

Hong Merchants.

Original Names.	Mercantile Names.	Official Names.
HOWQUA,—Woo haou kwan,	Ewo hong,	Woo Shaouyung.
MOWQUA,—Loo how kwan,	Kwoinglei hong,	Loo Kekwang.
PWANKHEQUA,—Pwan ching wei,	Tungfoo hong,	Pwan Shaoukwang.
GOQUA,—Seay guou kwan,	Tungching hong,	Seay Yewjin.
KINGQUA,—Leang king kwō,	Teenpaou hong,	Leang Chinghe.
SUNSHING or HINGTAE,	Hengtae hong,	Yen Kuechang.
MINGQUA,—Pwan ming kwan,	Chungwo hong,	Pwan Wantaou.
SAOQUA,—Ma Sew kwan,	Shuntae hong,	Ma Tsoi ling.
PUNHOYQUA,—Pwan hac kwan,	Yunwo hong,	Pwan Wanhae.
SAMQUA,—Woo shwang kwan,	Tungshun hong,	Woo Teenwan.
CHINGSHIN or KWANGQUA,	Footae hong,	Yeh Yuenchang.
LAMQUA,	Tungchong hong,	Lo Fuhtae.
TAKQUA,	Oanchong hong,	Yung Yekwang.

Linguists.

ATOM,	Foonwo,	Tsaemow.
ATUNG,	U. tloy,	Hohwuy.
ARUNG (or YOUNG TOM),	Woshang,	Hwangchang.
ALANTSEI,	Chengwo,	Woots. ang.
AHEEN,	Shunwo,	Tsoy Tsum.

The whole number of residents, whose names are included in the foregoing list, is 307; of whom 158 are English; 62, Parsees; 44, American; 28, Portuguese; 4, Indian; 3, Dutch; 2, Swiss; 2, Prussian; and 2, German; 1, Danish; 1, French. The number of families is 24. During the most busy part of the year the number of visitors, supercargoes, &c., is nearly equal to that of the residents. The names of all the partners in many of the houses are given; but in a few instances we have not been able to obtain them. To readers abroad, it may be proper to remark that *hong* and *factory* are synonymous terms; and that each hong is divided into several houses, or suits of apartments, which are numbered. Sometimes a single 'commercial house' occupies two or more suits of apartments; but often two firms have to divide a single suit. Thus it will appear (as it in fact is) that the place where we dwell "is too strait for us."

ART. X. *Journal of Occurrences. The question of admitting opium undecided; smugglers seized; fire in Yuenming Yuen; and deaths in Peking.*

FEB. 16th. The delay in publishing our number for January till now — when its last pages go to press — still leaves us without any intelligence respecting the imperial pleasure on the memorials of Heu Naetse, Choo Tsun, and Heu Kew, as to the admission of opium. We hear it rumored that a new proclamation is being prepared by the governor of Canton, the object of which is to forbid smuggling, and to drive away "the receiving ships."

A boat engaged in smuggling was seized on the 8th of February, and several thousand taels of silver and gold, and a piece of "yellow-dragon" cloth, such as is sacred to imperial use, were recovered.

In November last, a fire broke out in the palace at Yuenming Yuen, but was soon extinguished by the efforts of the servants and guards, who were led on by the principal officers.

Late Gazettes from Peking notice the demise of Yeilshaou the emperor's nephew, Meemin one of his consins, and of Hac Heng commander-in-chief of his majesty's forces in Chikéang. This "gallant officer" rose from the rank of a common soldier, and had served in CochinChina, Yunnan, Kweichow, and Hoonan.

THE

CHINESE REPOSITORY.

VOL. V.—FEBRUARY, 1837.—No. 10.

ART. I. *Remarks on reopening the trade with the Southern Archipelago, describing the character and situation of those nations, and the advantages which a trade with them will yield to the people and government of China.* By Luhchow of Fukkeén.

ALL the inhabitants of the Southern Archipelago are harmless; every prohibition, therefore, ought to be removed, and our people allowed to trade freely with them. By adopting this course, the superabundant products of foreign countries will supply the deficiencies of our own. Why then delay its adoption for a single moment? The lieutenant-governor of Fukkeén, some time ago, sent up a secret memorial to the emperor, intimating that the merchants trading by sea, will sell their ships to foreigners to be employed in exporting rice, and thus bring calamity on our country, or that they will be employed as piratical vessels; he therefore requested that they might be prohibited from going to sea, in order to prevent such consequences. Vague and scholastic thoughts, contracted like the vision of one gazing at the heavens from the bottom of a well! Self-named guardian of the country, he intrudes his specious words on the notice of our sovereign. And his sacred majesty, deeply solicitous for the welfare of the country, and fearing lest there might be some truth in the representations, laid the subject before his ministers and people; for, being in doubt as to the reality of what had been represented in the memorial, he wished to find some one, fully acquainted with the subject, who could give him satisfactory information. But ministers, having never been abroad, possessed no such knowledge, while none of the people dared to approach their sovereign. In this way the whole subject, from first to last, remained unexplained; and hence originated the embargo on foreign commerce. It was not desired by his sacred majesty.

Now, those who are acquainted with maritime affairs, are able to show who and what are hurtful, and the reverse. Of all foreign nations — numerous as the stars of heaven, and spread out like the men

on a chess-board—Corea is the nearest to our capital; and its inhabitants conform to our rights and laws. The most powerful nation on the east is Japan, beyond which there are no others. A little below Japan, are the islands of Lewchew, large and small, scattered over a space of five or six hundred miles. Further east, through the wide expanse of waters, no other nations are to be found. Of the numerous tribes inhabiting the Southern Archipelago, those of Luçonia and Java are the most powerful. Those of Borneo, Malacca, Sumatra, and scores of other places, are weak and unimportant, and can never entertain any hostile intentions. Cochinchina and Tsionmpa are almost continuous with the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangse. Kamboja, Ligore, Patani, and many other places, with Siam, are in the extreme southwest. On the west are the Europeans, a very strong and ferocious people, with whom no other foreigners are comparable. 'Europeans' is the general appellation of all the inhabitants of the western islands; and among these the English, the Spanish, the French, the Hollanders, the Portuguese (both in Europe and at Goa), are the most cruel and ferocious. They have strong ships, and do not fear the furious winds. Their guns, and other weapons, are superior to those of our country. In their dispositions, too, they are artful and subtle; they spy out every new place, and form designs of acquiring territory.

The Europeans, the Roman Catholics, and the Japanese, are more to be dreaded than any other foreigners. Java originally belonged to the Malays; but the Europeans having opened a trade there, got possession of the country, and hence it became a rendezvous for their ships. Luçonia, also, originally belonged to the Malays; but the Roman Catholics having introduced their religion, took possession of the country, and it became the emporium of their ships. In the reign of the Ming dynasty, the Japanese became turbulent, and greatly annoyed the people of Kwangtung, Fuhkeen, Chêkeiing, and Keängsoo; and to this day even the mentioning the name of the Japanese marauders fills them with fearful apprehensions. But from time immemorial, the inhabitants of the Southern Archipelago have never excited the slightest degree of alarm on our southern borders, having been engaged solely in commercial affairs and in an interchange of the necessaries of life.

At the present time, commerce with the Japanese is not interdicted; nor is that with the Europeans; and the Roman Catholics are spread throughout the empire, and, at Macao in the province of Canton they even have a permanent settlement. Shall, then, only the weak and inoffensive inhabitants of the Southern Archipelago—with whom a lucrative trade may be carried on, unattended by any evil consequences—shall these only be interdicted? The population of Fuhkeen and Kwangtung is dense; but the land fit for agriculture is limited, and, not yielding sufficient supplies for the inhabitants, five or six tenths of them seek a livelihood in foreign commerce. Our own productions which have no importance or value at home, when exported become equal to precious gems. In the maritime provinces,

various manufactures, not excepting even the needle work of our wives and daughters, which were annually exported, brought in return hundreds of thousands of silver and merchandise. The importance of such a commerce is not small.

Before the embargo was laid on the trade with the Southern Archipelago, the people of Fuhkeen had abundant supplies. And even those whose hands were idle, being out of employment, stimulated by a desire of acquiring riches, were induced to go abroad. Few then were found at home in want of food and clothing; and few were the evils which were occasioned by thefts and robberies. But since the embargo was laid on, the interchange of every kind of merchandise has ceased; the people are daily more and more embarrassed; and those who were employed in the useful arts, have to lament that they can find no demand for their work; while the merchants concerned in the foreign trade, sigh because no outlet is found for their traffic. Ships, built for the foreign service at an expense of four or five thousand dollars, are dismantled and made fast to the desolate beach, there to rot and be eaten by worms. They are too large for the domestic trade; and if offered for sale there is no one to purchase them. To break them up in order to build small vessels, would be like hewing down a spur to make a block, or like tearing to threads whole pieces of embroidered work to make patches. It is painful to contemplate this condition of our commerce. Still there is hope that a brighter day will arise and the clouds be dispelled, when perchance the restrictions will be removed, and commerce revived. But the damage which must be sustained by destroying even a single vessel, will blight the prospects of many families. Such calamities are affecting and distressing beyond expression. On account of the embargo on our foreign commerce multitudes of the inhabitants along the sea-board are idle and unemployed. Those who are thoroughly acquainted with the seas, and experienced in the business of navigation, being unable to act as porters and bearers of burdens even so as to gain a temporary sustenance, are in danger of being forced to become pirates in order to obtain their daily food. The idle and unemployed are in still greater danger, and may go off in piratical bands to Formosa, or break out in open rebellion. A remarkable case of this kind occurred in 1661, when a band of insurgents on Formosa were led on by Chin Fuhchow.

Whatever will benefit both the people and the government, even though it be in a small degree, ought not to be neglected. On the other hand, whatever is injurious alike to both, even though it be in the smallest possible degree, should be removed. Now, the embargo on our southern commerce has injurious effects, while it is unattended by any advantages. For it makes the rich, among those who live on the sea-board, poor; and the poor, idle. It forces the mechanic and the merchant out of their employments; and those who are unemployed, it compels to become pirates. Fuhkeen, having no silver mines, is entirely dependent on the foreign coin, which, if the embargo is long continued, will at length cease, and it will become necessary to have

recourse to a paper currency to supply the deficiency. Such evils are by no means to be disregarded. On the other hand, to open the trade with the Southern Archipelago will afford advantages, without giving rise to any evils. For then a lucrative interchange of commodities will be carried on abroad, while at home the existing calamities will gradually be removed. Our vast population will then have the means of supplying all the wants of life, and the amount of duties at the custom-houses will be increased. In this way the abundant products of the people will enrich the government. Surely, then, these advantages will not be inconsiderable.

As to what has been said about the ships engaged in this trade being sold to foreigners for the purpose of exporting rice, or being taken and employed as piratical vessels, it may be remarked, that hitherto nothing of the like has ever occurred. The largest of the ships engaged in foreign commerce cost seven or eight thousand dollars; the smallest cost two or three thousand. These ships, therefore, could not be sold for any very small sum. When merchants expend their property in building a vessel, it is with the hope that the money so invested will prove lucrative during many generations. And, if at any time they become tired of going to sea themselves, it is easy to charter them at a high rate. Who, then, would be willing to sell his ship? Besides, the foreign timber, is so much more substantial than ours, that it is always sought by our merchants for shipbuilding. For example, a spar for a mast, which abroad would not cost more than one or two hundred taels, at home costs more than three times that sum. The ships built by foreigners are also more strong than ours. When we use boards a few inches in width, they use whole timbers. And where our fastenings are a few inches, theirs are more than a foot long. Indeed, they would not accept one of our vessels as a present were it offered to them. How much less would they think of purchasing one at a high price!

In the provinces of Fuhkcên and Kwangtung, the rice is not abundant. In the former province the deficiency is very great, and nearly one half of the annual consumption is brought from Formosa, or from the neighboring provinces of Koängsoo and Chêkeäng. Previous to the embargo on our commerce with the Southern Archipelago, rice was constantly brought from Luçonia to Amoy. Our importations from abroad were of no inconsiderable amount; while foreigners have in no instance been dependent upon us for a livelihood. And the merchants, who are engaged in foreign trade, are men of property and respectability; how could they ever think of entangling themselves in the net of the law? The space occupied in one of their ships with a pecul of goods yields them a freight of four or five taels, which is far above the value of the rice required to fill the same space. Surely, then, no one can be so foolish as to disregard all profits, merely for the sake of transgressing the laws.

Nor have these vessels ever been taken and employed for piratical purposes. Those engaged in that traffic are mere coasters, which ply among the islands near the shore, seldom venturing out to sea.

more than eighty or a hundred miles. With their small craft the pirates can have no object in going out further than this. Besides, they would dread the strong gales, since they would have no place in which to take shelter. But the merchantmen, employed in the foreign trade, being very large, go straight out to sea thousands of miles, where no piratical vessel would venture to follow them, fearlessly encountering the winds and waves. If the pirates are prepared to commit depredations on the coast, there are many smaller merchant-vessels, belonging to Chêkeäng and Kwangtung, which they might easily capture. Why, then, seek to encounter the ships engaged in the foreign trade? And should one, in any case, chance to do so, the piratical vessel would find herself so inferior in size, that ladders would be required to board her; and in the piratical vessel the number of men does not exceed twenty or thirty; in the other, the number is never less than a hundred. It is useless to talk of their joining battle against such odds. The merchantman, getting to windward, might at once run down and sink the pirate. Where, then, is there any cause to fear that these vessels will be captured and employed for piratical purposes?

At the present time our august sovereign, sitting securely on his throne, beholds all nations reposing in tranquility, and all who have the breath of life dwelling together as one family. And is it only with the weak and submissive inhabitants of the Southern Archipelago that the prohibitions are to forbid our intercourse? If any minister, whether in the capital or in the provinces, is aware of these things, and fails to represent the case; where is his fidelity to his sovereign? His love to his country? His tender solicitude for those who come from afar? His regard for those about him? Or how does he seek to provide for the people of his own country? Though rude and unlearned, I deeply lament such a state of affairs as I have here portrayed.

Note. The preceding paper was written in 1724, the second year of the reign of Yungching. The embargo was repealed in 1727. The phrase 'allowed to trade freely' might be translated 'allowed a free trade;' and of such a trade Lubchow seems to have been the advocate, as multitudes of his countrymen now are. In his enumeration of the names of foreign countries, the ideas of the writer are confused; in some instances he seems to have used *Seyäng* and *Tepchoo-keon* as synonymous terms. The work from which the essay is taken is comprised in 20 volumes, 12mo., and contains a collection of about 220 miscellaneous papers, chiefly respecting commercial, literary, political, and moral subjects.

ART. II. *Remarks on the euphorbiaceous plants: general characteristics, with a description of the stillingia sebifera, acahypha indica, and the jatropa curcas.* By G. Tradescant Lay.

IN submitting a few botanical remarks to the readers of the Repository, it seems advisable to regard the subjects of study as associated