

lowed, and if your Excellency had given strict injunctions to your several subordinates to act in accordance thereto, much trouble and difficulty would have been saved.

Awaiting your reply,

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. RAYMOND GINGELL,
H.B.M. Consul.

True Copy,

(Signed) WALTER ED. KING,
Interpreter.

*Kwan Wau, Viceroy,
Governor-General of Hoo Kwang,
Woo-chang.*

[Enclosure No. 5.]

KWAN, Viceroy, Governor-General of Hookwang,
&c., &c., &c.

June 20, 1862.

ON the 14th instant, the General Lekin Board transmitted me the following petition of the officer in charge of the barrier at Tao-Kow:—"Suddenly, at noon, on the 12th instant, a British vessel of war arrived at the barrier with Lieutenant Poole and Mr. King. With their men they seized gunboats, a long dragon, and a fast crab (two denominations of boats), together with money and other articles, as also Ma the officer, 4 braves, and several guns." Also the petition of the officer of the Pih-ho-kow barrier, at Siao-linka, that on the 13th, at noon, a British vessel of war suddenly arrived at the barrier and seized 3 gunboats, 6 guns, and 1 preventive police boat, anchored at Pai-chew, with one man in her.

Subsequently, Ching Tao-tai, of the Kiang Han Custom-house, reported to me at an interview, that you had delivered into his care the officer and others, but had not yet given up the gunboats, and that your motive for so doing was, that some Hoonan tea having already paid a transit duty in Hoonan, a further levy was still made in Hoopih of four mace per chest. I was much surprised on hearing this. In your despatch to me, I note that you argue on the VII Tariff Rule—the Wei-yuen's breach of the same in detaining the tea—the excess paid—and Ching Tao-tai's refusal to grant transit certificates. Now, the Tariff Rules were drawn up previous to the trade on the Yangtze, and last year, because trade on the Yangtze could not be carried on in the same way as at the maritime ports, a set of Yangtze Trade Regulations were specially drawn up. If in every thing the Treaty should be religiously observed, why, since a Custom-house has been established at Hankow, have not export and import tariff duties been yet received here? The matter is quite plain and intelligible.

I have never said that the Kiang Han Kuan Custom-house should not receive transit duty, and Ching Tao-tai has already replied to you saying that the question of duties here was not arranged, and requesting you to wait a little till Mr. Hart, sent here by Prince Kung, shall have settled, as it is certain he will, the matter definitely, and neither thus did Ching Tao-tai say he would not receive transit duty.

Tea brought here from Yang-lew-tung in Hoopih pays a contribution of 9 mace a chest and no more is made at other places; this is less than the transit duty. That brought from Nu-Kea-she in Hoonan, according to the Imperial assent prayed for by Mao Foo-tai of Hoonan, pays a Lekin in lieu of a transit duty. Hoonan not being a port,

the duties it receives cannot be called "transit," and this confusion of the regulations originates in Hoonan. I have on this subject been instructed by His Majesty to consider and arrange the question, but the arrangements not having been definitely made, Fao Kow and Pe ho Kow have, according to their old and as yet unrepealed orders, made their levy of 4 mace per chest. Hearing now that your merchants do not consent to this levy, I have already this month circulated general orders to cease from levying on teas of these two provinces the slightest excess according to the native duties and subscriptions. The excess already paid by the 4 mace per chest of course ought to be refunded, and when there are duties to be paid to the Custom-house, there is no objection to the refund being made by a deduction from the duties; but I can only recognise refunds stated in your letter, and that of Messrs. Dent and Co. notified to the custom-house on a former occasion. Others in addition to these cannot be allowed, as causing endless complications.

With regard to the cases last year of Messrs. Dent and Co., and Dudley and Co., they occurred before a Custom-house was established, and before the date of the Yangtze Trade Regulation; besides which, the excess was received in Hoonan, and consequently cannot affect the Superintendent of Customs here.

Although I received a letter from the Foreign Office, yet the provinces are permitted to address (that office) direct, and I have already sent a reply explaining the nature of the case, that that office may reply to the British Minister. In this matter [?] ought to listen to the orders given by the authorities away from the capital, and [I] am not able at this time to act upon my own responsibility.

You say in your letter you seek nothing but strict observance of the Treaty, and that the excess levied at every barrier interferes with the Treaty, but is it in accordance with Treaty that Mr. Poole and Mr. King should assault the barrier, seizing and carrying off boats and guns from Tao-kow, Pe-ho-kow, and Pai-chaw, together with money, articles, an officer, and other people? Whether you restore the guns and boats, or not, you yourself will judge and decide.

Tung-chi, 1 year, 5 month, 24 day.

True translation,

(Signed) WALTER ED. KING,
Interpreter.

[Enclosure No. 6.]

Autograph Note written by Viceroy to Mr. Consul Gingell:—

The reason why a levy of 4 mace Lekin per chest was made at Tao-Kow on Hoonan teas was, that the officer had not yet received a letter, stating that transit duty had already been collected in Hoonan. Hearing this, I directed the General Lekin Board to direct all the barriers to cease collecting the 4 mace, but my letter did not arrive at the board till the next day, and now there will be no further levy made on Hoonan tea other than the transit duty only; the boats must produce their receipts for inspection at the barriers, as proof that they are not those of scheming natives endeavouring to creep in. Thus henceforward we shall have no suspicion one of the other, and I hope you will give up to me all the gunboats, and there is no necessity for any dispatches between the two Governments to be