

kept on record, as there is nothing glorious to boast of.

[The Viceroy next expresses anger at the Hoonan persecution of the Roman Catholics, and promises severe punishment of the acts.]

16th June (8th).

KWAN WAN.

True translation,

(Signed) WALTER ED. KING,
Interpreter.

SIR, *Peking, July 17, 1862.*

I HAVE received your despatch, giving an account of the steps taken by yourself and Lieutenant Poole, to put an end to exactions on teas brought down by Her Majesty's subjects from the interior.

As these measures have been executed, and have, I trust, put a stop to these exactions, I do not think it necessary to enter into a detailed examination of these proceedings, but I think it right to state that I do not approve, whatever immediate advantage may be derived from such acts of violence, of the seizure of war-junks and of the carrying off, as prisoner, the wei-yuen of the barrier Custom-house.

Had any collision taken place, and had loss of life ensued, the proceeding could not have been justified.

I have stated in a previous despatch the only circumstances under which Her Majesty's Consuls are justified in calling on Her Majesty's naval forces for material assistance, viz.: where life or property are endangered by violence. But a surcharge of duties does not justify its employment. Such demands, if illegal, ought to be paid under protest, and sooner or later the amounts will be recovered. There is no power lodged in the hands of Her Majesty's agents in this country, to redress such violation of treaty by force, and when you are called upon to employ it, in such cases, you will refuse to do so.

The important result to be gained by the establishment of direct relations with the government of Peking, is the avoidance of local acts of violence, which produce bad blood on both sides, and have been most prejudicial to general tranquillity by weakening the authority of the Chinese Government in the eyes of its people. Time will elapse before the new system will work smoothly and efficiently, but however much you may be urged by local influences, you must not go beyond pacific efforts to remedy the abuses complained of. You are perfectly shielded from responsibility by my instructions.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) FREDERICK W. A. BRUCE.

R. Gingell, Esq.,

&c., &c., &c.,
Hankow.

(Copy.)

SIR, *Peking, July 19, 1862.*

I OBSERVE in one of the cases mentioned in your despatch, respecting the exaction of four mace additional per chest of tea, that one of the mercantile firms had given orders to its agent not to pay the charge.

As a matter of principle, there can be no doubt that where there is a dispute between a Custom-house agent in the interior and a foreign trader, the former is the judge. It is to be assumed that

the officer is acting under superior orders, and, whether these orders be in accordance with treaty or not, he has no power to vary them. The course of proceeding the trader ought to adopt in such a case is to pay under protest; and I wish you to understand that I will not take up claims for consequential damages, founded on detention, &c., where the goods might have been released, and these complications avoided by a payment of the disputed charge under protest. Still less do I approve of vessels of war being sent to release them under such circumstances.

The transit duty clause in the treaty is, as you are aware, a great innovation on the principles of Chinese provincial administration. It is reasonable, therefore, to expect that at first the exercise of this privilege will meet with opposition, but with patience and perseverance the clause will be brought into operation, and Her Majesty's agents are bound to see that the course pursued by Her Majesty's subjects, in these cases, is one that will confine claims to the refund of the excess of duty demanded, and not one which, in the hands of unscrupulous men, gives rise to extravagant and colourable extortion, under pretext of consequential damages.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) F. W. A. BRUCE.

R. Gingell, Esq.,

&c., &c., &c.,
Hankow.

Foreign Office,
October 24, 1862.

SIR,

I HAVE to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the views expressed in your Despatch No. 96 of the 18th of July respecting the manner in which redress should be obtained for injuries inflicted on British traders by the Chinese local authorities. They also approve the instructions addressed by you on this subject to Her Majesty's Consul at Hankow.

I am, &c.,

RUSSELL.

The Hon. F. W. A. Bruce, C.B.,

&c., &c., &c.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, October 30, 1862.

Notice is hereby given, that the State Apartments of Windsor Castle will be closed on and after Saturday next, the 1st of November, until further orders.

St. James's Palace, October 27, 1862.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Lieutenant Charles Gudgeon Nelson, R.N., to be one of the Gentlemen Ushers Quarterly Waiters in Ordinary to Her Majesty, in the room of Major-General Charles Diggel, K.H., deceased.

St. James's Palace, October 31, 1862.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to promote Lieutenant-Colonel John Henry Cooke, Sub-Officer of Her Majesty's Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, to be Ensign of Her Majesty's Royal Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard, vice Sir George Houlton, Knt., deceased.