prove that the complaint of stringency in enforcing the collection was not without some foundation; but there is truth in the statement that the local authorities had been deterred from venturing to report their districts as suffering from the prevailing scarcity. As regards the statement that the distressed population of the Ho-nan and Ju-ning Prefectures had shewn symptoms of threatening revolt, the facts are that the "Sword Banditti" of those prefectures had congregated in numbers and made seizures of grain, beside which other bands had impressed the sufferers from famine to join them in attacking and plundering some of the villages; but these marauders have already been proceeded against and dispersed. No such cases had occurred as that of whole families driven to commit suicide together (as alleged), owing to the severity with which the Ngan-yang Magistrate had pressed for the payment of the land-tax; neither is it true that on the District Magistrate of Tsi-yün forwarding repeated statements of the degree to which his district was affected, the Taotai and Prefect his superiors had refused to forward his reports, lest they should incur the Financial Commissioner's displeasure. It is untrue, likewise, that the Financial Commissioner is on bad terms with the Governor, or that he both dictates to his superior and acts oppressively toward his subordinates. No proof has been elicited of the acts of misconduct alleged against the Taotai Yin Kêng-yün. The banditti at Kioh-tsze Shan have long

since been put down. With reference to the Taotai Liu Ch'êng-shu, it is incorrect to state that he is in an infirm state of health; and his duties are not neglected. With reference to the Governor, Li K'ing-ngao, it is found that although he is not in robust health, yet, so far as his powers of walking, standing, and kneeling are concerned, his strength remains as usual. He has not suppressed the edicts announcing the Imperial bounty in the shape of remissions of taxation and bestowal of relief. The charges brought against his son, Li Fuh-yih, formerly Magistrate of the Ning-ling district, who was accused of abusing the influence due to his father's position, are declared to be unfounded. On receipt of this report, a homily is addressed to the Governor upon the duties which are incumbent upon him as an official entrusted with the Government of a province, and he is declared to have been guilty of negligence in failing to inform himself more speedily and to make due provision with reference to the drought and scarcity with which it has been visited. The severity with which the collection of the taxes has been insisted upon is condemned; and the Board of Civil Office is commanded to determine what penalty should be inflicted in the case of the Governor and the Financial Commissioner respectively. As the Taotai Yin K'eng-yün is exculpated from the charges of abuse of authority, and of accepting bribes, which had been brought against him, and as moreover his decease has been reported, his case need not farther be brought in question. The Taotai Liu Ch'êng-shu having vacated his post in consequence of being placed in mourning on the death of a parent, and it being reported by the Commissioners that he is not altogether equal to the physical exertion entailed by walking, standing, and kneeling, it is commanded that, on the expiry of his period of mourning, the Governor of Kiangsu is to report upon his state of health. In conclusion, earnest injunctions are again laid upon the Governor, desiring him to do all that the condition of the people of the province requires.

(2) The Literary Chancellor of the province of Kwangtung memorializes exposing the abuses which he has found prevailing in the examination system in that province, where the practice of employing substitutes to pass in the stead of the actual candidate for degrees is extremely frequent, as also the abuse of smuggling essays into the competitors' cells. He had caused the arrest of 20 persons acting as substitutes at the

recent primary examinations, whom he had handed over to the proctor to be punished according to law. He urges that a new scale of penalties be introduced, for the better regulation of the conduct of the candidates' sureties. — For rescript see *Gazette* of Nov. 25th.

Dec. 7th.—(1) A Decree. Ts'ing Ngan, Brigade-General of the T'ai-Ning division in Chihli, memorializes reporting that his complaint continues unabated, and solicits leave to resign his post. He is permitted to vacate his office and return to Peking. (N.B. The same *Gazette* contains a memorial of earlier date from this officer, reporting his having sustained an injury through a fall from his horse whilst making a tour of inspection of his military district in the neighbourhood of the Imperial Mausolea, and asking for a congé of ten days, which was granted by rescript.

(2) A Decree. At a period so calamitous as the present, dependence can only be placed upon the earnest discharge of their duty on the part of the officers of Government, in every degree of rank, and their devotion, early and late, to the public service, in order to ensure a continual progress toward amelioration in the affairs administered by the State. The chiefs of the central department of Government, who have enjoyed in a marked degree their Sovereign's favour, are bound to take the lead in enforcing upon the subordinates immediately beneath them a conscientious discharge of their official functions. It is inconceivable that they should themselves indulge in slothful indolence, and make light of their public duties. It has been brought to our knowledge of late, however, that the heads of the various Boards and other departments of State shew themselves lovers of ease and shrink from active exertion, failing to bring a proper degree of assiduity to bear in the performance of their duty. When, perchance, they pay a visit to their offices, it is at an hour unseasonably late, and it takes place as a mere empty form. The [responsible chiefs] having thus no time to devote to the scrutiny of affairs, it follows that the heads of the various bureaux remain without adequate control for either good or ill, and a general habit of carelessness (*laissez aller*) has grown up in consequence. Business which should be attended to accumulates in arrears, and all the abuses which attend upon a state of decay in the vigor of administration are found to flourish. It is impossible, under such circumstances, that daily improvement should be seen in the conduct of

Government. For the future, the heads of the various departments of State must hold themselves bound to aim unitedly at a course of conduct distinguished by uprightness and loyalty, and to use active efforts to infuse energy into the conduct of affairs. Let them visit their offices regularly, and not fail to reach them betimes, to the end that they may set a good example to their subordinates, and not again be guilty of the malpractices, so long continued, of negligence, dread of responsibility, and adherence to routine; to the end that the Sovereign's earnest desire for the good conduct of the task of administration, anxiety for which is ever present, by day and night, in his mind, may be duly furthered. Let this be promulgated for the information of all.

Dec. 8th.—(1) A decree acknowledging a memorial from the Military Governor of Kirin, reporting a series of successful operations against the mounted brigands in the Eastern mountains of that province. Some 400 or 450 have at various times in the course of the summer been captured and beheaded, for which prompt and efficient action a series of rewards are granted on the memorialist's recommendation, with injunctions that active measures be further taken to secure the extermination of such of the bands as still remain at large.

(2) A Decree. Let Shao-k'i 紹祺 succeed to the post of Brigade General of the T'ai-ning division and ex-officio Comptroller of the Imperial Household (vacated by Ts'ing-ngan—see yesterday's *Gazette*.)

The remainder of to-day's *Gazette* is occupied with the first portion of the report from the Governor-General of Sze-chwan of the result of his enquiry into the Tung-hiang outrages, which is fully summarized in the decree published on the 23rd November.

Dec. 9th.—(1) A decree referring to a memorial heretofore received from Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien, reporting with reference to certain charges mutually brought against each other by a Manchu Lieutenant-colonel named Yung Yü, commanding in the department of Kin Chow, and Ku-ni-yin-pu, Brigade-General of that department, (and late acting Military Governor of Kirin). The statements of the two officials having now been laid before the Throne, that of Ku-ni-yin-pu accusing his opponent of serious acts of misconduct, Ch'ung How is commanded to institute an enquiry into the merits of the case and to make farther report.

(2) A Decree making the following appointments consequent upon the removal of Shao K'i (gazetted yesterday) from the post of a Vice-President of the Board of Punishments:—

a. Lin Shu 麟書 to become a Senior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments; and to be succeeded by,

b. Ch'ang Sü 長叙 as a junior Vice-President of the Board.

c. Chih Ho 志和 to succeed the foregoing as a junior Vice-President of the Board of Ceremonies.

The remainder of to-day's *Gazette* is occupied with a continuation of the memorial relating to the enquiry into the Tung-hiang outrages in Sze-ch'wan.

Dec. 10th.—A decree cashiering or placing in compulsory retirement a list of district and department Magistrates in Chihli; denounced by Li Hung-chang as guilty of corruption and malversation, or as incompetent to discharge the duties of their office.

The remainder of the *Gazette* is occupied with the concluding portion of the Sze-ch'wan memorial.

Dec. 11th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor Fêng K'ing-lin, who has represented the necessity of commands being issued enjoining increased attention to the diligent discharge of the duties of administration. The high authorities throughout the Empire are directed hereupon to call upon all their subordinates to be active in applying remedies to all hardships and grievances affecting the well-being of the people at large. The statement being advanced by the same Censor in a postscript memorial, to the effect that in the province of Kirin cases of homicide are allowed to pass unnoticed, squeezes are levied from the miners, and duties are illegally imposed by official underlings, the attention of the Military Governor is called to these charges, and he is directed to give orders to all his subordinates to rectify the alleged abuses.

(2) T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shensi, memorializes in reply to an Imperial decree bringing to his knowledge the tenour of accusations which had been laid before the Throne by a certain individual, to the effect that the local authorities in the province of Shensi were careless of the vital interests of the population in connection with the prevailing famine, and also of a memorial presented by the Court of Censors, embodying a statement lodged with them

by certain notables, imploring measures of salvation for the afflicted districts in Shensi. The Governor, on being commanded to offer his observations hereupon, has been overwhelmed with consternation at the sound of the Imperial commands, and he must acknowledge himself unpardonably guilty in that his imperfect discharge of duty should have entailed the present calamity of drought upon the province, whilst, in addition, his failure to adopt the measures which are requisite has evoked the present manifestation of discontent. Hencevertheless trusts to the discriminating consideration of the Sacred One for immunity from severe chastisement. In pursuance of the earnest exhortations addressed to him by his Sovereign, he can promise that where he is in fault he will amend, and where the charges alleged are groundless he will exert himself even more strenuously than before. He proceeds to exculpate himself from the accusations brought against him of wilfully ignoring the extent of the calamity that has befallen the province, of neglecting to make proper provision for relief, and of surrounding himself with an armed force for his personal security.—For rescript, accepting the explanations tendered, see *Gazette* of November 26th.

(2) In a postscript to the foregoing report, the Governor of Shensi rebuts the accusation brought by an anonymous memorialist against the Lieutenant-Governor and Financial Commissioner of the province, Tsiang Ning-hoh, who had been represented as old and infirm, and invisible for six months at a time to his subordinates. It was farther represented that in respect of his public functions he is entirely guided by an employé named Yü, who turns to profitable account the designs of intriguers for advancement. The Governor denies the truth of each of these allegations.—For rescript, see *Gazette* of Nov. 26th.

Dec. 12th.—(1) A Decree. In view of the wide extent of country in the province of Honan which is affected by the prevailing calamity of drought, We command that the Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, Yüan Pao-héng, do proceed to that province to assist in the administration of relief.

(2) Li Han-chang, Governor-General of the Two Hu provinces, memorializes representing the impracticability of supplying the quota of the provincial revenue in kind, according to the instructions of the Board of Revenue, and soliciting sanction to a continuance of the practice of levying the grain-tax by a commutation in money. He proposes remitting the requisite funds to Shanghai, as on the last yearly occasion,

for the purchase through the China Merchants' Company of 30,000 piculs of rice, to be forwarded by sea to Tientsin.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

Dec. 13th.—The Governor-General of Yünnan, etc., Liu Ch'ang-yao, memorializes reporting that as Tu Jui-lien, the Lieutenant-Governor of Yünnan, has been commanded to take temporary charge of the office of Governor of the province (see *Gazette* of Oct. 6th), and it is necessary in consequence that his own duties be placed in the keeping of a *locum tenens*, the Judicial Commissioner of the province, Ts'ang King-yü, has been selected as qualified by his experience and character to take this position, and the Intendant of the Salt Revenue, Shên Show-yung, is appointed to act in the last-named official's stead. The Intendant of the Southern section of the province, Shih Tsün-sin, is named as acting Intendant of the Salt Revenue.

Dec. 14th.—(Abstracts of memorials)—To a memorial received from Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuhkien, asking permission to resign his office, the following rescript has been received:—The Governor in question has been wont to discharge his duties with sufficient activity. We grant him a renewed congé of three months for the restoration in tranquillity of his health. He need not vacate his office. The affairs connected with the government of Fuhkien are of importance. Let him, therefore, return without delay to his post, so soon as his recovery is accomplished, to the end that the functions incumbent upon him may be duly discharged.

(1) A decree based upon the report presented by the Board of Civil Office, submitting the penalties incurred by the high authorities of the province of Honan. The Lieutenant-Governor, Liu Ts'i-hien, is pronounced guilty of improper conduct in having made application to his superior for the removal from office of district officials who had reported their jurisdictions as stricken with famine, which reports he characterized as false, whilst he continued to levy the ordinary taxation in regions where exemption or remission should have been granted. As recommended by the Board, he is dismissed from his office. The Governor, Li King-ngao, is equally open to censure, on the ground of his having acceded to the application made to him for the removal of district officials from their posts, and his having failed to take proper measures betimes on the province being afflicted with a visitation of drought and scarcity. In

conformity with the recommendation of the Board, he is degraded by three steps of rank and to be removed to other employ, without privilege of setting off previous commendations against this penalty.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from the Censor T'ang Shu-nan, who has reported that of late, in various divisions of Peking, the existence of certain rascally fomenters of litigation, who make it their profession to undertake the presentation of charges before the tribunals, has made itself felt. He asks that orders be given for their apprehension and punishment. The Yamèn of Gendarmerie and the civil authorities are commanded to take proceedings accordingly.

(3) A decree appointing She Tsêng (one of the Comptrollers of the Household and formerly "Hoppo" at Canton) to the office of Brigade-General of the Bordered Red Mongolian Banner.

(4) The Censor Chang Kwan-chun memorializes referring to the measures instituted by Imperial command for reducing the current prices of foodstuffs at Peking, by ordering importations of grain to be provided on the part of the Governor-General Li Hung-chang, through the agency of the China Merchants' Steamship Company—notwithstanding which, however, the memorialist had found that, instead of declining, the prices of foodstuffs at Peking had on the contrary gone up very shortly after this decision was arrived at. The memorialist was at first unable to account for this fact; but he has learnt that the officials deputed by the Governor-General of Chihli to provide importations of grain have actually been buying up stocks in the immediate environs of the capital, and have even gone so far as to purchase rice coming from the Imperial granaries in Peking itself. The quantities finding their way into the dealers' hands are consequently diminished instead of being increased, by proceedings which are substantially the same as those of dishonest regraters of bread. The Censor urges that commands be given to Li Hung-chang requiring him to prohibit the purchasing the grain in and around Peking by his official agents, and also to see that passes be issued at Tientsin on behalf of no other grain than that which is actually imported by sea.—For rescript see *Gazette* of Nov. 26th.

(5) T'an Chung-lin, Governor of Shensi, memorializes reporting the various steps he has taken for the provision of supplies to meet the prevailing scarcity in that province. He acknowledges the receipt of a Council despatch forwarding copy of a decree issued

on the 22nd October, in which a memorial submitted by the Governor-General Tso Tsung-t'ang with reference to the relief of distress in Shensi and Kansuh was forwarded for his information. The subject in question has already been carefully discussed in correspondence between the memorialist and the Governor-General, with his colleague Liu Tien, and in addition to the amounts set aside from the provincial treasury, the sum of Tael 300,000 heretofore borrowed by Tso Tsung-t'ang has been refunded, to meet the expenditure required for the purchase of grain. The scarcity prevailing generally throughout the province is such that it has been necessary to look beyond its limits for supplies, and purchases have been made both at Pao-t'ow Chên, on the north, and from Hupeh and Hunan in the south. The difficulty and cost of transport have, however, been aggravated by the drought, which has reduced the waters of the river Siang to a very low state, the river Han falling to such an extent as to be fordable by passengers on foot, and the river Tan having become wholly unnavigable. Officials have consequently been sent to Fan Ch'ên to make an experiment in the way of land-transport by cart to T'ung-kwan. If this succeeds, it will be proceeded with on a large scale. Contributions are being raised among the notables of the province, to provide further means for the purchase of supplies, and relief-agencies have been set on foot at the provincial capital for the distribution of food. An accurate enumeration of the individuals requiring relief is recognized as a point of primary importance, in order to the prevention of fraud. Some 30,000 individuals are already being supported by the seven relief-agencies in working order at the provincial capital. Rain has fallen in sufficient quantities in certain parts of the province during October to enable the winter wheat to be sown, and there are hopes of a sufficient farther rainfall to afford a prospect of a spring harvest.—Rescript, commanding the Governor to omit no measure that is requisite for the relief of the prevailing distress.

Dec. 15th —(1) A decree based upon a report presented by the Board of War, on the penalties adjudged against the High Commissioners who are responsible for recommending as "highly distinguished," at the recent military inspection, two officers who have lately been convicted of frauds in connection with the issue of pay to the Yuan-ming-yuan Banner soldiery. With reference to the High Commissioners

in question, namely, the Imperial "Duke" King Show (son-in-law of the Emperor Tao Kwang), and the Banner commandants, etc., Kw'ên-ch'ukh-lin-ch'in, Ngan-hing-ah, and T'o-yün, who were judged by the Board of War to have incurred the penalty of degradation by two steps of rank and removal to other employ, it is ordained, as an act of special grace, that the sentence be substituted of degradation by four steps of rank with retention in office. At the expiry of eight years, if no shortcoming be recorded in the meanwhile against them, they may be restored to their late rank.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Yamên of Gendarmerie, which has reported the apprehension of three criminals, charged with acts of robbery, who come from places at a distance from Peking. It is commanded that the prisoners be handed over to the Board of Punishments to be proceeded against with all stringency.

(3) A Decree. Let T'u Tsung-ying 涂宗瀛 be transferred (from Kwangsi) to fill the post of Governor of the province of Honan. Until he arrives at his new post, let Li Hoh-nien, Director-General of the Yellow River, assume charge of the office conjointly with his own. Let Yang Chung-ya 楊重雅 (now Lieutenant-Governor) succeed to the post of Governor of Kwangsi.

(4) A Decree. Let Yü Kw'an 裕寬 (now Judicial Commissioner of Shensi) succeed to the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Honan. Let K'ing Yü 慶裕 succeed him as Judicial Commissioner of Shensi. (N.B.—K'ing Yü was *Fu Yin* or Civil Governor of Shêng-king until the decease of the Military Governor Ts'ung Shih in December last, when he was recalled to Peking.)

Dec. 16th.—(1) A Decree. Let Leh Fang-k'i succeed to the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Kwangsi. Let Kung Yih-t'u (at present Taotai at Chefoo) succeed him as Judicial Commissioner of Kiangsu.

(2) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, memorializes denouncing for punishment the jail-warden of the Fêng-yang district, on the occasion of an act of suicide by hanging committed by one of the prisoners, under sentence of death, for whose safekeeping he is responsible. The Board is commanded to adjudicate a penalty in his case.

(3) The same functionary memorializes, referring to the prevalence of a state of famine throughout the Southern half of the

province, and representing that whilst the population at large are peaceably disposed and submissive to such a degree that they are ready to endure death by starvation without a murmur, the country is at the same time infested by gangs of armed banditti and professional salt smugglers, who make the famine a pretext for acts of robbery and brigandage. He submits the absolute necessity of exercising exceptional powers of summary execution in the case of prisoners of this class, and proposes that, for the future, on the evidence taken by the local authorities having been submitted to and revised by the Judicial Commissioner of the province, orders for the immediate infliction of capital punishment at the scene of capture or trial may forthwith be issued.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments take note.

(4) Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan farther memorializes dwelling upon the necessity for assistance in the work of forwarding the supplies of grain destined for the relief of the famine-stricken districts, and mentioning the name of the expectant Taotai Chu K'i-chao 朱其詔, who was for some time the Manager of the *China Merchants' Steamship Company* at Tientsin. Having been presented in audience this year at the capital, he received credentials from the Board of Civil Office, appointing him to the province of Hupeh as an expectant Taotai. When passing through Tientsin he was deputed by the Governor-General Li Hung-chang to undertake the management of the forwarding office at Pao-ting Fu; and subsequently, on an application on the part of the memorialist, he was transferred to the Hwai-luh office, where he has rendered great services in the forwarding of supplies in concert with the expectant Prefect Chang P'êng. As, however, he is bound by regulation to present himself in the province of Hupeh by a fixed date, the memorialist has forwarded to the Governor-General Li Hung-chang the letter of appointment issued to Chu K'i-chao by the Board of Civil Office, requesting that it be sent officially to the Governor-General of Hupeh, to be by him returned to the Board to be cancelled, the date of receipt of the letter in Hupeh being taken as equivalent to that of the arrival of the officer in question at his post. So soon as the famine-relief operations in Shansi are concluded, he will proceed to report himself in Hupeh.—Rescript: It is noted.

Dec. 17th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Court of Censors, forwarding a complaint lodged by one Kia

Yung-t'ai, a native of the metropolitan district, who has alleged that his son had been murdered, and that the actual perpetrator of the crime has been set at liberty. The complaint is to the effect that appellant's son had been murdered by his wife and others,—that the woman, on being arraigned for trial at the Board of Punishments, was encouraged by the slight degree of torture applied to refuse to confess the truth, and that, after the case had been suffered to lie in abeyance for upwards of a year, the Board had set all the parties free. In view of the gravity of the circumstances alleged, it is commanded, hereupon, that the accused persons and witnesses be brought before the Board and subjected to a stringent examination, to the end that the truth may without fail be elicited, and a sentence pronounced thereupon according to law.

(2) A decree based upon a memorial from the Court of Censors, forwarding a complaint lodged by Lin Tai-she, widow of an official of the province of Fuhkien, alleging that on her son, Lin Wên-ming, having been made the victim of a false accusation by one Lin Ying-she, the official deputy named Ling Ting-kwoh had endeavoured to extort money from him, and, failing in this attempt, had entrapped him into his hands and had unlawfully compassed his death. For eight years this wrong had remained unredressed, and notwithstanding all appeals for justice, the guilty party has not been brought to trial. In this case, a complaint was lodged at Peking in October, 1871, on behalf of the present appellant, and the provincial government was commanded by rescript to take action in the matter. In March, 1876, the complainant lodged a renewed appeal at Peking, upon which orders were issued to the provincial government to institute a stringent enquiry. In October last, a report was received from the Governor-General Ho King, stating that the case had not yet been wound up. After so many years have already elapsed, the proceedings cannot be allowed to drag on indefinitely. In order that it may be positively ascertained whether, in reality, Lin Wên-ming met his death by a wrongful act, the Governor-General and Governor of Fuhkien are commanded to cause the parties and documents relating to this case to be brought before them, and to institute a searching investigation for the establishment of the actual facts. (For a statement of the particulars of this case, in which Li Ch'ao-t'ang, at present Customs' Taotai at Tientsin, is involved, see *Gazette* of March 30th, 1876.)

(3) A Decree. Let Fang Ju-yih 方汝翼 succeed to the post of Intendant of the Têng-Lai-Ts'ing circuit—*i. e.*, Taotai at Chefoo. (N.B.—Fang Ju-yih is one of the senior clerks of the Yamèn of Foreign Affairs.)

(4 and 5) Memorials from Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan, Governor of Shansi, reporting the dispersion of the band of mounted brigands who had lately been infesting the country to the westward of Pao-t'ow Chên, and the capture of their ringleader. The number of these disturbers of the peace was about 600, including professional highwaymen, disbanded braves, etc., and the troops sent against them had completely routed them, with heavy loss. In an action fought in the middle of November, after several minor engagements, 37 of the brigands were killed on the spot, 11 were taken prisoners and put to death, and 113 horses and mules, with much spoil in the way of swords, spears, flags, and foreign guns, fell into the hands of the victors. The late leader of the band was subsequently overtaken and captured. He gave his name as Ts'ao Hung-chao, and on being questioned stated that he was 22 years of age, and that a month previously, whilst on his way with some horses for sale to a certain point, he fell in with some disbanded braves who stated that they had assembled a band of followers which they invited him to join. He did so, and was elected by the whole band as their chief.—The memorial concludes with recommendations of the officers who have distinguished themselves on this occasion. In a postscript, the measures taken to increase the number of troops in the neighbourhood in question are detailed.

Dec. 18th.—(1) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Assistant Reader of the Han-lin College, Chang P'ei-lun, who has pointed out that the language employed by the Governor of Shensi in the explanations submitted by him (see *Gazette* of 11th inst.) is of a reprehensible nature, and has solicited that a reprimand be administered to him. On receipt of complaints from notables of the province in question, alleging shortcomings on the part of T'an Chung-lin, the Governor aforesaid, in dealing with the condition of affairs produced by drought, We issued a decree calling upon him, in any particulars in which the charges might be true, to amend his action, and where they might be devoid of foundation, to use redoubled efforts in the discharge of his duty. The explanation subsequently laid before Us by T'an Chung-lin was not unsatisfactory ;

and, with the knowledge already possessed by the Sovereign of the activity displayed by the Governor aforesaid, a special honour was accorded in the issue of a public decree, calling upon him to conduct the measures adopted for the relief of distress in such wise as to shew himself worthy of the trust reposed in him, without calling him strictly to account for the expressions used in his memorial. On perusal, now, of Chang P'ei-lun's observations, that the Governor aforesaid has permitted himself to adopt a disputatious tone in his reply, with much that is reprehensible in the language he uses, for which reason it is solicited that he be reprimanded lest an opening be given to a haughty spirit of insubordination, commands are now laid upon the Governor aforesaid that he attend henceforward to his duties with an earnest mind, and devote himself with all thoroughness to the accomplishment of whatever relates to the functions of government and the proper control of his subordinates, without indulging in the slightest degree, to the inevitable detriment of his official trust, in sallies of temper.

(2 and 3) The Court of Censors memorialize forwarding the two following appeals, viz :—

a. From a native of Chehkiang, named Hu Shun-kow, complaining of deprivations committed with the sanction of their commanding officer by a body of irregular troops. (See *Gazette* of 1st inst.)

b. From a lady of official position of the province of Honan, complaining of the imprisonment of her husband with a view to extortion.

Referred in the usual manner.

Dec. 19th.—No documents of importance.

Dec. 20th.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from the Governor-General of Fuh-kien, etc., who has impeached Chang Kin-kien, Magistrate of the Lo-yüan district, near Foochow, and solicited his dismissal from the public service in perpetuity. The official in question is accused of having deposited sums of money in a local cash-shop, with the object of making a profit out of exchange, of endeavouring to extort a penalty from one of his tax-clerks who was in arrears with the revenue collection, and whose daughter he tried to force this individual to surrender to him as a concubine. It is farther alleged against him that on payment of the arrears owing being made to him by the defaulter's son, the documents tendered in payment proving to be notes issued by his own cash-shop, he summoned the whole of the persons employed in the shop for an enquiry, and

instead of releasing them, caused some twenty or twenty-five of the public, who had come to witness the trial, to be flogged. As a result of this proceeding, an émeute was excited, his yamèn was mobbed, and the shops of the place were closed by common accord. For conduct so disgraceful and so much opposed to the public liking, the official in question is dismissed the public service with sentence of perpetual exclusion.

(2) A decree in answer to a memorial from the Governor of Nganhwei, who has impeached a department and a district Magistrate for misappropriations of revenue collected by them. In one case the amount claimed as due is Tael 18,600 and odd, and in the other Tael 3,600 and odd. The defaulters are stripped of their rank, and proceedings are ordered to be taken against them.

(3) Yen King-ming, the special High Commissioner appointed to superintend the famine-relief operations in Shansi, memorializes submitting a statement of his peregrinations and of the measures he has adopted to inform the population of the Imperial bounty and to guard, through the agency of notifications plentifully displayed, against malpractices on the part of official underlings and tax-collectors. He is working in perfect accord with the provincial Governor, Tsêng Kwoh-ts'üan.

(4) Shên Pao-chêng, Governor-General of the two Kiang provinces, reverently submits to the Sacred Glance a memorial drawn up in obedience to the decree commanding that the question of prohibiting the use of opium be taken into consideration; in which, as a preliminary measure, he impeaches certain officials who have become contaminated with the vice, to the end that the conduct of those who should serve as an example to others may be duly regulated, and the growth of moral influences stimulated. He would premise by observing that the evil wrought by opium is a fact of which, at the outset, almost every one was conscious; and the recognition of an existing evil implies the cherishing of a hope for the time when the stain can be brushed away and the flaw removed. In other words, the enemy once clearly distinguished as such, he may be overthrown. Since, however, the practice has become widely prevalent, that which was at one time considered a deadly poison has now come to be looked upon as any ordinary article of food, such as tea or rice. Habit has sanctioned its use, and the right feeling which loathes and abhors it has well-nigh vanished from existence. Where

individuals of the lower orders fall victims to the practice, their conduct is bewailed by parents, wives, and children, who, in their powerlessness to resist the tendency of those belonging to them, look to the action of Government for repression or exhortation. If, nevertheless, the official body itself is found, without distinction of persons, to be carried away by the stream, then, whilst those in authority are restrained from expressing disapproval by a sense of their own shortcoming, it is not to be expected that the masses beneath them will be otherwise than bold and reckless in their conduct. Even though the exhortations that proceed from the loving regard of the Sacred One be ever so earnest, the practice will have established itself unassailably. Your servant would submit that in the same way as when a man's entire body is attacked by disease, the first objects to which the administration of remedies must be directed are the points of vital importance. It is by dealing with the inward organs that the extremities may be gradually restored. The official body being established as an example for the people generally, it follows that whilst some excuse may be made on behalf of individual members of the population, who look [upon prohibitions] as an empty form, on the ground that their transgression is unintentional and due to ignorance; in the case of officials, on the other hand, who attain their advancement through study of the laws, it is a manifest duty to be diligent in upholding their own integrity. If, on the contrary, those who make a career of the profession of arms and those, no less, who choose the study of literature as their means of advancement, are alike found among the number who fall victims to the practice, and who drift on without knowing whither they are being borne away, then, indeed, unless the action of the law be set in motion from above, and exemplary punishment befall the few as a warning to the many, it were idle to expect that admonitions, addressed though they might be, daily, to the assembled people of the Empire, would be productive of other result than provoking taunts from the greater number.

Moreover, once deeply impregnated with the poison of opium, it must infallibly be the case that [the victim's] resolution is undermined, and his physical strength abated. His every action becomes degraded, and he suffers injury without end. When his Majesty has not disdained, in his desire to purify the conduct of the officers of Government, to cry out with a loud voice to

arouse [his subjects] to a sense of their condition, were his servants to shrink through dread of incurring odium from giving utterance to their sentiments, how should they endure, in the night-watches, the response of an awakened conscience?

To subject now to punishment, in the first instance, those individuals respecting whom all voices are agreed in their verdict, it remains to be stated that Liu Hien, Taotai of the Intendancy of Hwai-ngan and Yang-chow—Tu Wên-lan, an expectant Taotai—Li Têh-p'u, Magistrate holding appointment to the Suh-ts'ien district,—and the expectant district Magistrates Tsêng Shao-hün and Li Ch'êng, are individuals of whom it is a matter of common notoriety that they are contaminated with the vice, and a request must be submitted that upon these five individuals Your Majesties will be pleased to inflict immediate deprivation of their official rank, by way of warning to their fellows. As for the rest, those whose personal appearance gives ground for suspicion, impeachment shall hereafter follow on evidence being obtained by the farther enquiry that shall be instituted. In the case of those who take warning and who actually reform their conduct, it would seem that the past may be condoned; but if the habit be still persevered in, though it were to be in the case of individuals distinguished by the most conspicuous abilities and attainments, Your servant would still not venture to shew a leaning in their favour. To do this were to encourage the continuance of a practice that would become as irreparable as the form of the once subsidised billow. By following the course of action indicated, it may be possible to remove ground of complaint on the part of the lower orders, and to stimulate measures of active moral reform.

As regards the practice of opium-smoking on the part of the soldiery, both of the Banner and the Chinese forces, it is in itself a violation of military law, and Your servant will exert every effort, in conjunction with the General-in-chief of the Banner troops at Nanking, the Director-General of the Grain Transportation Corps, the provincial Governor, and the Manchu Brigade-Generals, as also the Generals and Brigade-Generals of the various provincial commands, toward taking the measures which are called for with the object of restoring implicit obedience and preventing a spread of the evil habit. He accordingly submits the present memorial, etc., etc. For rescript see *Gazette* of 2nd December. (N.B.—The present is the first reference which has been made in the *Gazette* to the

memorial forwarded from England by the envoy Kwoh on the subject of opium-smoking and the cultivation of the poppy, a translation of which, from the text as published in the Chinese newspapers, appeared in print in August last. The laboured and pedantic tone of the Governor-General's memorial indicates a design of treating this question on a different footing from ordinary public business, and rather to improve the occasion from a moralist's point of view.)

Dec. 21st.—(1) A decree based upon a memorial from Wu Yüan-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, who has represented that a habit has grown up of late among officials when placed in mourning through the death of a parent, and who are bound by law to return to their native homes to observe the restrictive rites, of lingering about the capital of the province in which they have either held substantive office or have been on the expectant list, with the object of intriguing for employment on special commissions or other temporary functions. This practice is stated to have become established as a regular habit, and scandalous it is in the extreme. For the future, the high authorities of all the provinces are commanded to maintain a stringent surveillance over all officials within their jurisdiction, whether holding substantive office or on the expectant list, and, in the event of any such continuing to linger about the provincial capital, to compel them to return to their family homes. In the event of any such being found to have merely sent a relative in their stead, and to have falsely reported their return to their home, upon which they apply for the despatch enabling them to resume their official position at the expiry of the period of mourning, they are forthwith to be rigorously impeached, to the end that the rule of conduct to be observed by the official body may be observed in its integrity, and conformity be shewn to the established system of regulations. The Boards concerned are ordered to take note hereof.

(2) Ch'ung How, acting Governor-General of Shéngking, memorializes with reference to the rank to be assigned to the new territorial authority established in the region lately brought under administrative control on the eastern border. The late acting Military Governor, Ts'ung Shih, had proposed to convert the *T'ing* or independent sub-prefecture of Ch'ang-t'u 昌圖廳 into a *Fu* or Prefecture, and to establish under the jurisdiction of its superior officer certain sub-prefects (*T'ung p'an*) and department and district Magistrates; and the

present memorialist had proposed certain modifications in extension of the original scheme, embracing the appointment of an additional sub-prefect and of officers of instruction and civilian subordinates. The Board of Civil Office had subsequently objected that an officer of the rank of *T'ung p'an* could not, in conformity with regulation, be placed under the jurisdiction of a Prefect, and a modification in the plan proposed was called for. It is now consequently proposed that the Ch'ang-t'u *T'ing* shall be advanced to the status of a *Fu* or Prefecture, and that the present acting sub-Prefect, Chao Show-pih by name, a native of Chihli, aged 56, who is pronounced a man of exceptional merit, be promoted to the rank of Prefect as first incumbent of the new office. It is proposed, additionally, in order to remove the objection pointed out by the Board, that the sub-Prefecture of Fêng-hwa be converted into a district, the incumbent having at the same time the rank of *Li She Tung-che*, or Prefectural Commissary, conferred upon him, which will enable him to exercise control over the Mongol as well as the Chinese population. The establishment of an additional district, under the name of Hwai-teh Hien 懷德縣, completes the series of proposals. The Boards concerned are directed to consider and report hereupon without delay. (See *Gazette* of April 5th.)

Dec. 22nd.—The Governor-General and Governor of Fuhkien memorialize submitting a statement of the revenue derived in that province from salt, in connection with recommendations for promotion on behalf of the officials engaged in the collectorate. They represent that on a decision having been arrived at in 1865, to substitute for the ancient gabelle system that of distribution under licenses 票運, it was decreed that the total amount collected during the first experimental period, under the three heads of regular duty, waste-allowance, and *lekin* 課耗厘三項, namely, Taels 405,000 and odd, should be regarded as the annual standard amount of levy; commendation to be accorded in the case of the full amount being raised, and penalties adjudged in the contrary event. By a subsequent arrangement, the *lekin* on salt for the Prefecture of Ting-chow, for which no regulation amount was fixed, was left to be included in the "surplus collection" accounts; and furthermore, in consideration of the difficulties under which the 23 salt-agencies of the Prefecture of

Shao-wu and other parts of the province laboured, a reduction of 20 per cent. was allowed in their case, whereby the sum of Taels 25,600 and odd was struck off. This left Taels 379,600 and odd as the total to be collected under the three heads above-named, plus the amount of Taels 18,500 newly added as extra duty and *lekin* for the Prefecture of T'ai-wan (Formosa.) The total consequently stood at Taels 398,159 in all. It has now to be reported that for the two annual periods, respectively ending on 24th June, 1875, and on 12th June, 1876, the amounts collected under the above three heads have been as follows, viz., in the first period Tls. 434,780, and, in the second period, Tls. 437,509. Beside this, "surplus collection" has been made in the two periods above-named to the following amount, viz:—

In 1875 Taels 33,374

In 1876 ,, 36,037

A list of the officials to whose activity these satisfactory results are due is appended, with a request for the bestowal of the customary rewards.—Rescript: Let the Boards concerned consider and report. The list is issued to them herewith.

(2) The Governor of Hunan memorializes reporting the apprehension in the Wanling district of a noted kidnapper, one of a set of ruffians who, it is explained, make the abduction of women and girls for sale a constant practice. The individual apprehended was found guilty of the abduction of a woman while walking along a road, having also attacked and severely wounded with a sword his victim's sister, who endeavoured to effect her rescue. The malefactor in question has been summarily executed, and steps have been taken to effect the seizure of his accomplices.—Rescript: It is noted.

Dec. 23rd.—(1) The Censor Li Kia-yoh memorializes impeaching the Lieutenant-Governor (Financial Commissioner) of Honan, Liu Ts'i-hien 劉齊銜, on the ground of his having wilfully suppressed reports of the famine-stricken condition of the province, and obtained the sanction of the Governor to the removal of the Prefect of Wei-hwei Fu from his post for sending in such a report. The functionary in question is farther denounced as having continued to insist upon the revenue being collected in the various districts of the province up to the proportion of 80 per cent. of the total amount leviable, and intimidating the local authorities from making any representations of the real state of affairs. It is alleged, in plain

language, that his object was to secure the profit accruing to himself from the surplus amount collected under the head of "weight allowance." He is accused also of violent and overbearing conduct toward the Governor, Li K'ing-ngao. The memorialist, himself a native of Honan, adds that when returning last year from his mission as Special Literary Examiner in Kwangsi, although he did not visit the provincial capital of Honan, he nevertheless passed along the line of post-road through that province in both going and returning, and the reports he then heard concerning Liu Ts'i-hien's dictatorial conduct to his superior, and his oppression of his subordinates, have been confirmed by the statements that have been made to him subsequently by persons who have visited Peking of late. Having been twice honoured with audiences in the course of the present year, in which the Imperial commands were vouchsafed to the effect that, in representations to the Throne, he should not base his statements upon merely idle words, and that, in dealing with affairs, he should not allow himself to be influenced by regard for individual interests, he feels bound to bring the facts within his knowledge to the notice of the sovereign, and to solicit commands which shall act as a warning to those who endanger the welfare of the territory committed to their charge. (For decree, cashiering the impeached official, see *Gazette* of 14th inst.)

(2 and 3) Postscript memorials from the same Censor, denouncing the Taotais Liu Ch'eng-chung and Yin K'eng-yün, of the province of Honan, for inefficiency and corrupt conduct. Yin K'eng-yün, in particular, is accused of being influenced by bribery whilst holding the Taotanship of the Ho-Shen-Ju Intendancy, and it is related of him that when a popular disturbance broke out in the Ling-pao district, in consequence of the oppressive conduct of the Magistrate in supporting the action of the local notables at the head of the local transport office, and on an official being deputed by Liu Ts'i-hien, whilst temporarily acting as Governor of the province, to proceed to the spot to institute an enquiry, the Taotai took it upon himself to order the official in question to return to the provincial capital. The acting Governor remarked upon this to some of his staff, that this was an act of contempt toward the Taotai's superiors, and that he would assuredly overhaul the bribery transaction in which the functionary in question had previously been implicated. Yin K'eng-yün, on hearing of this, instantly proceeded, travelling day and night, to the provincial

capital, and—the memorialist is unable to say by what means—arranged the affair, and quietly returned to his post. He is now further accused of suppressing reports of a state of famine in districts under his control, thus lending himself to further the ruinous policy pursued by the Lieutenant-Governor to the detriment of the population. (See *Gazette* of 14th inst.)

(4) A postscript memorial in which the Censor Yü Shang-hwa accuses Li K'ing-ngao, Governor of Honan, of suppressing the facts relating to the distressed condition of the province.

Dec. 24th.—(Court Circular.) Yüan Pao-hêng had audience of leave on his departure for Honan as special Commissioner.

The whole of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with the report presented by Ts'ung K'i and Shao Hêng-yü, the Imperial Commissioners appointed to investigate the state of affairs in the province of Honan. For rescript summarizing their statements, followed by the degradation and removal of the Governor Li K'ing-ngao and the Lieutenant-Governor Liu Ts'i-hien, see *Gazette* of 14th instant. The Vice-President Ts'ung-K'i adds, in conclusion, that the duties of the special commission being now completed, he returns to Peking, whilst Shao Hêng-yü proceeds, according to his instructions, to take up his post as Governor of Hupeh.

Dec. 25th.—(1) A decree appointing Ki She-ch'ang 祁世長 to act as a Vice-President of the Board of Punishments during the absence of Yüan Pao-hêng as a special Commissioner.

(2) A decree placing certain officials at the disposal of Yüan Pao-hêng, at his request, to assist him on his mission to supervise the distribution of relief in Honan.

(3) A decree based upon a memorial from Yüan Pao-hêng, who has solicited sanction to the issue of brevets for the peacock-feather and the blue-plume decoration, to be offered to contributors (*i. e.* purchasers) with a view to the raising of funds which are urgently required for the relief of the pressing necessities of the province of Honan,—and also upon a memorial from the Supervising Censor Kwoh Ts'ung-kü, who, on behalf of the funds to be raised by public contributions for the benefit of the province of Shansi, asks that substantive rank in the degree of Taotai, Prefect, Department Magistrate, and District Magistrate, may be made accessible to purchasers, as well

as brevets for decorations. The Board of Revenue is commanded to consider and report hereupon.

(4) A decree in answer to a memorial from Wan Ts'ing-li, Governor-Adjoint of Shun-t'ien Fu, and his colleague, the Civil Governor, representing the necessity for additional supplies of grain for distribution at the relief-agencies established in various parts of the capital, owing to the greatly increased number of the applicants for food. It is commanded, hereupon, that a farther donation of 600 piculs of millet be awarded to the P'u-tsi T'ang and Kung-têh Lin relief-agencies, and that Tls. 600 be contributed likewise from the Revenue of the Peking Customs on the same account.

(5, 6) Postscript memorial from Ts'ung k'i and Shao Hêng-yü, in continuation of the report of their joint enquiry into the conduct of the high authorities of the province of Honan. See *Gazettes* of yesterday and of 14th inst.

Dec. 26th.—(1) A decree ordaining, with reference to the absence of the snowfall which is anxiously looked for in the interests of agriculture, that a series of intercessory services be held on the 28th inst. at the various State Temples. His Majesty will himself offer incense at the Ta Kao Tien, and certain of the Imperial princes at other places of worship.

(2) A decree appointing Mei K'i-hi 梅 啟熙 to the post of Prefect of T'ai-ngan Fu, in Shantung. (*N.B.* Mei K'i-hi has hitherto officiated as one of the Court of Censors. A representation in which he urged the stringent enforcement of the sumptuary laws was published in the *Gazette* of 14th Dec., 1875.

(3) A decree based upon a memorial from Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, etc., who has represented that officials are urgently required in connection with the military operations pending on the western frontier, and requests that certain individuals whom he names may be placed under his orders, to the end that their experience may be utilized. Ch'ang Shun, formerly acting Military Governor of Uliastai, and the Hanlin Compilers Lü Yao-tow and Wu Ta-ch'êng are hereupon ordered to proceed without delay to Kansuh and place themselves under Tso Tsung-t'ang's orders—Wu Ta-ch'êng, however, who is at present assisting in famine relief work in Chihli, to postpone his departure until his employment in this capacity can be dispensed with.

(4) A postscript memorial from Ts'ung K'i and his colleague in the recent Com-

mission of enquiry in Honan, concluding their report with reference to the conduct of the incriminated officials. See *Gazette* of 14th inst.

(5) Tsiin K'i, Superintendent of Customs at Canton, reports in a postscript memorial, the measures he has adopted with a view to render duly efficient the supervision which it behoves him to exercise over the outstations of his department. His predecessors in office have never, heretofore, personally visited the outposts of the province; but in his own case, the injunctions laid upon him by their Sacred Majesties as he was taking his departure from Peking, to let his vigilance be all-embracing, are engraven upon the tablets of his heart, and he will reverently observe them in his conduct. Of late, moreover, the receipts of opium duties at the six stations at Hongkong and Macao have shewn a continuous decline, to such an extent, indeed, that the revenue does not suffice to meet the appropriations ordered to be supplied from it; and a study of the causes of this falling-off leads to the conclusion that smuggling cannot fail to be rife. Again, within ten or fifteen years after the opening of the port of Ch'ao-chow Fu (Swatow) to foreign trade, the port of Pakhoi has now additionally been thrown open; and although the regulations adopted there have been based upon those in force at Swatow, yet in matters relating to foreign intercourse it is eminently desirable that careful consideration be employed to ensure the absence of all flaw in the arrangements adopted, and to suit the measures taken to local requirements. The memorialist had it in view, accordingly, to proceed, in the course of the month of November, taking with him his seal of office, on a tour of inspection to Swatow, and to avail himself of the opportunity of visiting the various opium duty stations of Hongkong, as well as the different coast-ports, after which he would return to Canton to attend to current business. After the New Year, it was his intention to proceed in the same manner to K'iung-chow and Pakhoi. He promises that he will examine into everything with careful attention, and, whilst he will on no account venture to indulge in rash innovations, he will at the same time equally refrain from neglecting his duty in a spirit of supine adherence to routine. After completing his tour of inspection, he will submit a farther report for the information of their Majesties.—Rescript: It is noted.

Dec. 27th.—(1) A memorial from the Censor P'eng She-ch'ang, who solicits atten-

tion to the block of promotion in connection with graduates who have taken Hanlin degrees, and who, after passing their final examinations, become entitled, according to the most admirable regulation applicable in their case, to appointment, in the order of their merit, either to posts in connection with the Hanlin College, to secretaryships of the Boards, or to the office of district Magistrate. Of late, however, as regards the office of secretary to the Boards, the number of expectants has ranged from a maximum of several hundreds to a minimum which does not fall short of from one to two hundred individuals in the case of each department. When to this comes to be added the number who are placed on the roster through patronage (recommendation), purchase, and acceleration of nomination or selection, the result is that from ten to twenty years is the time required to obtain appointment to a given post. This is the case even in connection with the Board of Civil Office, where appointment goes by selection. It follows, consequently, that the candidate whose name is recorded in the prime of life is a greybeard before he attains to subordinate office, and has one foot in the grave before he rises to a superior post. The memorialist recurs in terms of approval to the system in force under the T'ang and Sung dynasties, when graduates at the literary examinations were appointed forthwith to subordinate civilian offices, in which they had an opportunity of familiarizing themselves with public duties and gaining an insight into matters which concern the popular interest. The example of antiquity is one which specially commends itself to the lettered class; and the advantage of bringing officials into immediate contact with the affairs of the people is clear. Graduates of the *tsin-she* class, who receive nominations to metropolitan rank, are allowed to exchange these for positions as district Magistrate; and those who are placed upon the roster to await selection at Peking are also permitted to apply, in lieu of this, to be allotted to provincial staffs forthwith. It is only in the case of the Hanlin Bachelors nominated to secretaryships of the Boards, that no modification has heretofore been sanctioned; and it is requested that the desirability of introducing a change in this respect may be taken into consideration.—Referred by rescript to the Board of Civil Office for report.

(2) The Governor of Nganhwei memorializes, reporting the completion of the building works undertaken in connection with the reestablishment of the Custom

House at Wuhu, the total cost of which has been Tls. 49,915.

Dec. 28th.—(Abstracts of memorials.) Liu Kw'en-yih, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, etc., has reported the following remittances to Peking, viz.:—On account of the buildings of the Grand Tablet Hall at the Imperial Mausolea, Tls. 20,000; on account of the Mausolea in course of construction for the Empresses Regent, Tls. 40,000; on account of the supplies for the pay of the troops, etc., at the capital, Tls. 40,000; on account of the reserve fund of the Board of Revenue, Tls. 40,000; and on account of the Mausoleum of the late Emperor, Tls. 20,000.

(1) Li Hung-chang, Governor-General of Chihli, etc., memorializes reporting the amounts which have been raised as contributions toward the requirements of famine-relief in that province, under the regulations to which the Imperial sanction has been given. The contributions collected up to the end of April last have already been reported (see *Gazette* of June 30th, 1877); and the following statement now remains to be made of the amounts additionally collected, viz., in silver, Tls. 52,115.4.0.1., in Tientsin nominal cash, computed at 3,500 per Tael, Tls. 11,753.9.3.8; in maize, pls. 5,690.5.4., equivalent, at the rate of Tl. 1.8 per picul, to Tls. 10,115.1.8.0; in Barbadoes' millet, pls. 711.1.6.5., equivalent, at the rate of Tl. 1.5 per picul, to Tls. 1,066.7.4.7. The aggregate amount is Tls. 75,050.2.6.5 (in addition to the Tls. 214,344.7 collected to the end of April); and the whole is accounted for under the head of contributions supplied to meet the requirements of the famine expenditure dating from 1876. Lists of the contributors are submitted, with requests for the issue of appropriate rewards.

(2) Although not yet published in the official *Gazette*, the memorial reporting the advance of the Chinese expeditionary force to Kuché, in Kashgaria, to which the Decree published on the 4th instant relates, is included here, in order to bring it within the record of the current year. It is as follows:—

Tso Tsung-t'ang, Governor-General of Kansuh, &c., Generalissimo for the campaign in Turkestan, memorializes reporting the advance of the army for the reconquest of Kashgaria (*Sin Kiang Nan Lu*), the reoccupation of Karashár and Kuché, and the further pursuit of the enemy with the object of effecting the capture of the city of Aksu, in addition to which the measures taken with reference to the communications in the rear are likewise set forth. Having

received some time ago, in answer to a memorial presented, the Imperial commands directing him, in accordance with his proposal that an advance should be made with the first commencement of autumn (i.e., about the middle of August), when supplies should have been brought up in sufficient quantity, to give the requisite orders to this effect, instructions were accordingly issued to the various divisional commanders. A report has now come to hand from Liu Kin-t'ang, Taotai of the Sining Intendancy in Kansuh, decorated with the order of the *Bat'uru* with the title *Fafulingah*, a brevet Financial Commissioner, and Commander-in-chief of the army in the field, stating as follows:—

“On the 25th August, General T'ang Jen-ho was sent forward from T'oksun, as a preliminary step to occupy Subashi and Agha Bulá; and on the 7th September, the Brigade-Generals Tung Fuh-siang and Chang Tsün were despatched at the head of three *ying* of infantry (probably about 1,200 to 1,500 men in all) to advance by way of Agha Bulá, Sang-shu Yüan (mulberry garden), Kumush, Yü-shu Kow (elm ravine), Sing Sing Tsze, and Usha Tal, with instruction to construct fortified posts, and to halt on reaching K'ü-hwei. General Chang Ch'un-fah, in addition, was ordered to make his way with the force under his command by the footpaths along the Ila lake to rendezvous with Chang Tsün at K'ü-hwei. Both these detachments were to haul supplies of fuel with them, and to open out watering-places, making preparations stage by stage for the progress of the main body of the army. On the 27th September, Liu Kin-t'ang gave orders for a general advance of the infantry column along the mainroad, proceeding himself by the bye-paths at the head of the cavalry, and on the 2nd October the entire force had reached the rendezvous at K'ü-hwei. It was ascertained that on the 24th September a body of the enemy's horse, about a hundred strong, had approached the place, and on seeing the array of our troops had turned tail and dashed away. On the 3rd October, Generals Yü Hu-ngên and Hwang Wan-pêng, at the head of fourteen *ying* (say about 6,000 men) of horse and foot, marching by way of Usha Tal, skirted Lake Bosteng, and advanced westwards, leaving Kurlé behind them, with the object of serving as a flanking force; whilst the main body advanced on the 5th October, headed by Liu King-t'ang, along the high road in the direction of the river K'ai-tu (Kaidu.) The sources of this river descend from the slopes of the T'ien Shan, their combined

volume flowing southwardly between Kurlé and Karashár, and falling eventually into Lake Bosteng. This is the sheet of water known in ancient times as the Yew

Tsêh 洑澤. The rebel leader Bayen

Hu had dammed up the course of the river Kaidu from the west bank near Karashár, in order to obstruct the advance of the army, the inundation thus occasioned spreading over the face of the country for a distance of something like 100 *li*. On this being reached by Liu Kin-t'ang's forces, he sent cavalry forward to try the depth, when it was found that in the deepest parts the water was over a man's head, and that even in the shallowest it came up to the horses' cruppers. On the following day, abandoning the lake road, the force advanced in the direction of the alkaline plains, until, after marching 60 or 70 *li*, its progress was barred by a stream, the depth of which was found to be a *chang* and upwards. The troops were ordered to swim across, and the winding track leading toward the alkaline plains was again followed. A march of about 120 *li* brought the troops to the east bank of the river Kaidu, where five *ying* of horse and foot were detailed to construct a bridge and dam to stop the flow of the waters from the upper course of the stream, and a cart-road was constructed along the track followed in crossing the alkaline plains. On the 7th October (*i.e.*, only two days after leaving the first rendezvous at Kü-hwei), Liu Kin-t'ang entered the city of Karashár, where he found the place flooded to a depth of several *ch'ih*, official residences and private dwellings having alike been utterly destroyed, and the Turki-Mussulman population having been compelled by Bayen Hu to follow the movements of his force. The few remnants of the people left behind had taken refuge in the mountains, and were afraid to come forth. Liu Kin-t'ang ordered the Mongol noble Cha-hi-télkh to move up as quickly as possible some hundreds of the families of his tribe, in order to occupy this point on the line of march, and on the 8th he advanced with some Mongol guides to sound the depth of the river. The expedition crossed to the other side in light marching order, swept down by the current in its flow, and found the country uninhabited, all the dwellings having been burnt down. On the 9th October the Karka Aman ravine was crossed, and the advanced guard of cavalry now suddenly came across a band of some hundred of the enemy's horse, which made a dash

obliquely in front of them. The cavalry pursued them at full speed, and captured and beheaded some 10 or 15 on the spot, bringing in two prisoners alive. These men were dressed in the costume of the Kokandis (*lit.*, the barbarians of Ngan, *i.e.*, Andijan), but they turned out to be Shensi Mussulmans. Their statement was to the effect that, so soon as the autumn crops had been got in, Bayen Hu had compelled the Turki inhabitants to collect the whole of the produce at Kuché. On receiving news of the advance of the invading force, he required the whole population to fall back with him, and the timidity of these people is such that they did not venture to disobey his command. The prisoners themselves had been sent out as scouts. On their examination being concluded, they were forthwith beheaded. In the course of this day, the force under General Yüngén and his associate also came up by a side road and entered the town of Kurlé, which was found a mere desert waste surrounded by its walls, without a sign of inhabitants. The supplies for the march being exhausted, and the cart and camel train from the rear not having come up, no provisions were forthcoming for the troops, but on the soldiers being set to work by Liu Kin-t'ang to dig in search of buried stores, several tens of thousand catties' weight were discovered. Supplies were at the same time ordered up with all speed from the depôts in the rear, and officials were at the same time appointed to gather in the refugee Mussulman population. The above is an outline of the facts connected with the reoccupation of Karashár and Kurlé on the 7th and 9th October.

Having ascertained that the rebel leader Bayen Hu, on finding that the Turki population in the neighbourhood of Ts'édayar and Yangi-Sar, together with the Mussulman immigrants from Urumtsi and Turfan, had not completely abandoned this tract of country, but had returned to Yangi-Sar to carry off the inhabitants by force, Liu Kin-t'ang chose a body of troops consisting of 1,500 picked men of the infantry and 1,000 of his most efficient horsemen, at the head of whom he pushed on in advance of the army, leaving the Taotai Lo Ch'ang-yao to follow in command of the remainder of the force and bringing up the baggage train. By a march of 170 *li* he reached Kurch'u on the 16th October, and a march of 160 *li* on the following day brought him to Ts'édayar. Here he learnt that within the last day or two Bayen Hu had driven off the whole of the Turki population from Yangi-Sar

towards Bugar. He at once gave orders to the leading squadron to cook some food, and setting out at the second watch (about 9 p.m.), he marched a distance of 80 *li* to Yangi-Sar. Here nothing was to be seen but the sky lighted up with the flames of burning villages, without a sign or sound of life; and it was plain that the rebels, on evacuating the place, had applied the torch in all directions. The troops of the rearguard were set to work to arrest the conflagration, and the advance was continued with the leading squadron until, after marching a distance of 100 *li*, Bugar was reached. It was now about noon, and intelligence was received to the effect that a force of about a thousand of the enemy's horse was drawn up in front of the Mussulman villages. The cavalry under Hwang Wan-p'eng advanced to the attack, whereupon the enemy, encouraged by the smallness of their numbers, rushed forward boldly against them. They were encountered, however, by a body of infantry which advanced under the command of Hwang Pah-t'sui, and the horsemen were driven back. Following up this success, our troops pursued the retiring enemy, killing and beheading upwards of 100 of their number, and taking some ten or a dozen prisoners. The pursuit was maintained for a distance of more than 10 *li* to the westward of the place, where a halt was called, the troops having already marched 200 *li* that day. The prisoners stated that the family of Bayen Hu had passed through this ten days previously, escorted by 2,000 of the boldest of the rebels, and that Bayen Hu himself had caused the whole of the inhabitants of this tract of country, as well as the Chinese Mussulmans (Dungans) forced away from Urumts'i, Hami, and Turfan, and the Mongols carried off from Karashár, to move on in the direction of Kuché. The body of horse with which the engagement had taken place, they stated, was the rearguard of the rebel force. At dawn on the 16th October* the leading squadron, after a march of 40 *li*, came in sight of a column of horse and foot several tens of thousands in number, but on reconnoitering with glasses, it was perceived that only about a thousand of these were armed men. The remainder were a confused throng escorting aged persons or leading children, and driving carts and oxen, and it was evident that

these were the captives who had been forced away. Liu Kin-t'ang gave the order that all with arms in their hands should be beheaded, but that all others should be spared; and causing the advance to be sounded immediately, the combined force marched forward. The enemy, abandoning the column of prisoners, retired, but drew up a mile or two further on and offered battle, whereupon our troops charged valiantly against them, and the enemy made a hurried retreat. Camp was pitched this day at Arpa T'ai. The Mussulman prisoners were sent back by Liu Kin-t'ang in charge of an officer, to be distributed as might be found most feasible in the neighbourhood of Bugar and Yangi-Sar; and on the 17th Liu Kin-t'ang marched as far as T'ornai, whence he despatched a body of horse to scour the surrounding villages and ascertain whether any of the enemy were still lurking about them. Some prisoners were taken in the act of endeavouring to break from their hiding places, and from them it was ascertained that Bayen Hu had on this very day fallen back upon Kuché. About ten thousand of the Mongols and Mussulmans who had been forced away from their homes, were found among these villages, and on their imploring mercy, with piteous entreaties, Liu Kin-t'ang assured them of their safety and bade them have no further alarm. At the fourth watch of the same night (i.e., at about 2 a.m. of the 18th October), the march was resumed, and after proceeding a distance of 30 *li* the force found itself at no great distance from the town of Kuché. The sound of cannon was heard, and on a rapid advance being made, the country was seen to be covered with several tens of thousands of Turki-Mussulmans in scattered groups. These people stated that they were inhabitants of Kuché who had refused to follow the rebels westward. Drawing up his force in order of battle, and placing himself at the head of his cavalry in the centre, Liu Kin-t'ang gave the order to advance, and an attack made upon both flanks by some 4,000 or 5,000 of the enemy's horse was repulsed with considerable loss to the assailants. The enemy continued to fight obstinately, however, but the infantry under T'an Pah-ts'ui moved up to take part in the fight, and whilst the engagement was at the hottest, the cavalry and infantry reserve threw themselves into the fight, and the enemy were at length thoroughly routed. A close pursuit was maintained for 40 *li*, and the corpses of the slain lay thickly piled along the roadside, the number killed amounting to not less than a thousand or upwards.

* Sic in original, though there would appear to be some mistake in the date, as the events of the 16th (10th of 9th moon) have been recorded above.

As, from this point westwards, the desert has to be crossed, and it is impossible to march without carrying supplies of water, whilst it was urgently necessary to take measures for the relief of the Turki-Mussulmans of Kuché, the troops were accordingly ordered to fall back upon that place, and the population were reassured as to their personal safety. The prisoners who had been taken stated that the leader, who was wounded by a ball during the action fought this day, was one of the chiefs of the rebels, named Ma-yeo-pu 馬由布. They farther stated that on learning the near approach of the army, Bayen Hu had in the first place sent off his family westwards under escort, himself bringing up the rear, whilst a body of his most desperate adherents was ordered to compel the mass of the population to follow his line of march. When the advance of our troops made itself felt, the Mussulmans refused to go any farther; the enemy had begun firing upon them, inflicting some loss, just as the force came up in strength, causing the rebels' fighting men to abandon their prisoners and turn their attention to the troops. The prisoners, on being asked what was the design of Bayen Hu in compelling the population to follow in his line of march, stated that, from what they had heard, the plan of the rebels was in the first place to deprive the invading force of all assistance, thus making farther pursuit a work of difficulty, and secondly to ingratiate themselves with the new P'a-hia 伯夏 (quære, *basha*?) of Kashgar, Beg Kuli 帕克胡里, by delivering this large mass of Turki-Mussulmans into his hands. Their interrogation concluded, the prisoners were beheaded.

On the 19th October, Liu Kin-t'ang again set his troops in motion, and by a march of 180 *li*, he reached Hoser on the following day. From this point he sent off his report, intending next to press on to Bai, with the object of advancing thence to reach Aksu, and to use his utmost efforts to attack and destroy the already beaten enemy. On the arrangements undertaken by General Chang Yao for the settlement of matters in the newly-recovered districts being completed, he also would be able to commence his march by the third week in October.

On receipt of the above report, the Governor-General Tso proceeds to observe that Karashár is itself one of the Eight Cities of the *Man Lu* (Kashgaria), and Kurlé a place renowned for of old for the fertility of its soil. On behalf of

the Mongol and Mussulman population who had been compelled to do suit and service to the rebels, contrary to their own inclinations, it is necessary to institute a Board of Administration, which shall provide means of subsistence and supplies of seed-corn for distribution, and, on their returning to their proper homes, allot them to occupations in the way of agriculture and pasturage. The official body to be thus constituted will at the same time attend to the laying out of roads, the construction of ferry boats, and the establishment of post-houses, in order to facilitate the movements of trade and travel, and to expedite the transmission of mails. A district Magistrate and brevet Sub-Prefect named Hwang Ki-yü and a sub-district Magistrate named Yen T'ing-kw'ei have been appointed to act as commissioners for the Board of Reorganization for the cities of Karashár and Kuché, and have been sent forward with a supply of funds to make a beginning with the work. As regards the country in the neighbourhood of Agha Bulá, although General Chang Yao has been written to and requested to attend to matters there in the course of his march, it will be necessary that an officer should be placed in special charge of the arrangements, and for this purpose the Taotai and brevet Financial Commissioner T'ao Chao-hiung, at present in charge of the commissariat transport department at Ku Ch'êng (Guchen), has been ordered to proceed with all despatch to Liu Kin-t'ang's head-quarters, and report himself for duty. The Governor-General proceeds to eulogize the rapidity and success with which Liu Kin-t'ang, in the course of six days, had traversed a distance of 900 *li* from Kurlé, capturing the two cities of Karashár and Kuché, and delivering multitudes of the population from the rebel yoke. At Kuché, moreover, as he reports, provisions and fodder are forthcoming in abundance, and purchases are to be made there on better terms than at Turfan. Thus, not only will the difficulty and cost of transport be obviated, but delays will also be avoided, greatly to the advantage of the operations in hand. The Governor-General solicits permission to submit lists of recommendation for promotion and honours, and concludes with an enumeration of the officers who have been killed in action, on whose behalf he requests the customary posthumous rewards.—Rescript published in *Gazette* of 4th December, 1877.

Dec. 29th.—(1) The Censor T'eng K'ing-lin memorializes dwelling upon the manifold

sufferings under which the people of the Empire are labouring, and entreats that the high provincial authorities be called upon by decree to require of the district officials under their jurisdiction a sedulous attention to the duties of government. The usual commonplaces on this subject are repeated. For rescript, see *Gazette* of 11th Dec. (Note. As is the case in many other instances of the presentation of homilies on the above and other well-worn topics, the memorial printed this day is believed to have been laid before the Throne only as a cloak for the introduction of a "postscript" (which has not been published), submitting representations in favour of the release of Ch'êng Luh, the Manchu general, still lying under sentence of death, pronounced in 1874, for a massacre committed by troops under his orders in the province of Kansuh. In connection with this celebrated case, it may be noted that, in the present day's *Gazette*, the ex-Censor Wu K'o-tuh, who procured the downfall and condemnation of Ch'êng Luh, is named as having been appointed an assistant Secretary in the Patent's department of the Board of Civil Office.)

(2-3) In two postscript memorials, the Censor T'êng K'ing-lin refers to abuses prevalent in the province of Kirin, in connection, respectively, with the conduct of inquests in murder cases and the levy of Customs' duties. Where cases of murder are reported to the district Magistrates, he states these functionaries are in the habit of allowing them to stand aside, on the score of the great distances involved, until 3, 5, 7, or perhaps 8 cases have accumulated, when the Magistrate will go, accompanied by the professional corpse-examiner (*Wu-tso*), and a retinue of a hundred or more police and other followers, whereupon the cases are taken seriatim. Delays of from 3 to 5 months are thus, perhaps, entailed; and when the official cortège at length arrives, "inquest fees" amounting to several thousand *tiao* of cash are exacted, independently of the sums levied for the entertainment of the mandarin, and the extortions practised on the occasion by the village headmen. It is entreated that commands be issued, requiring the abolition of all such illegal imposts for the future.—With reference to the levy of Customs' duties, it is represented that regulations promulgated with Imperial sanction are in force to direct the collection of duties at all Custom Houses and barriers, and that unauthorized levies, stripping the trading classes of their earnings in defiance of the law, are in no wise tolerated. It has lately occurred,

however, in the sub-prefecture of Ch'ang Ch'un in Kirin, where a Customs' duty is levied by an office established in the city comprising the local seat of government, that a band of armed official retainers, numbering some hundred or more, had tumultuously invaded the township of Nung-ngan, and compelled the traders of every degree, as well as the inhabitants generally, to pay duty over again upon all the merchandize in their possession, besides which, by falsely declaring acts of fraud upon the revenue to have been committed, they extorted penalties amounting to ten or fifteen times the legal rates of duty. Unable to endure any farther the outrages and oppression to which they were subjected, the traders with one accord gave up their ordinary business, and commerce was brought to a standstill. The local trainbands, which had previously been maintained out of the proceeds of the Customs' duty levied according to regulation, hereupon dispersed, and the mounted banditti profited by the opportunity to commit their ravages. It is entreated that commands may be issued to the Military Governor of Kirin, and to the provincial authorities generally throughout the Empire, requiring them to cause the levy of Customs' duties to be made in conformity with regulation, and to refrain from enforcing excessive demands beyond the prescribed limits; as also stringently to prohibit the practice of extortion on the part of official retainers, police, and recognized or unrecognized Customs' watchers.

(4) Ting Jih-ch'ang, Governor of Fuh-kien, referring to the decree of August last, in which he was permitted to take three months' leave of absence for the benefit of his health, reports that, since his departure from Foochow, his sickness has increased; and his suffering has been intensified by the grief he experienced on learning, when he reached his native place, that his elder brother, Ting Jih-shêng, had died in the month of May last. His old physicians, moreover, have all been carried off by death, and the medical advice he has been able to consult in their place has proved unavailing. He complains of spitting blood, loss of appetite, asthma, and a general numbness all over the body, and his condition is such that he feels bound to solicit permission to resign his office. He has not yet reached his 60th year; and should his health become in any degree restored, he will not fail to prostrate himself in the dust before the gates of the Palace and await further employment.—

Rescript, granting three months' additional congé, and refusing the application to retire, already published.—See *Gazette* of 14th instant.

Dec. 30th.—(1) A decree sanctioning the retirement from office of T'ang Jên-shên, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Court of Censors, who was recently granted leave of absence to visit his native place in Chêh-kiang.

(2) Ch'ung How, Governor-General of Fêng-t'ien, reports the conclusion of the autumn patrol of the frontier, according to regulation, by a Chinese official and an officer appointed for the purpose by the King of Corea.

Dec. 31st.—(1) A decree referring to the commands heretofore issued appointing the Brigade-General Chang Têh-luh to the command of the Ku-chow division, in the province of Kweichow, and Yang Yüh-k'o to the Kao-chow division, in Kwangtung. Liu Kw'ên-yih, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, has now memorialized strongly commending Chang Têh-luh, and asking permission to utilize his local experience by effecting an exchange

of commands between this officer and Yang Yüh-k'o. The Governor-General in question is declared to have acted presumptuously in applying for an exchange of important commands between two separate provinces. Inasmuch, however, as Chang Têh-luh is represented as an officer whose services are of great value in Kwangtung, it is ordained that he vacate the post in Kweichow to which he stands nominated, and be appointed to the next suitable vacancy in Kwangtung. The proposal that Yang Yüh-k'o be transferred to the command at Ku-chow is disallowed. (See *Gazette* of Oct. 13th.)

(2) A decree acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from the Governor-General of Min-Chêh, &c., reporting the decease in Formosa of Brigade-General Mèh Lung-tao, whose military services during the campaigns against the rebels, and subsequently in the operations in Formosa, are highly commended. He had lately been nominated to the Yeo-kiang command in Kwangsi (see *Gazette* of November 4th.)

(3) A Decree. Let Kiang Chung-ch'ao 江忠朝 succeed to the post of Brigade-General of Ku-chow in Kweichow.

