

*For Gas is Gas, and Light is Light, and never
the twain shall meet
Till the many-headed rise in their might
and go to the Council Seat
But there is neither Gas nor Light, Border
nor Breed nor Birth,
When two strong men stand face to face,
though they come from the ends of the
earth.*

Miscellaneous.

BOKHARA RELIEF FUND.

A meeting of the Committee of the Bokhara relief fund was held at H.B.M.'s Consulate General on Saturday morning. A despatch (abstract of which is given below) from H.E. the Governor of Hongkong, was read, and it was decided to endeavour to raise by subscription a sum of about \$5,000 to be sent to the Hongkong Committee to be devoted entirely to the relief of the relatives of the passengers who lost their lives at the wreck.

[ABSTRACT.]

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Hongkong, 29th October, 1892.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inform you that the Committee for the relief of the relatives of the survivors (those who perished) from the wreck of the s.s. *Bokhara* met to-day in the Council Chamber. I read your letter to the Committee, and the members were deeply impressed with the sympathetic action taken by the community of Shanghai in reference to this disaster. It was decided by the Committee that the assistance rendered by the Captain and Officers of the s.s. *Thales*, by the priest and people at Pehoe, and by the Mandarin at Makung should be recognized in some tangible way. It was estimated that \$800 or thereabouts would be sufficient for this purpose. (The question of relief to the families of three of the passengers was privately discussed as it was deemed advisable that the names of those who require relief should not so far as possible be made too public.)

It was understood that the Cricket Club proposed to place a tablet or memorial in the Cricket pavilion, or in some suitable locality, to the memory of the cricketers lost, and it was settled that a memorial should be placed either in the Cathedral or the Happy Valley as a record of this sad occurrence.

The result of the discussion was that, for the purpose of dealing with all these cases, a public subscription of not less than \$5,000 should be invited from the residents of Hongkong, and that if your Committee, after providing what relief is required by those connected with Shanghai, had any balance at their disposal it should be accepted by Hongkong and added *pro rata* to the amount apportioned to the several recipients with whom this colony is connected.

As I said before the community and Committee appreciate most thoroughly the expressions of sympathy and regret which they have received from Shanghai in reference to this unparalleled disaster, and this appreciation is, if possible, enhanced by the desire of the residents of your settlement to give a tangible shape to their heartfelt condolence.

I may mention that the representative of the P. & O. Company, who was on the Committee, was not prepared, without advices from London, to take part in any subscription, but he stated that he had no doubt that the Directors would make some provision on behalf of the employés of the Company who had perished, and that they would most probably be desirous of joining in any substantial recognition of services rendered to the survivors. He was anxious that the P. & O. Company should co-operate with the community.

The Hons. J. H. Stewart Lockhart and A. J. Leach were then appointed joint Secretaries and Treasurers to the Hongkong Relief Committee; a sub-Committee was appointed to draw up the notice inviting subscriptions, and the sitting of the Committee then terminated.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

NICHOLAS J. HANNEN, Esq.,
H.B.M.'s Consul-General
and Chairman of Committee.

FUNERAL PROCESSION OF THE LATE MR. TONG KING-SING.

On Friday morning last, the *Hsinfung* arrived from Tientsin, having on board the remains of the late Mr. Tong King-sing. Soon after the steamer was made fast at Kinleeyuen, preparations were made for landing the body and by 11 a.m. a large procession—though not so large as might have been expected—started on its way to the Canton cemetery, where the body was to be deposited till a favourable time arrived for removing it to the home of the deceased.

On the English bund an extra number of policemen were stationed to regulate the traffic, while both sides of the French and English bunds were crowded with foreigners and Chinese. Bombs were fired in volleys of threes at the start and the firing was kept up at intervals along the line of march, while the usual displays of glitter and dirt were conspicuous, some of the bearers being dressed in filthy clothing, presenting a most disreputable appearance.

At the head of the procession were two gigantic paper figures, one in black and the other in red. The first represented a fierce looking soldier, and the other a mild looking minister of state, the functions of these being to scare away any malignant spirits that might be inclined to trouble the spirit of the deceased. Next came five men on ponies in single file, followed by sixty dirty young ragamuffins bearing boards containing the names of the offices and titles of the deceased. Then came two flags, four more men dressed in blue on ponies followed by an umbrella, thirteen soldiers carrying many coloured banners, twenty-four men on foot bearing weapons with pewter heads and wooden handles, two men blowing clarions, a mandarin on a pony, four soldiers with banners, twenty-three soldiers with bayonets fixed, behind them being a three-floenced umbrella and mandarin runners. Next came ten musicians very well dressed, and another umbrella and attendants. A green chair borne by eight carriers, with a mourner on each side, and two handsome scrolls immediately preceded the Taoist's band, who were followed by thirty well-dressed soldiers, a number of tables on which were a roasted pig, a skinned goat, fruit, and pewter wine bottles, while some paper tables had on them gold and silver mock sycee, scrolls, and representations of Chin Shan and Yin Shan—the Gold and Silver Mountains—all these latter intended to be burnt. The handsomest part of the procession was the "myriad name umbrellas," of which there were twenty-four presented by the people whose names appeared in velvet characters on the lower flounces, while round the upper ones, were quotations from the classics. These umbrellas were very handsome and were mostly of silk and in many colours. Then there were two more chairs, some Taoist and Buddhist priests, satin scrolls and a chair containing the picture of the deceased, on either side of the chair being a mourner. Next came some Buddhist priests playing on flutes, and then behind them boys carrying flowers on stands. A hundred of the friends of the deceased in their official robes followed, each bearing a lighted joss stick. Many handsome scrolls succeeded and then

came the Town Band, four mourners, the sons of the deceased, gongs and images. The catafalque was carried by thirty-two bearers, the pole which ran through it having the head and tail of a dragon, a token of Imperial favour, and the end of the procession was brought up by hundreds of Chinese in carriages and chairs and on foot. The procession went *via* Nanking Road and Lloyd Road to the cemetery.

A PROPOS DE M. LEMAIRE ET DE LI HONG-TCHANG.

Dans un article paru au *Daily Press*, de Hong-kong, je me permettais, en toute indépendance, de poser les questions suivantes :—

"Est-il vrai que M. le Ministre de France ait été insulté par le vice-roi Li Hong-tchang? Est-il vrai, ainsi que l'a affirmé le correspondant de Tientsin, que le Ministre de France ait subi l'injure sans mot dire, et se soit enfui du yamen vice-royal, confus, honteux, sans exiger la légitime et éclatante réparation qui lui était due?"

J'attendais, je l'avoue, la réponse à mes questions, avec une très vive impatience, et surtout dans l'anxiété que l'on comprend. Aujourd'hui seulement, je possède cette réponse, et je puis dire que je la trouve satisfaisante, s'il est vrai qu'aucun démenti péremptoire ne viendra la détruire par la suite, ou tout au moins la diminuer dans ce qu'elle me semble présenter actuellement de haute et scrupuleuse garantie.

En d'autres termes, les renseignements que je reçois ont une source quasi-officielle, pour ne pas dire plus. J'ajoute que la personnalité de qui je les tiens (et dont je respecte l'indépendance) mérite qu'on tienne son dire en considération.

Comment donc, d'après elle, les faits se seraient-ils passés? Je laisse la parole à mon interlocuteur, ou, si l'on veut, je publie les lignes de mon correspondant, sans apporter le moindre commentaire à cette parole ou à ces lignes, heureux de penser que mon interlocuteur—ou mon correspondant—traduit la version exacte de l'incident de Tientsin.

"Il est vrai, le vice-roi Li Hong-tchang, dans l'entrevue à la quelle fait allusion le correspondant du *Daily Press*, s'est permis à l'égard du Ministre de France certains écarts de parole, que réprouvent à la fois la plus élémentaire politesse et la correction diplomatique, obligatoire toujours. Il est inutile de rappeler l'objet de l'entretien. Quoi qu'il en soit, cet entretien prit à un moment donné un tour acerbe, inconvenant, très-provocateur de la part du vice-roi. Tout au contraire, M. Lemaire, très-calme, et sans se départir une minute de son sang-froid, se contenta de laisser passer l'orage, puis dignement, hautainement, il prit congé de son irascible interlocuteur. M. Lemaire avait brisé toute relation officielle entre Li Hong-tchang et lui-même, jusqu'à l'heure où une suffisante réparation lui fut accordée. Tels sont les faits dans leur simplicité et dans leur véracité. Et les deux faits qui vinrent trouver le Ministre de France au Consulat de Tientsin ne sauraient démentir leur démarche. Ils ne sauraient démentir qu'ils étaient des envoyés de Li Hong-tchang, chargés d'annoncer au Ministre de France la visite du vice-roi, visite d'excuses et de réparation.

"Que reste-t-il alors des assertions du correspondant de Tientsin?"

"Si M. Lemaire n'a pas démenti les allégations fantaisistes de ce correspondant, c'est qu'il a estimé que leur fantaisie même écartait toute chance qu'on pût les prendre au sérieux. L'histoire du chapeau, par exemple, est grotesque.

"D'autre part, le Ministre de France ne voulait ni ne pouvait ouvrir un débat, clos depuis longtemps déjà à sa plus grande satisfaction. Il ne pouvait imprimer dans un journal que le vice-roi de Tientsin lui avait fait des excuses, sans froisser la légitime susceptibilité de ce dernier, et par