

pleased to approve of Mr. Joseph Augustus Henriques as Consul at Melbourne for the United States of America.

In the House of Commons, on the 16th instant, a petition was presented by Mr. R. Lowe, from 3,000 resident members of the Church of England and Ireland in the Colony of New South Wales and the diocese of Sydney, setting forth the state of the church in that Colony was a subject of great anxiety to the petitioners, doubts having been expressed respecting

the supremacy of Her Majesty as the head of the church of those Colonies. It had been proposed by the Bishop of Sydney that the church should be formed into three separate houses—viz., the bishop, the clergy, and the laity. The petitioners deprecated most earnestly this proposition, and prayed that in any alteration which might be made in the establishment, it should be provided that the bishop, clergy, and laity should deliberate together in one body.

INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

Bengal, Jan. 6; Madras, Jan. 10; Bombay, Jan. 13; Ceylon, Jan. 12; China (Hong Kong), Dec. 28.

Pegu is annexed, and will henceforth be a part of the British dominions in India. What is to come further, is at present uncertain. If his Burmese Majesty be content to submit to the mulct inflicted upon him, no more is to be done. If he be still stubborn, his punishment is to end in his total deprivation of territory; or, in the language of the *Englishman*, if the Lord of the White Elephant shall dispute our possession of Pegu, the paw of the British lion is to be again put forth. As that paper, moreover, argues very justly, whatever be the result of the future, whether peace or protracted war, Pegu must remain ours. We must keep it, not only for our own security and recompense, but we are bound thus to act in common justice to the inhabitants. To deliver them up to their former master would be to surrender the sheep to the tender mercies of the wolf.

As to the town of Pegu, respecting which some anxiety was naturally excited, all is well again, as was, in fact, to be surmised from the reports brought by the last mail. The water column of the expedition, thereby announced to be in motion, had to disembark about five miles below the place, and in making its way to the Pagoda, sustained the loss of four men killed and nearly twenty wounded, the enemy hovering on its flanks. After a day's rest, the force proceeded on a hunting expedition, the object of pursuit being neither the elephant nor any other of the ordinary animals of chase, but His Majesty of Ava's troops. These prudent persons were not, however, to be brought to action, as, at the sight of the British force, they, like Bob Acres, felt their valour oozing away through the palms of their hands. The hunting-party, having met with no sport, returned to Pegu at the end of three days; and on the day after its return, Colonel Sturt arrived with the portion of the

force under his command; but on Christmas-day they were again at Prome. The country which they traversed is described as quite a Christmas country; a vast prairie, covered with the most magnificent grass, and occupied by armies of fine cattle, rolling in fat. We hope that some of them were sacrificed to the appetites of our brave countrymen, who must have looked at them with a longing eye.

CHINA.

Our advices from Hong Kong are to the 27th of December.

From the reports which have reached us, we infer that Su, having been left to exercise his own discretion, has, by instilling a portion of his own energy into the officers who act under his orders, obtained more decided advantages over the "rebels" than any of the special commissioners deputed by the Court of Peking; and his threats against those who turn and flee are not mere empty words, for it is said that, as examples to others, he has caused several such cowards to be executed; one of them being a mandarin of the second class.

Whether it has been owing to such discipline we know not, but upwards of a month ago (Nov. 18th) he routed a band of the insurgents at Seung-tam, in Hunan, and took upwards of four hundred prisoners; amongst them the leader of the band and his counsellor.

Yeh, Su's successor in the Governor-Generalship, has also been successfully carrying out the plans of his predecessor in Kwang-tung, having captured "several tens of rebels" near the

Meuling Pass; and if the res^t have thereupon dispersed, the service is more important, as regards trade than Su's more brilliant achievements, for the Meuling Pass is the great gate of the traffic of the province. Of late there have certainly been fewer complaints of its being interrupted. Another less pleasing symptom of the imperial successes, is the great number of recent executions at Canton, some of the victims being persons of some consideration.

From another source we have intelligence which we suppose has reference to an earlier date than the events above recorded. According to it, "bodies of insurgents have approached within four leagues of Chang-sha Fu, the capital of Hu-nan, and established themselves in various positions calculated to intercept supplies, if the troops in the city itself cannot relieve themselves."

There was a report in Canton that the insurgents had environed Chang-sha, laying their plans so well that the garrison began to lose heart; and from the skill in strategy displayed, believed that some foreigners were in league with the insurgents. The people, though in some alarm about the fate of that city, still put confidence in Su's doing something, as a place in the Cabinet may reward his success.

The *Pekin Gazettes* of October 11 and 12, contain an account of the attack on Chang-sha Fu, to which we suppose the rumour prevailing last month of the capture of the city itself is to be attributed; but from the dates given, the event is to be placed prior to Su's success above reported, and may be another version of the above rumours. The account in the

Gazette is given as a joint despatch from Lo Yau-tien, Paa Ki-pau, and Loh Ping-chang, the last of whom is the Governor of Hunan, the second a Major-General, and the first a subordinate commissioner for affairs in that province. They report that about the 12th of September the insurgents came up against the city of Chang-sha Fu in many bands, and that Sai-shang-ah and Ching Liub-tsai sent forth bodies of troops to oppose them. The insurgents mined towards the south gate of the city, and the imperialists countermined from within the city, and saved the walls, besides destroying all the powder laid in the mine by the insurgents. A sortie was also made, which drove them from their post, killing 300 or 400 men; but the enemy gained some advantages elsewhere, which probably made up for this. On the 18th of September they commenced cannonading, and destroyed several fathoms of the city wall by shot, and then, say the memorialists, "the more these banditti came on the more there were of them, and they gradually came near in full force, trying to carry the city wall by one united onset; but our troops courageously shot their cannon and fire-arrows (rockets?) and threw down spars and stones upon them. When the danger was imminent, their excellencies Sai and Ching sent the Yun-nan contingent with other reinforcements, 900 men in all, and thus restored the success of the day, so that the bands were repulsed."

The *Court Circular* announced the eclipse of the sun the day before it took place, and ordered all officers to wear plain clothing on the occasion.

CEYLON.

December 18, 1852.—After the minutes of last meeting had been read, the Colonial Secretary rose and said, that, before proceeding to the business of the day, he would mention that, in accordance with the recommendation of the sub-committee on the electric telegraph, Government would lose no time in communicating with the authorities in India on the nature and extent of their plans, the probable cost of construction, and how far they might be disposed to aid the extension of the scheme to this island.

Inquiries would also be made as to the probable returns that might be yielded from a line in Ceylon, and he hoped the result would be, that at next meeting of Council Government would be able to come before them with a scheme for which their sanction, with grant of the necessary funds for construction, could be asked. (Hear, hear, from Mr. Armitage.)

The Salt Bill was then read a third time, and passed.

The Queen's Advocate brought up the report of the sub-committee on the Rules of Court Bill; and the hon. and learned gentleman having stated that there was nothing unconstitutional in such a course, the sub-committee was re-appointed, and empowered to take further evidence during the recess, so as to perfect their report.

The Governor then closed the session with the following address:—

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,—

I am happy, at the close of the present session, to be able to thank you in person for the attention which you have bestowed on the various measures that have

been laid before you, and brought to a successful termination.

I have the utmost confidence that the ordinances which you have passed, especially those for reform of the law, in the view of lessening expense and preventing delay, will be attended with great and lasting benefit to the community.

It will only remain next session to endeavour to perfect so far this law reform by the introduction of the rules proposed by the Judges of the Supreme Court, modified as may be deemed advisable for simplifying the proceedings of the inferior tribunals.

I regret that it has not been possible to effect this further reform during the present session.

VICTORIA.

The following are extracts from letters which have been written by persons who lately emigrated to their friends in England. The first letter is from a cabinet-maker, of Leeds, and appeared originally in the *Leeds Intelligencer*. It is dated from Geelong, of the 19th of September:—

“The amount of gold shipped from Victoria up to the present time is about sixty tons—a large amount at first sight, but, bear in mind, it is now above twelve

months since the commencement of the diggings, and during that time, to take a low number, there has been an average of 50,000 at the gold-fields. That would be short of thirty-six ounces each, not £120. Provisions during that time have been at an enormous rate. Cartage for a ton of goods seventy miles has been £140. Many of the fortunate diggers have got from £500 to £2,000. Look at these figures, and then you may be sure that a great many have done nothing at all. Such is the fact. I know some who have given up digging in disgust. Others keep trying, in hopes of turning up a prize; for digging is a decided lottery. There is no indication on the surface, and the veins in which most gold is found take such curious turns underground that it is an accidental discovery to come upon the precious metal. Many fortunate hands are bushmen and convicts (England's gracious gift!) who never having any notion of taking care of money, try to get rid of it as soon as they can, and in doing so ‘play such fantastic tricks before high heaven.’ Whether angels weep or not, I don't know; but certainly publicans laugh. These (publicans) are the men who are getting fortunes.

