

13; of the third, 219; and of the fourth, 500. The present circulation in China is 200 copies; in Manila, 15; in Sandwich Islands, 13; in Singapore, 18; in Malacca, 6; in Penang, 6; in Batavia, 21; in Siam, 4; in Sydney, New South Wales, 6; in Burnah, 3; in Bengal, Nipal, and A'sam, 7; in Ceylon, 2; in Bombay, 11; in Cape Town, South Africa, 4; in Hamburg, 5; in England, 40; in America, 154 copies; this gives a total of 515 now sent out from the office monthly; about one fifth of these, however, are sent gratuitously to public Institutions, Journals, &c.

Hereafter, as hitherto, so long as it shall be our duty to conduct the Repository, we will endeavor to lay before our readers, from month to month, the most valuable information we can collect. In the course of our work, we have already noticed a great variety of subjects, but have exhausted none: while a multitude, and many of them of great importance, remain wholly untouched. A great deal more information, and that which is more definite, showing more accurately and minutely what the Chinese government and people are in every respect, is greatly needed, especially at the present time when the nations of Christendom are *beginning* to think on their relations with this empire. We hope the Repository, in due time, will embody all the most important narratives and facts, worthy of being placed on record, respecting the jurisprudence of the Chinese, their systems of education, domestic habits, social intercourse, public and private manners, religious and superstitious rites, history, arts, &c. Surely the time must come, soon we hope, when, the condition of this empire and the character and wants of its inhabitants being much more accurately known than they now are, the nations of Christendom, banded together to keep the peace of the world, each preferring each in honor, and all acting in regard to all on the golden rule—will rise in that true simplicity and dignity which ought to characterize the children of the King of kings, and strive together to elevate the Chinese to a high rank in the great family circle of enlightened and friendly nations.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing, new demands have been received for the Repository, not only for back volumes, but also for the present: these demands will increase the circulation to more than 800 copies, monthly.

ART. II. *Siamese History: notices continued, giving an account of the Siamese wars during the year 905 of their era, or the year 1535, A. D.* By a Correspondent.

SIAMESE ERA, 905. The king of Pegu remarked, 'formerly I marched to Siam with 30,000 men, and proceeded even to the vicinity of the city wall, to a place called Lampli, and nobody came forth to molest

me. But my forces were too small for a protracted siege: and if I go now with ten times the number, I shall then doubtless succeed in taking Siam.' With this design, he levied 300,000 troops, 700 elephants, 3,000 horses: gave his viceroy charge of the advance body: the governor of Prome was to command the right and left wings of the army; and the governor of Bassein, the rear. On Sunday, the 2d day of the waxing of the 3d moon, in the afternoon, the king being arrayed in all his insignia of military glory, mounted on a male war elephant, named the 'Earth Leveller,' caparisoned with royal magnificence, the army being all drawn up with the utmost order and precision, flags flying, and every thing in readiness, at a propitious moment, the head astrologer struck the mighty gong, whereupon, with all manner of powerful and delightful music, the march from Pegu was commenced, and vigorously continued for seven days, till they arrived at Muktana (Martaban) by way of Sami. At that time, a letter arrived at Kayachontapuri, saying that the guards had gained intelligence from Choiva, that the Peguan king had, by a march of seven days, reached Muktana and there remained.—The prince Maha Chakrapat caused all the families of Trichatwa and the surrounding regions to remove for safety to the city, and sent word to Pitsanulok that if the Peguan army should enter Siam, prince Thamma raja, should collect all the forces of the north, and intercept them. He then ordered Phaya Chakri to pitch a camp at Sumpi with 15,000 men, wearing red jackets and red caps. The dragon prince (Phaya Nakh) was then a priest in the wat which is called the golden mountain. He left the priesthood and erected fortifications for the protection of the flotilla, extending from the wat of the golden mountain to the wat of the jungle Pim. All the people begged him to dig a trench outside of the works for the further protection of the boats. This was hence called the canal of the dragon prince (Phaya Nakh). The nobleman Mahasenā raised fortifications with 10,000 men at Badokmai, (or the village of flowers,) having a thick battlement in front. His men wore green jackets and caps. The Phraklang, having 10,000 troops, established himself at Champa. His men were arrayed in black jackets and black caps. All manner of preparations were made with great vigor. The king of Pegu passing Kayachontapuri, marched towards Siam, and on Saturday the 5th of the waxing of the 4th moon, pitched the first division of his army at Kumduang. The division under the viceroy at Phaniat: that under the governor of Prome at a new town called Mekhamyong: that under the governor of Bassein in the plains of Braehhet.

On the Sunday morning, the 6th of the waxing moon 4th month, prince Maha Chakrapat designed to march out and try the strength of the enemy on the plains of the golden mountain. He, therefore, together with his queen, arrayed in the habiliments of war, and two generals Ramesawan and Mahinto raja, mounted their respective elephants, and at a propitious moment, as notified by the royal astrologer, the gongs, drums, and trumpets made the welkin resound, as a signal for marching: whereupon the king commenced his movements,

taking with him his two sons. The elephants rushed on with fury bearing each a man armed with a musket mounted on his neck, while the foot soldiers marched on with swords, shields, spears, and guns, in rear and front, on both the right and left. The trampling of men and elephants made a noise like an earthquake. They continued their march to Kokphayá. When the Peguans saw this, they conveyed intelligence of all to their sovereign. He replied, 'without doubt, it must be Mahá Chakrapat coming forth to have an elephant fight;' and he ordered his men to set themselves in array. Then mounting his elephant, with 10,000 men armed with swords, in company with the governor of Prome, with 1,500 men armed with swords in each hand, he marched forth into the midst of the plain fronting the Siamese army, at the distance of 100 *sen*. While he was waiting for some happy omen, he ordered his men to engage in all manner of boisterous sports and dancing. The king gazed and saw the sun blazing without cloud or mist in the sky; regarding this as a favorable omen, he rode his elephant in front of his army, and caused the drums to beat, the trumpets to be blown, &c., with deafening noise, directing his forces to make a furious onset upon the army of Mahá Chakrapat, who ordered his men to open to the right and left, rush forward with boisterous shouts, pursue, transfix, cut, slash in every direction, till they plunged forward as though leaping through the sky. On both sides many fell dead, and others rolling in the anguish of their wounds till they almost filled the plain. Mahá Chakrapat pushed forwards his elephant so furiously that his life was seriously endangered. His queen, seeing this, hastened to rescue him, when the governor of Prome rushed forward, and with his royal sword made a gash in the queen's shoulder, passing down to her breast, and she died upon the neck of her elephant. Rámesawan and Mahinterát advanced to receive the corpse of their royal mother, and bore it away to the city. The Siamese perished in great numbers. The king removed his queen's relics to the royal gardens.

The next morning, the Peguan viceroy attacked Sinton Songkram's fort: its garrison resisted from morning till night, but when the Peguans were reinforced, it was compelled to yield with great loss. The next morning, the king of Pegu mounted on an elephant painted red, marched his army into the fields of Sumpli, ordering his foot soldiers to march behind the clumps of trees on both side of the plain. Here halting his elephant, he pointed with his finger towards the entrenchments of Phayá Chakri, requiring his cavalry, to the amount of 500, to advance upon it. Phayá Chakri came forth to the contest. When the Peguan army behind the trees, beheld this, they rushed forth, and slew on every side, pursuing the Siamese close to the fort, and occasioning dreadful carnage: Phayá Chakri and his remaining forces fled across the country to the capital, and the Peguans took his camp, and returned to the king's division, four-fifths of the cavalry bearing each a head of the enemy. The king had building erected, in which he gave a feast to all who brought heads for three days, during which, those who brought none were to remain

beneath and have all the water in which the others washed, poured down upon them.

The Siamese determined to convey heavy ordinance in boats, and batter down the Peguan forts; the effects of which were such that the Peguans fled to Phutlau, where they remained three days. Thence they proceeded by the three sacred Banyau trees, to Phaniat, at the wat of three palaces. While Phayá Ram was firing a heavy gun to dislodge the Peguans, the reaction of the gun upset his vessel, but the shot broke off an immense limb of a tree which fell near his majesty's person; and the inmates of a fort, called Maháchai, assailed the Peguans so actively that they failed in every attempt to gain the capital, and the king fled to his tents. When news of the Peguan monarch's advance towards Siaynthia reached Thammarat (governor of Pitsamulok), he collected an army of 50,000 men from Pitsamulok, Sawankhalok, Sukhotai, Pichai, and Pichit, and marched to Chaivanatpuri, where he built forts, and sent messengers to obtain news from Singapurí.* These messengers, when they saw the multitudes of the Peguan army, fled but were pursued, two men taken, and brought to the Peguan king, who smiled at the intelligence they brought, ordered their heads to be shaved, and then sent back to their master, with the message that, if they were coming to intercept the Peguans, the Peguans would wait to receive them, if they were not coming, the Peguans would go in pursuit of them. At this news, Thammarat, inquired, how large the Peguan army was? The messenger replied, they saw only the exterior encampment, but it seemed large enough to fill the plains of Phutlau. The Siamese governor after complaining of the difficulty of getting intelligence in war that might be depended upon, was assured by all his officers, that the Peguan monarch was famous for his strict adherence to truth; still, for greater security, he dispatched the forces of Sawankhalok and Sukhotai, amounting to 20,000 men, to Indopuri, there to make observations.

On Tuesday, the third of the waning of the 4th moon, the Peguan viceroy by royal order, very early in the morning, attacked the fort of Mahásena, whose men resisted most valiantly. The viceroy was very angry that the fort was not immediately taken, and riding up in front of the fort, distant about three *sen*, he proclaimed to his officers, that if they did not take the fort, at once, he would cut off all their heads, and hang them as ensigns. Being thus intimidated, they rushed forward *en masse*, and carried the fort with serious carnage: but Mahásena and his forces fled by a canal, and reached wat-mayeng with great loss of men. The viceroy returned, and told the king all he had done. At the time, they began to be in great want of provisions, foraging parties were sent out, but returned without success, and the Peguans began to think of retreating. They could hope for the procuring of no food in returning by the way they came, for they had destroyed every thing as they passed along: "besides," says the king, "I have sent word that if Tammarat does not come down, I will go up and

* This is said, by the Siamese, to be the name of a place on the north east of Ayuthiya.

attack him: he has plenty of provisions and his army must give way before us at the first onset, and his provisions will fall into our hands." The people praised his decision as the wisest possible. He expected, that as he proceeded to attack Thammarát, Mahá Chakrapat would pursue him in the rear, and that he would therefore have two armies to contend with. He therefore collected detachments belonging to Bassein, Lakeung, Siriam, Toungú, and Sittoung, of each 30,000, in all 150,000; appointed the governor of Prome commander, and ordered him, if he met the forces of Thammarát to attack and rout them at once. If he let them escape for one night, the heads of all the officers of the detachment would be taken instead of those of the expected captives. The Peguan viceroy was appointed to command the forces that remained, and if the Siamese forces should assail them in the rear, the viceroy must employ some stratagem to seize more or less of their officers and bring them to the king of Pegu on penalty of life. Every arrangement was then made for withdrawing from the Siamese territories, within three days.

When the Siamese monarch heard that Phayá Thammarát, had collected his forces, sent 20,000 to Indapuri, and was himself at Chaiyanátpuri with 50,000, he was delighted with the intelligence, supposing that the enemy were now fairly hemmed in by him, and had no way of escape, except by flight to Káyachontapuri. Sánton Songkram maintained that his Peguan majesty was too able, skilful, and had too strong an army for such a measure, inasmuch as in his advances he had destroyed all the provisions of that province. Hence he inferred he would proceed, attack Phayá Thammarát and seize his provisions. The king of Siam differed in his opinion, and ordered Sánton Songkram to take 5000 men and waylay the Peguans on the road to Káyachontapuri. Notwithstanding, lest the suggestion might prove true, his majesty ordered his two sons Rámesawan and Mahiinterát to pursue the Peguan army towards Chaiyanat. Both these sons were taken and conveyed to the Peguan camp. When their father received intelligence of it, he was greatly dispirited, but framed a fulsome and yet a supplicating address to the Peguan monarch, and begged him to restore his children. He released them, and sent them back to their father to request that their father would give him a couple of royal male elephants. They returned and told their father that their offense in suffering themselves to be taken deserved death, but begged he would pardon them once. He graciously forgave them. They then mentioned the Peguan monarch's request, which after some demur was granted, but the Peguans and Burmans could not manage the elephants, which occasioned serious disturbances throughout the camp, and were therefore returned. The Peguan forces were then withdrawn and returned home by way of Kampengpet. The king of Siam then established the cities, Sákhou, Noutapuri and Nakhonchhaisi, and threw down the walls of Lóppuri, Ná-yok, and Phannapuri. Here end the occurrences of this year.

ART. III. *Military skill and power of the Chinese: actual state of the soldiery, forts, and arms; description of the forts on the river of Canton; army and navy of China; modes of warfare: offensive and defensive arms, &c. &c.* From a Correspondent.

THERE is, probably, at the present day no more infallible a criterion of the civilization and advancement of societies than the proficiency which each has attained in "the murderous art," the perfection and variety of their implements for mutual destruction, and the skill with which they have learned to use them. Paradoxical as may appear the assertion that this very perfection and systematic simplification of wholesale murder has a direct effect in humanising mankind, by bringing all to one level and by reducing war to a mere calculation, it is a fact now well understood; and of which history proves the truth. The most deadly warfare has ever been that of man to man, when fighting hand to hand, where the personal strength and skill of each individual was drawn out, and each fought personally for victory, and his life. As civilization advanced, and war grew into a science, individual valor became less prized; and discipline became the object of the commander, who relied on his own skill, in the direction of large masses on certain points, as the means of victory. The introduction of firearms, and the consequent relinquishment of defensive armor, became the next grand step; and the world has, in latter times, seen kingdoms won and lost with not so much effusion of blood as formerly would have but satisfied the commander of a moderate sized army in a single battle. The object, in civilized countries, has now become that of incapacitating and disorganizing the opposing power, in lieu of the old plan of measuring the 'glory' by the number of the slaughtered; and it is by no means problematical that, some few years hence, the science and implements of war will be so perfected as to make the game far too dreadful for even kings to play at; as utter extermination would result to both parties engaging. The recent improvement of steam, and its adaptation to the purposes of war, as in steam-ships steam-guns, and the invention of Mr. Topli's dreadful *pacificator* (of which we see a French *double* is announced, and which propels a stream of balls to a radius extent of near two miles,—the first idea or invention of which may probably be given to the first baron Napier or the marquis of Worcester), with the still greater improvements that we may reasonably look for in a few years, will, we have no doubt, help to bring about what all the lessons of the sage, the treatises of the moralist and the legislator, have tried in vain to effect—the blessing of universal peace; when, indeed, the sword shall be turned into a ploughshare, and the falchion into the scythe.

If these views are correct, and we believe them to be so, and if this principle is admitted: the celestial empire will be found in the