

months ago a set of more arrant poltroons did not exist than the soldiers of Burmah. No sooner did the shakos of our troops appear in sight, or a line of advancing bayonets flash in the sunshine, than they fired and fled. Prome was captured with the loss of one man, Pegu is taken with the loss of forty-five killed, and five wounded. The capture of Pegu has been a far more difficult affair than the re-capture of Prome. No sooner did the flotilla near the shore than it was fired into, and although the action commenced at seven o'clock on the morning of Sunday, the 23rd of November, yet it was not over until two in the afternoon. General Godwin, it is said, led on the attack in person, exposed to the burning rays of a fierce sun. The enemy, as soon as the British troops appeared in sight, opened at once a most destructive fire upon the advancing column, and maintained their position with the most determined bravery. So obstinate and prolonged was the resistance, that the Bengal Fusiliers were compelled to advance in the face of the enemy's fire and escalate the stockade, while the Madras Fusiliers, almost at the same moment, stormed the Pagoda, which finished the combat—the only skirmish worthy of the name since the capture of Rangoon.

"The general's despatches are, as usual, most elaborately stupid, and, if letters from the spot are to be credited, no little ingenuity is displayed in their manufacture. There is nothing mentioned about the 5th of Madras N.I., having turned and fled so panic-stricken, that the European officers were

compelled to arrest their flight with their naked swords, and one officer was obliged to cut down a havildar of his company who refused to halt in his disgraceful flight. There was also a further confusion amongst another branch of the service—the Artillery. One of our guns was spiked, in the belief that it belonged to the enemy, a mistake which is somewhat difficult to be accounted for, considering the position of the batteries.

"These accounts are written by men on the spot and bearing commissions, yet General Godwin considers such little incidents quite unimportant. As usual he tells us that all behaved with great steadiness and gallantry, and the Governor-General expresses himself highly satisfied with every thing and every body from the general to the pioneer.

CHINA.

Our advices from Hong Kong are to the 28th of November.

The mortality in the garrison during the five weeks ending 27th November, is three, against seven within the same period last year. The sick list has also been reduced during the month from eighty-five to seventy-nine, while at the end of November, 1851 and 1850, the numbers stood respectively as high as 138 and 236.

During the past week, the various military establishments have undergone a minute inspection by his Excellency Major-General Jervis, accompanied by his staff.

His first visit was to the hospital, at noon, on Friday, Nov. 12; with the economy of which, under Dr. MacAndrew's supervision, he

expressed himself highly satisfied. The same afternoon he inspected the barracks of the Royal Artillery and Gun Lascars, under Lieut.-Colonel Griffin, and of the Sappers and Miners, under Captain Broughton; and in the evening reviewed the men of these corps, and was much pleased at the manner in which they performed their evolutions.

On the forenoon of Saturday he visited the barracks of the 59th, their school-room, &c., and in the evening reviewed 400 of them under Major Graham, when he took occasion to compliment the regiment on its efficiency. The improved condition and discipline of this body of men struck every one who has been wont to attend such inspections.

On Monday the Ceylon Rifles, under Lieut.-Colonel Simmonds, closed the inspection, and the precision of their manœuvres was justly commended.

Altogether his Excellency expressed himself highly gratified with the state of the garrison, 970 men in all; out of which number only eight were in confinement for misconduct, their offences being of no very heinous description.

As the weather is now becoming comparatively cool, we should be glad to see the troops enjoying a little out-door exercise with the fire-engines, evincing the ability of the British soldier to save as well as to destroy.—*China Mail*.

The gossip about the rebellion is even more than usually meagre this month, being nearly all comprised in a report said to have been brought to Canton by an emissary of the insurgents, with a programme worthy of Astley's, where only it could be performed

“with triumphant success.” The scene opens, and discloses the rebels, whom it would be as easy for the play-bills as the emissary to set down at 80,000 men, commanded by eight generals, all of equal authority. Having safely entrenched their forces at King-chau Fu in Húpeh, on the Yang-tsz Kiang, they are deliberating whether to go on in full force down the Son of the Ocean to Ngán-hing and Nanking, or up to Ching-tú, the capital of Sz'-chuen, involving a march across Hú-peh (a province of some 70,000 square miles), intending to swallow up not only the Imperial forces, but the cities and other fortified places encountered in the way; which, no doubt, on the stage, would be considered as a happy device for providing a commissariat for such a host. But it is only on the stage that these difficulties could be overcome.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

We are credibly informed that a gentleman resident at Pietermaritzburg has engaged twelve Zulas for exhibition in England, under stipulations (sanctioned by the local government) for their return within two years. This is certainly the most remarkable “development of our resources” that has yet come under our notice.—*Natal Times*.

There can be no doubt that the present state of affairs in this Colony borders upon actual anarchy. The catalogue of events of the last four years fully proves it. The question consequently arising is, can either the Home Government or the people of this Colony have any real desire that such a state of things should continue much longer.