

The viceroy and governor at Canton have been reprimanded by the emperor for their officiousness in raising once more the question of salaries for poor Peking officials. The appropriation on this account was stopped during the French imbroglio, and is now accumulating in the coffers of the board. The silk crop of Chekiang promised to be one of the best known; but fluctuations in temperature just at the time when the insects were being placed in the trays caused considerable damage. Notwithstanding this mishap, the average crop for Hu-chou Fu is estimated at 89 per cent. of a full one, and the Hang-chow market will open in ten days.

The North China Daily News is informed that the agents of the American ship, *Governor Robie*, of 1627 tons register, bound from New York to Shanghai with a cargo of 60,000 cases of kerosene oil, have received a telegram saying that she has been on shore in Gaspar straits. She jettisoned some 8000 cases and discharged about 13,000 cases there. The vessel has now reached Singapore, where she is discharging cargo so as to effect repairs.

The North China Daily News' Chefoo letter of May 12th says: It has just been reported that part of the "Pei Yang" fleet has occupied Port Hamilton. Should this be the case, though it does not adorn a tale it points a moral. It will afford another lesson how Orientals observe treaties, and will show how China and Japan mutually understand the clause of the Ito treaty with Li Hung-chang, that neither of these two empires was to militarily occupy any part of Korea. It may perhaps be a matter of indifference to China and Japan how they break faith with each other, but there are other powers who cannot witness such changes of dominion without it occurring to them whether they do not alter the *status quo* on which certain contingencies depend. The suzerainty of China over Corea is not such a lucid political verity as to be beyond discussion, so that China can afford to brave public opinion by insisting on it in spite of the dangerous precedent and spirit it lets loose, and it is to be hoped that the rumor is not founded on fact. The questions lately asked by Lord Sidmouth about Port Hamilton, and whether the government has taken steps to procure some other foothold in the North Chinese waters as a substitute for the port which has been abandoned without thorough satisfaction on the part of the British public, are evidences of a necessity of carefully watching the proceedings of the Chinese government in those waters. Any change of the actual situation carried out with a high hand by China may render it needful that other powers should act similarly, and it would be well to remember a time-honored maxim.

**SOOLOO.**

The Straits Times says the Paknam, on arriving at Maimbong, the Sooloo capital, found the place utterly destroyed. Neither Spaniards nor Chinese were visible, and a few disconsolate natives wandering among the ruins of the town formed the population of this once busy port. The Spanish attack was completely successful, although the Moros succeeded in inflicting heavy losses both in officers and men on the Spanish troops. The entire success of the Governor of Sooloo's attack was due to his superiority over the Sooloo chiefs in strategical operations. He sent six men-of-war and gunboats to stimulate an attack by sea. The Moros fell into the trap and immediately prepared to oppose a vigorous resistance to the landing of troops from the fleet. In the mean time the Governor of Sooloo was marching overland from Tiaugi at the head of 800 troops and took the Sooloo forces in the rear. The Sultan's men evidently made the best of a bad job, but they were outnumbered. Their positions were carried, and all their artillery, a mitrailleuse, and any quantity of small arms and ammunition fell into the hands of the Spaniards. The Sultan of Sooleo escaped to the hills with the remainder of his forces, but nothing is known as to what has become of his splendid collection of pearls. The Sultan may have succeeded in carrying them off with him, but it is just possible that they were "looted." The Spaniards, after totally destroying the town, marched back to Tiaugi. The North Borneo Herald says a large number of Chinese refugees from Maimbong have arrived at Sandakan. They have lost little beyond their houses.

**KOREA.**

A Seoul letter to the Nagasaki Express of May 11th says: On May 8th the Chinese gunboat, *Tsou-Kiang*, arrived at Chemulpo and was followed by the *Che-Yuen*, *Yang-Wei*, *Chao-Yang* and *Wei-Yuen* on the 10th. Three more Chinese men-of-war are expected tomorrow. Much speculation is rife as to their particular object in coming, but the fact probably is that some diplomatic finessing is going on between the Chinese Minister and the Korean authorities, and the fleet are rendezvousing here to produce an effect favorable to the Chinese.

From the interior of the country come continued complaints of Chinese who travel about armed and squeeze the villagers. The Chinese authorities have captured up to the present about thirty of these depredators, all of whom, it is said, were executed at the Chinese Legation.

Similar complaints are also being repeatedly received of outrages along the coast by Chinese pirates, disguised


as fishermen, who, in addition to robbing, carry on an extensive illicit traffic, which the customs officers are powerless to prevent.

**MANILA**

The Manila papers record a ferocious double murder which occurred there on May 11th. A small party were assembled in the house of Mr. Gutierrez, a lawyer. The visitors were Constantino Diaz, Felipe Alvarez and Abelardo Barreal. These gentlemen were sitting together, and Mrs. Gutierrez was also present, when a small band of armed men burst into the house and savagely assaulted all present. Mr. Diaz and Mr. Alvarez were killed outright, Mr. Barreal was very severely wounded, and Mrs. Gutierrez sustained a cut on her hand. A servant in the house was also severely wounded. Mr. Gutierrez escaped by jumping out of the window, and gave the alarm. In the confusion which ensued the murderers got away, but a number of arrests were made afterward on suspicion. The funeral of the two victims was attended by a large concourse of Spaniards and foreigners.

**AMOY.**

News has just been received from a village named Po Sai that on April 30th two women were killed and partly eaten by tigers there. This makes the third woman killed by these animals this year. The villagers say that the tigers, which are plentiful, never molest them before, except by taking an occasional pig or dog, but now that they have taken to killing and eating human beings, they are afraid that unless the tigers are killed they will have to abandon their village.



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