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[17s. 6d. sent by Mail

CHINA.

CHINA AND JAPAN.—In a late number of the London Shipping Gazette, we find an account of the Population, Commerce, &c. of China and Japan, by R. Montgomery Martin, from which we make the following extracts, which are particularly interesting at this time.

The empire of China, with which we desire to form an amicable and commercial intercourse, is estimated at 2000 miles long by 15000 broad, and containing on an area of 1,238,000 square miles every variety of climate between the 15 and 41st degree of North latitude. The sea coast is, of great extent, and the country possesses, in addition to its rich alluvial plains and complete inland navigation the advantage of numerous fine rivers, lakes, bays, harbours, and creeks, with habitable islands of various size, skirting nearly the whole maritime frontier.

The population of this immense territory are in a peculiar degree an agricultural manufacturing, and commercial people, with a fixed and hereditary government, based on simple but effective principles, for merging the interest of the individual in that of the body politic—a people unfettered by the prejudice of caste, advanced to a considerable extent in literature, art, and science, and adapted for receiving the civilizing and Christian influence of Britain.

The following is stated to have been the progressive increase of the inhabitants of China since the commencement of the fourteenth century.—A. D. 1300, population 60,546,811 (authorities—Kung-keen-echu) 1743, population 157,391,755 (Amoy-Pikei documents) 1752, population 198,214,533 (Grosier and Pekin documents) 1792, population 397,467,300 (Anglo-Chinese College Report) 1813, population 361,693,879 (census taken in the 13th year of Keeking, including the population of Tartary and the dependent provinces).

The justly celebrated Dr. Morrison quotes, with approbation and conviction of its veracity, the census of the provinces of China from an official work, called the Taising, published by authority in 1825 which tabe gives the population at 352,866,012, or to each square mile of territory 288, which is the same rateable proportion to the square miles as in England.

The products and exports of China are various and valuable, including teas, sugar, silk (raw and manufactured) spices, drugs, dyes, porcelain, metals, &c. The principal article is tea, which, although only introduced into Europe at the commencement of the seventeenth century (A. D. to 1610), now requires about sixty million pounds per annum to supply the increasing demand of Europe and America.

1660, A. D.; our East India Company received their first invoice of tea amounting to two caskets, containing 1431-2lb. In 1678 they imported 4,713lb; but this quantity so glutted the market that the imports of tea during the ensuing six years amounted in all to only 318lb. But in the space of one hundred years, viz. from 1719 to 1810, the East India Company sales of tea amounted to 750,215,019lb, the value of which was 129,804,596lb sterling. From the commencement of the present century to the year 1830, the tea sold by the East India Company amounted to nine hundred million pounds weight, and the revenue paid to the British Exchequer on this tea was 104,866,581, sterling. This extraordinary branch of trade in an insular, aromatic leaf grown on the mountains of a distant continent, employing about 4,000,000, English capital, and yielding 3,000,000, annually to the English treasury, is still capable of great extension.

Europe received from China various branches of art and science. The mariner's compass, the calculation of eclipses, printing, gunpowder, the smelting and combination of metals, the weaving of cotton and silk, the sugar, &c. &c. have all been known from time immemorial to the Chinese.

The Chinese carry on a considerable traffic by means of the coasting trade, for which purpose no less than 222 junks, or vessels, are employed.

In the year 700 A. D. Canton was first made a regular commercial port of the Chinese empire; and in the year 1400 A. D. the Chinese compelled foreigners to bring tribute every third year to Canton, where 120 houses were built for their accommodation. The Portuguese, Spanish and Dutch carried on a lucrative trade with China at different ports along the coast of Canton, Amoy, Macao, Ningpo and Chusan, during the sixteenth century. In 1658 the Portuguese, after their expulsion from Ningpo and Chinghai, made Macao their permanent residence, after having had temporary abodes on the island for 20 years. They pay at the beginning of every year a ground rent of 50 taels of silver to the Chinese treasurer at Canton, for which a receipt is duly furnished. England turned her attention to China at the beginning of the seventeenth century; in 1670 the English East India Company had a factory on the island of Pormosa, and carried on a considerable trade in those seas, particularly with the

adjacent Chinese province of Fokien. In 1670, A. D. they had a factory at Amoy, from which they retired in 1680, on the contest between the Matchou Tartars and the Chinese for the imperial throne; but 1684 the English were permitted to return to their factory at Amoy, and they remained there until 1757, A. D., when the foreign commerce of China became restricted to Canton and Macao. In 1700 the English had a factory at Chusan, and in 1703 at Palo Candore. The Dutch endeavored to expel the Portuguese from Macao in 1622 but failed, and then proceeded to Pormosa, on which latter island they formed a factory in 1624, and remained there until 1661, when a pirate (Coxinga) expelled them.

The unjustifiable and sanguinary contests which the European nations so long waged against each other on the coasts of China, compelled the Chinese government to restrict them all to the port of Canton where of late years the whole foreign commerce of the country has been conducted. Colonel Burrey states that there are 440,000 Chinese in Siam; and in Bangkok, the capital, more than 80,000. Their numbers are ascertained by the imposition of a capitation tax on every male Chinese. Forty thousand tons of Chinese shipping annually visit the ports of Siam. In the Malay states there are 20,000 Chinese employed in the smelting of metals, &c. Batavia the capital of Java, may be said to owe its creation to the agricultural industry and mechanical skill of the vast number of Chinese who have been long settled in the island. At Singapore, Penang, Malacca, and throughout all the islands of the Eastern Archipelago, Chinese settlers and Chinese junks are to be found engaged in a valuable commerce.

It may be necessary to advert briefly to another country with which we should endeavor to open a trade, for British manufacture, namely, Japan, which consists chiefly of three islands (separated from each other by narrow straits) extending about 1000 miles in length, with a breadth varying from 50 to 100, and in some places 200 miles. The country is bold and striking, with rich valleys and extended and well watered plains. The coast is indented with deep bays and secure havens. The islands are of volcanic origin; gold, silver and copper mines abound; and iron, coal, sulphur, cinnamon, (the ore of mercury) &c., are found in different districts. The vegetable productions are numerous and valuable. The population is estimated at 20,000,000, who rank with the most wealthy and industrious nations of the East, and who seem to have attained a higher degree of civilization than the Chinese, before whom they rank in physical energy, independence of mind, a lofty sentiment of honor, and an eager desire to become acquainted with foreign objects of interest, either in art or science. The Japanese are entirely independent of the Chinese, with whom they carry on but a small amount of trade. The Dutch are allowed to resort to the port of Nangasaki, where they dispose of their annual cargoes in a legitimate manner, conformable to the rules of the Japanese government, but they also, it is said, carry on a considerable contraband trade. The Portuguese had, during the early part of the seventeenth century, a strong footing in Japan, and it is said, converted 180,000 families to Christianity. But their proselytizing zeal outran their discretion; they conspired to raise an army of 50,000 converted Japanese to depose the Emperor, in which attempt they were finally defeated, and it is said that 300,000 reputed Christians were slain by the Japanese government with the most barbarous tortures—the Portuguese were utterly and forever expelled from Japan. At this period the English and Dutch had factories on the small island called Firando, very close to the shore of one of the larger islands, with which an advantageous trade was conducted. The Dutch, with the view of expelling the English, informed the Japanese government that the English were Christians like the Portuguese, as evinced by the cross in their flag—that the King of England had recently married the King of Portugal's sister, and that the English were intriguing to re-introduce the Portuguese into Japan. Alarmed at this intelligence, the Japanese government, when the English shipping arrived A. D. 1664, ordered their European cargoes to be taken off their hands as before, and return Japan cargoes to be provided as usual, and the people to be civilly treated, but at the same time to be informed that they must quit Japan under pain of death, and not return again to trade with the Japanese, whose commerce was henceforth restricted to the Dutch, and who have ever since fully excluded every other European nation from intercourse with Japan. There can be no doubt that it would be of great importance if we had a direct intercourse with Japan.

The adjacent peninsula of Corea is about 400 miles long by 150 broad, inhabited by tall, handsome, and brave people, who treat the English with marked courtesy. The Coreans pay a small annual tribute to the Chinese, but are otherwise independent of its government; and by fair dealing and prudent conduct we may be able to open a trade with an interesting, peaceful, and intelligent people.

Siam, and the adjacent countries and islands, contain several millions of an industrious population, whose territories abound in agricultural and mineral wealth, affording a profitable exchange of British manufactures. The sugar of Siam is cheap and plentiful; silks, spices, gums, dye stuffs, tin, and copper, everywhere abound, and gold, and silver is furnished from mines and rivers in large quantities, and employed as current coin, and for the purchase of commodities. There is a Portuguese consul at Bangkok, the capital of Siam; but England, during the past century, seems entirely to have neglected this and other equally wealthy portions of the globe.

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EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

[From William & Smith's European Times]

London Jan. 4

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

As regards business for the present, and prospects for the future, the year 1842 closed auspiciously. A more buoyant feeling now prevails the whole community, and the new year opens up a new most flattering picture, more so, indeed, than any for years past. The darkest hour is the precursor of the dawn; we seem to have passed the nadir, and to perceive glimpses of the other. Why should it be otherwise? The war in Afghanistan is at an end; that in China has terminated opportunely; a new commercial treaty with Spain is on the tapis; and better than all, our own commercial restrictions promise to be speedily relaxed, if not entirely abolished. All this is cheering, and must produce beneficial results. Money is abundant, and only wants safe channels for investment. The cotton crop of last year is believed in this country to have been abundant beyond any previous year, and little doubt is entertained that congress, either during the present or the next session, will soften the harshest features of the new tariff.

The unsuccess which prevailed amongst commercial men respecting the treaty with Brazil, has been removed, according to rumor, by the mission of Mr. Ellis to that country, though the result of his negotiations is perhaps better known throughout America than it is here. On that, then, that has induced the Brazilian government to view the present treaty in the same light as the British government—namely, that it terminated in 1844, and not, as they contended, in 1842; that the basis of a new treaty has been arranged by the admission of Brazilian sugar at 30s per cwt. being a differential duty of 14s in favour of British plantation sugar, which will then come in at 16s per cwt; and that this arrangement has been the effect of compulsion rather than choice, as the Brazilians had the pleasant alternative of adopting it, or of fighting Great Britain!

It is generally believed that the late revolt in Barcelona will forward, rather than retard, the completion of the treaty with England, and while the Catalonians will have to give, as we have seen, they have braved danger and even death—the Regent will derive a considerable revenue from a moderate people of duties on English fabrics, more especially cottons. This will put an end to the smuggling, now so extensively carried on across the frontier, and replenish the coffers of the state. If the treaty possessed no other advantage, the lazar would have sufficient charms in the eyes of the Emperor to ensure its adoption.

The cotton trade has partaken of the Imperial feeling which exists. The average weekly consumption, during the year, through-out Great Britain, has been 92,315 bags, of which 17,178 have been American. The imports show an increase of 111,000 American during the year, as compared with the preceding year, while the stock is estimated at an increase of 25,000 bags. The new cotton crop is reaching this port in large quantities from New Orleans, Mobile, Charleston, Savannah and New York; and the belief is general that it will reach two millions or two millions and a quarter of bales, which may be expected to reach this country. The prostrate condition of the cotton trade in the manufacturing districts of late has kept the price of the raw material very low, but it has now reached its minimum, and it is probable, and in security to its opponent. The "Slasher" and better rates may speedily be looked for. We refer our readers for additional information respecting the current prices to another column.

The Money Market continues firm, while in shares there has been an improvement in the established, and a retrograde movement in the speculative lines. The term of the Canadian loan bears a premium of 1 to 134 per cent., with the certainty of increase. Brought us in a case of daily occurrence, and it will be absorbed at prices that will afford an excellent profit to the contractors.

The wheat crop is coming up beautiful every where, and looks more promising than has done at the same season for years.

Sir Robert and Lady Sale are to have £500, with benefit of survivorship, for services in India.

A new carbine has been invented, which throws a ball 600 yards, or a distance which it was formerly supposed a cannon could not reach.

The will of John Reeve (the English comedian, well known in America) was recently proved in the Prerogative Court, and the property sworn to be under £4,000 which is equally divided between his son and two daughters.

Certain proceedings in Chancery connected with the affairs of the late Marquis of Hertford, in Mr. John Wilson broker, editor of the Quarterly Review, Suisse, marquis's valet, and 2 or 3 females figure, have excited a good deal of attention. The late marquis's private habits were strikingly developed on the trial before Lord Abinger, a few months back, when Suisse was arraigned and acquitted on a charge of fraud, but the Chancery affidavits disclose an amount of profligacy on the part of the peer even when on the verge of the grave, that was previously unknown, and that has rarely if ever, been excelled in modern times. The "ladies," and more particularly one of them, yelet Flora Petit James, states that she was in the habit of "visiting," the marquis from December, 1841, to his death in March, 1842, and that he allowed her \$100 a fortnight, but to another lady named Henrietta D'Ambre, he had allowed \$300 a fortnight? In fact the marquis's household cost, according to Suisse, somewhere about \$130,000 per annum. One of his favorites,—a daughter of Flora Petit James, who had lived with the marquis since the age of 16,—states in her affidavit that her expenditure amounted to £70,000 or £8,000 a year. Mr. broker has been blamed, with reason, for the part which he has played in these disgraceful transactions. He certainly refused to ride out, or be seen in public with his patron's "ladies," but he was not above dining with them in private.

A story is current of Mr. Dickens having gone a few days ago, to Stratford-on-Avon, (the birth-place of Shakespeare) with a letter of introduction to the mayor, which he sent from the inn where he was stopping. The mayor is a banker, and has less acquaintance with literature than with Cocker. He was ignorant of such a person as Dickens. The cashier told him it was "Baz." "And who is Baz?" said his worship. Go tell him if he wants to deposit he can send it by you, and if he wants to draw he must come himself!" The cashier delivered the message to the no small amusement of the author. It would be difficult to find the humblest "help" in the United States displaying the ignorance of the chief magistrate of Shakespeare's birth-place. But the joke is not less rich on that account.

A fire occurred on the 14th ult., in a lodging-house, Goodman's Fields, London, kept by a soap boiler named Cook. There were 25 lodgers, and out of that number eight were burned to death! Amongst the sufferers were a poor widow, named Holland, and 3 of her daughters a fourth having escaped by jumping from the attic window; her skull was fractured, but she is recovering. The other sufferers were children between the ages of 7 and 4,—3 boys and 3 girls.

Fight between the "American Giant" and Tipton Slasher.—Freeman, who is known in this country by the sobriquet of the "American giant," is upwards of seven feet in height, 18 stone weight, and 23 years of age; has been pitted in a boxing match against "Tipton Slasher," a powerful man also, and who claims to be the champion of England. The first time the belligerents met, Freeman had the advantage, but night terminated the sport without deciding the battle. They met again on the 15th ult., but owing to the interference of the magistrates and the police, the object was frustrated. They met again on the 20th, near Gravesend, on the Thames, about twenty miles below London, whether they proceeded in a steam boat, hired for the occasion, accompanied by about 400 of the "fancy," each of whom paid two dollars and a half for the passage. Freeman, the American, was attended by Tom Spring, who acted as his second, and the "Tipton Slasher" by John Broome, who officiated for his friend in a similar capacity. They fought thirty-seven rounds in thirty-nine minutes. Freeman, who was superior in height in muscular power, and in activity to his opponent. The "Slasher" often dropped down to avoid the American's blows, and, indeed, the fight was prematurely brought to a conclusion by one of these ingenious feints on his part to avoid punishment. The referee, when appealed to, pronounced it *find*, and the stakes, amounting to about £200, were given up to Freeman. The punishment on either side was not severe. A popular sporting paper has the following remarks on the issue:—

The match was unequal, and the difference in the size of the men left no room for speculation on the issue. Every body foresaw that the giant must be triumphant, notwithstanding he fought badly; in fact, he did not hit at points, and missed most of his well intentioned, but ill-directed blows, from

the shifty character of his opponent, as well as from his own wild and uncertain mode of delivery. He hit round with his right, as the "Slasher's" ear testified, and his left-handed deliveries are more like pokes than pushed hits. That he is a game man, we have no doubt, but he is too unwieldy, and possessed too much of the "milk of human kindness" ever to become a "star" in the ring, even if his equal could be found. It may be observed that this fight has caused great interests throughout the country, and that it will go a long way to revive a barbarous—and during the last twenty years, almost obsolete "sport."

A curious love affair, arising out of an action for defamation of character, has recently been brought to light at Bristol. The parties are a middle-aged widow, rejoicing in the euphonic cognomen of Mrs. Prudence Payne, and a person named Rowley, straw-hat manufacturer—a married man, with grown up daughters, whom, with their mother, were on visiting terms with Mrs. Prudence Payne. The letters which passed between Rowley and Mrs. Payne, breathe the most fervid, the most intense love for each other, and contain a strange mixture of religious and amorous rhodomontade; the more singular, as both parties had arrived at a time of life when—"The passions wait upon the judgment." It does not appear that any criminal intercourse existed between Mrs. Prudence Payne, and her somewhat ancient innamorato.

Two sailors were one day sitting on the gunwale of the ship, drinking grog, when one said to the other, "this is meat and drink, Jack," he happened at that moment to fall overboard, when his facetious companion coolly said, "and now you're get washing and lodging, Tom."

If you don't accept my challenge," said one gentleman of honor to another, I will execute you—so take your choice. "Go ahead," said the other; "I had rather fill 6 gazettes than one coffin."

The Scotch Convocation.—Additional adherents to the resolutions of the Convocation are daily coming in. The number of ministers who had declared their concurrence in the first series of resolutions, up to Saturday last, was 456, and of those who had given their adhesion to the second series, 420.—Witness.

COMMUNICATION

For the Standard.

Mr. Editor,

It is generally believed that the Epact is the Moon's Age on the first of January or rather the first of March, thereby showing the excess of the common solar year above the lunar.

It was near Moon on the last day of 1842—she was nine or ten hours old when 1843 began, the Epact therefore, would be nothing if but a few hours—By Robinsons Almanac the Epact is given 29 for this year! and by the said Almanac this Moon will be the oldest that ever has been since Joshua commanded the Israelites, Jos. 10 c. 12, 13 vs. She fulfills by said Almanac 16d. 3h. 48m. this would make her lunation to contain 31. 01 days! The Encyclopedia Britannica Vol. 2 gives the mean length of a lunation 29.53 days—but in countries where every thing is new & progressing and prying into futurity, it may not be thought strange to have this Moon protracted beyond the proper time, perhaps the Editor of the said Almanac has gotten a lesson from Mr. Miller on the "signes of the times."

I am of opinion that Robinsons Almanac is wrong in giving the Epact 29 for this year—by calculation the Epact for the year is nothing, by the English Prayer-Book it is nothing—the Moon herself shews it nothing but a few hours. How then can Mr. Robinson make it 29! is a paradox at least, to me worthy of attention. Had he made the Epact there would have been some apology for him—for the Moon by newing on the last day of 1842 gave nearly ten hours, the difference of time between Greenwich and Hallowell is 4h. 39m. 12s. these would have given him nearly fourteen hours, which is the greater part of an Astronomical day.

I do not mention this in order to depreciate Robinsons Almanac or himself, besides I wish to verify the old proverb, "say nothing of the absurd, else speak as a friend," indeed the nice Astronomical calculations, and the accurate chronological computations of the said Almanac (with the exception of the above) have often amused me in the long winter evenings and display in a superlative degree the genius and erudition of the Editor, whose minute observations of the heavenly bodies the sun, moon, planets and principal fixed stars are worthy of admiration. Perhaps Mr. Editor some kindly Astronomer will decipher the dilemma whether the Epact for this year be 29. 0. or 1, and by this means confer a favour on Sir—Yours,

Saml. Patricks, Jan. 17, 1843.

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