

FRANCE AND CHINA.

Although the last telegraphic reports about the relations of China with France are not so prophetic of actual war as some previous ones, it is evident from the newspapers recently to hand from China that the Government of the Celestial Empire is very much in earnest about its rights and contemplates a war with France as actually imminent. We have before us translations of two documents which are highly interesting both from their bearing upon this matter and for the insight they give as to the way in which preparations for war are managed in China. These documents are, a long memorial from the President of the Board of War P'eng Yu Lin to the Emperor, and the reply of the latter. We give below the Emperor's reply in full. The memorial is too long to be re-produced in our columns. P'eng Yu Lin mentions in the course of it that he is seventy years of age and the garrulity of age is to be seen even in this solemn state document. A fierce old man he is though, as the following extract from the memorial shows. After describing what he and others had done in pursuance of the secret decree a copy of which we lately published P'eng Yu Lin goes on to say:

"Now with reference to the fighting between the French Barbarians and the Annamites, the Memorialist says that they (the French) first thought they would be able to beat them as easily as spitting upon their hands. From beating the Annamites the next thing will be to contest the country with Liu Jung-fu. Liu Jung-fu being beaten, which can be clearly foreseen, at the present moment, and which may be likened to a goat breaking his horns against a wall, the French will then be looking for an opening in Kuangtung. Now why should these Barbarians forgetful of reverence, thus act towards our Sacred Dynasty, whose benevolence and justice is so complete? Hence all who have breath in them, with hair on end and eyelashes bristling, are determined to fight sword in hand to avenge the wrongs of their country. At this day the minds of all men are bent upon the idea of fighting, so that, if we still give way [to the French], what honour is there left to our Empire?"

After setting forth what had been done the memorialist proceeds to explain what ought to be done. He desires it to be understood that, although he does not think much of the French power, it nevertheless ought not to be despised and so given an opportunity for mischief. He says:

"It is the opinion also of the Memorialist that the wealth and power of the French, as compared with the Russians, is far behind the latter. Last year, when the Russians wished to go to war, if it had not been that the Emperor had ordered out his generals and prepared for hostilities, the Russians would not have become more peaceably disposed and consented to a treaty. Now the French forces have repeatedly been defeated by Liu Jung-fu, hence we can see what they really are. Still, upon consideration, the French must not be too lightly estimated, and thus we shall avoid being too confident of their weakness. If we be neglectful of what is important, where will the matter then end? But if we assert our strength and show our power, other countries will not dare to look down the hearts of the Chinese. By one effort we can then forever stand on our own ground."

In a postscript to the Memorial P'eng Yu Lin leaves details on one side and goes into general considerations arising out of the situation. "Now among the twenty odd Treaty nations amongst us," he says,

"the French alone have dared to encroach upon Annam: being tempted by the copper mines on our borders they have come near them for the purpose of utilizing them. The other nations simply look on quietly, allowing the French to make the first attempt upon China; but the result will be that when they find France powerful and rich enough alone to get all the advantages accruing therefrom, they will doubtless be jealous of the French, and will not allow them to reap the sole advantages of the expedition. This result will surely occur. At the present outlook it would appear that France has acted thus warily through force of circumstances; but the other nations know well enough what her ulterior motives are, and therefore they have allowed her to take her own way. The Memorialist therefore prays that the Tsung-li Yamen be instructed to communicate with the twenty odd Treaty Powers, say-

ing that commercial intercourse has gone on between the several countries for a number of years to the advantage of both sides, and that by observing treaty stipulations there has no harm arisen; this is in accordance with International Law. But France, with the spirit of injury within her, knowing perfectly well that Annam is a Tributary State to China, has acted on the maxim of the strong oppressing the weak, and, contrary to treaty, has sent troops to that country. The Throne an early date desired to attend to the matter, but, unwilling to break up friendly relations, abstained. But the other day the French messenger came up to Tientsin in a gunboat and also had a large fleet of men-of-war up at Canton for the purpose of spying out the country; upon which the Emperor became greatly incensed and ordered his generals to come and prepare for war, and march troops against the French. This was a matter of necessity. As to the rights and wrongs of the case, all the other nations were perfectly aware of them. With reference to the ships of war and merchant-men, all things were to be acted upon according to International Law, so that not another nation will be harmed."

The Secret Imperial decree which was issued as an answer to this memorial read as follows:

Kuang Hsil, 9th Year, 9th Moon, 30th Day.

Since the Frenchmen have made a treaty with Annam, they will surely attempt to drive away the Liu Tuan, i. e. Black Flags, and are also possessed with the sole idea of capturing Pei Ch'i. This place is on the borders of Yunnan and Kuangsi. Hence we must not allow them to do so. The Tsung-li has already sent a dispatch to the French Minister, telling him that Annam has for many years been a tributary to China, and whenever there has been a rebellion in that country, the Chinese have in every reign sent troops to suppress it. This is a well-known fact among all nations. Now the French are attempting to browbeat the Annamites; how can we bear this, seeing that it is the same as browbeating us? If the French fight up to the place where the Chinese troops are encamped, then, as a matter of necessity, we must also fight them. Therefore, if the French do come, then the responsibility of the war will rest with them.

The Liu Tuan, i. e. Black Flags, have always been known to be brave and warlike, and they are now at present encamped in Shatsi--west of the mountains. This place is not far from Hanoi. We order, therefore, Hsu Yen-hsueh to tell Liu Jung-in to hold that place with his troops, so that mutual assistance may be rendered on either side. They are also ordered not to be idle, but to persevere continually in their attempts against the enemy. Bac-ninh is a place held by our troops; if the French therefore attempt to attack Bac-ninh, the troops stationed there are commanded to use their utmost endeavors to prevent them, nor must the troops be taken unawares. Tso Tsung-t'ang on a former occasion memorialized Us asking that Wang Te-pang be ordered to lead several Kuangtung regiments and encamp on the borders of Yunnan and Kueichow, also to collect subscriptions from Kuangtung for the purpose of provisioning the said regiments. At that time we had already decreed ordering Tso Tsung-t'ang to wait for further orders, and that when our next Decree came out he would then be ordered to act. Just now the borders of Kuangsi are in the most critical state; fearing, therefore, lest the troops at that place may be too few, and hearing that Wang Te-pang has already raised further regiments in Jung Chou, we order Tso Tsung-t'ang to command due Provincial Treasurer (Wang Te-pang) to haste with those troops beyond the borders of Kuangsi and there encamp them, and also to place himself and the said troops under the orders of Hsil Yen-hsiob. As the money necessary for the maintenance of these troops might not be raised in time in Kuangtung, we order Tso Tsung-t'ang to prepare beforehand such moneys from Kiang-nan for that purpose, by doing which there will be no deficiency in the matter.

Ts'en Yu-ying and others have memorialized, saying that the Yunnan troops were already west of the mountains, i. e. Shansi, but that the said place was easy of access to steamers, whose shot could easily get into the city, so that it was a difficult matter to hold the place. This place being near Bac-ninh, it is necessary to protect it strongly, and so both sides can be guarded.

T'ang Chung, who is in command of the troops, should earnestly endeavour to form plans for the best. But this Fu-t'ai without our commands has returned to the Provincial Metropolis, creating by this much ill-discipline among the troops, who

are thus left without a head. This act of his is a grave fault, and merits severe punishment. He is therefore deprived of his button and rank, but allowed to keep his office, which will be returned to him should his future demeanor warrant it. If he, however, still persists in retiring, then he will receive from Us the severest punishment.

The troops garrisoning Yunnan are few. Fearing they will not be sufficient, we command T'ang Chung and Ts'en Yu-ying to raise further regiments for that purpose. These troops are to be raised for the sole purpose of fighting the French when they near our borders. We cannot but be zealous in protecting ourselves.

With reference to neutrals of the other nations who may be in the Treaty Ports, as well as French merchants, these will be protected by Us. This will prevent any other kind of disturbances. If the French persist in war by sending ships-of-war to China to fight, we must be prepared for them beforehand; we therefore command Li Hung Chang, Tso Tsung-t'ang, Chang Shu-sheng, Ni Wen-wei, and Yu K'uang to hasten in their preparations for this emergency, and in no wise to make any delay.

Tientsin, being the port nearest the capital, is a place of the utmost importance, and Li Hung Chang, who has had the charge of the Coast Defence for many years, is therefore looked to for support by Us and the whole Empire. So much the more then should he be earnest in the matter, and not endeavour to shirk his responsibilities. Let this Decree be sent forward to all places by the couriers at the rate of 600 li a day.—Respect this.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The latest news from China is not reassuring as far as the safety of foreigners in China is concerned. We learn from exchanges that the people at Canton were delighted, on the arrival of Pang Yuk-Lun, with the idea that he was come to drive out the foreigners. They are now changing their tone. The recent proclamations have somewhat turned the current of public opinion against him, and expressions of discontent are circulated to the effect that he has come to protect foreigners.

Everyday the Englishman is insulted in the streets of Canton with the foulest and most abominable language, as well as daily threatened with death, and yet nothing is done.

The Chinese at Canton are busy taking the heavy gun out of one of the alphabetical gunboats and mounting it in one of the Bogue forts. A formidable Krupp gun replaces the monster cannon on the gunboat.

A number of natives, suspected of holding themselves in readiness to rise in this city the moment a French army besieged Canton, and to deliver the city to the enemy, have been arrested. It is said that they number 2,000, and were to be led by a Frenchman; also that some firearms and ammunition which were confiscated had been supplied by the French.

The famine in Shantung is causing intense suffering to thousands.

The constitution of Marine Courts of Inquiry held in Japan is exciting some attention. In three cases recently before the Japanese Court three foreign masters of Japanese vessels have had their certificates suspended, the Court exercising a severity quite at variance with the facts set out in the evidence.

Mr. Iwata, a capitalist of Nishinoyama, has formed with some other wealthy people to form a steamship company. They will commence operations with a single vessel, which is to cost \$16,000.

It is considered certain that after the capture of Bac-ninh, China and France will accept the mediation of America.

The insurgents in Egypt have rendered the Nile below Duen impassible by sinking boats in the channel.

The Spanish Ministers, having tendered their resignations, King Alfonso has charged Senor Canovas del Castillo with the task of forming a new Cabinet.

The British government having protested, the Chinese have stepped completing the blockade of the Canton River.

The British Post Office has made new and better arrangements for the forwarding of the American mail.

Prince Bismarck says England must settle the Egyptian muddle herself.

M. Waddington says France will first achieve her object—Tonquin—before she commences negotiations with China.

Marquess Tseng has been called upon by the French government to explain language employed by him in a German re-

view touching the relations of France and China.

Two arrests were made in Madrid for dogging the royal carriage.

The commercial treaties with Spain are favorably looked upon by the Madrid Ministry.

The Bishop of Manchester was sustained in the Queen's Bench for refusing to induct a ritualistic clergyman.

Five Irishmen were arrested while attacking a residence for the purpose of getting arms.

A mock funeral for O'Donnell was held at his birthplace, and was largely attended by the peasantry of Donegal.

The police of Paris are threatening a general strike.

The President has sent a message to Congress recommending an appropriation for a Greeley relief expedition.

Secretary Chandler has sent directions to the commandant of the New York Navy Yard regarding the reception of the remains of De Long and party, which are expected to reach New York about the 15th February.

The bill for the relief of Fitz John Porter was considered in the House and General Slocum spoke in its favor.

A plan is under consideration to have all pensions paid from the Treasury, thereby abolishing all agents and agencies.

The House passed the bill making an appropriation for the Greeley relief expedition.

The Senate passed a resolution instructing the Foreign Relations Committee to inquire into the discrimination against American products abroad and to report such legislation as shall protect American interests.

Senator Sewell reported a bill to increase the annual appropriation for the militia from \$200,000 to \$600,000.

THE COMMERCE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

From the American Register.

A new era is approaching and is near at hand, when the ships and merchant marine of Europeans will cross the Isthmus of Panama, saving many thousands of miles of voyage, and reach the Pacific Ocean to compete with the people of the United States upon that rich field of trade, enterprise and wealth. The Lesseps ship canal is in rapid progress. Over forty thousand hands are said to be at work at it. It will be completed and in operation in a few years, when the proud navies of European nations will aspire to supremacy on the Pacific. The United States has a Pacific Coast of over a thousand miles to defend. Leading naval officers of our Government have been recommending for many years a permanent foothold of the United States on the Sandwich Islands, as an outpost of national defense. It is the only one to be found, and yet our Government has made only a mere temporary arrangement as yet with the authorities at Honolulu. And some petty sugar refineries and sugar producers have even made war upon that, and insisted on the abrogation of it.

Unless some permanent arrangement can be made, by annexation or otherwise, for the lasting foothold of our country on this archipelago in the Pacific Ocean, temporary arrangement will soon go by the board after the ship canal across the Isthmus shall have been completed. It is a matter of public notoriety that both England and France have at different times, for many years, sought to get control of the Sandwich Islands, as the key to the commerce of this great ocean. Not only does this cluster of islands furnish our only outpost for national defense, but it is essential to the commerce of our people with the populous countries of Asia and the East Indies. Can the people of the United States be so stupid as to overlook such great advantages? We hope not.

The supremacy of this country on the Pacific Ocean, if maintained, must make it before many years the center of the commercial world, and remove the international clearance-house from London to New York. This is the undoubted future destiny of our country if our people have sufficient foresight and capacity to maintain the advantages which nature has placed in their hands.

Tug Wilson, formerly an honored and respected pugilist, is now quietly pounding leather in England, happy in laurels won and the several thousand dollars accumulated in America. He says he had rather tap an old boot than be kicked by the biggest man that ever fought under Marquis of Crambery rules.

A MYSTERIOUS SHIP.

From the San Francisco Call.

The new ship docks of the Union Iron Works, in process of construction at the Portrero, were recently the scene of a discovery of what may yet prove to be one of California's greatest historical antiquities. At a point near the water edge, where a hill of rock, sixty feet high, had been removed, and an excavation twenty feet below its base had been made, three objects resembling stumps of trees were found. While the workmen were removing the earth and stone around the supposed tree stumps, the attention of Mayor Bartlett, who was visiting the works, was called to them, and he, with Irving M. Scott, procured a hatchet and removed the crust that surrounded the stumps, and found them to be timbers of solid and well preserved oak, and probably the masts of a vessel. This belief was strengthened by the finding of square copper rivets in the timber, such as were used in shipbuilding over fifty years ago. What the vessel was, and how she came to be imbedded so firmly in the earth eighty feet below the surface of the hill side, are of course subjects of conjecture. It was at first thought that the vessel might have been one of Sir Francis Drake's fleet that visited the coast of California nearly three hundred years ago—1596—or possibly one of the many vessels abandoned by the argonauts of a latter date. But these theories were quickly abandoned after an examination of the copper spike, which gave indications of containing gold and silver, with which it was the custom of the Spanish to mix metals to increase their strength and make them less liable to break or snap under a great strain or tension. The discovery immediately gave rise to the opinion that the mast could be none other than that of an old Spanish galleon, and that possibly between the decks of her hull, lying buried fifty feet below, would be found iron chests and strong boxes loaded to the full with Spanish doubloons and other treasure. The excitement increased with the prospect of the discovery. A more philosophical spirit, however, soon prevailed, and the work of resurrecting the mysterious vessel will be systematically commenced.

SILVER AND PARTY.

[FROM THE S. F. EXAMINER.]

It is gratifying to note that the more intelligent and experienced men in Congress are coming to consider the silver question outside of the pale of party. It is not now and ought never to be a party issue. It is strictly one of business and expediency. There is no theory about it—nothing in it which can be settled by more declarations of party conventions. The question if it involves anything, embraces an economic principle. It is simply to ascertain and define the proper relation of silver money to the currency. There are many Republicans as well as Democrats, who believe that both silver and gold should circulate, and that the bi-metallic standard is the proper one for the currency. That the great body of the people hold to this view there is no denying. The Committee on Banking and Currency, in refusing to tolerate any proposition which interferes with the present relations of silver to the currency, are not merely expressing a popular sentiment, but they are giving force and emphasis to a popular demand. There is neither sense nor reason in making silver money a perpetual bone of contention in Congress. The best possible solution of the question is to let it be as it is. The business interests of the country are satisfied with it, and the whole theory of our financial economy should not be overturned or unsettled for the sake of a few rich men and capitalists, who prefer to see gold made the sole and exclusive basis of the currency. We have had enough of that kind of agitation, and it is time for it to end. The EXAMINER is glad to note the bold and honest stand made in the Committee on Banking and Currency, by Republicans and Democrats alike, in discountenancing any further agitation of the silver question. It has been settled in a satisfactory way to the people, and no good can come of re-opening it.

Silver is the popular money of the country, and it will always remain so.

Lotta has made a failure of her London appearance. Among other things that the audience refused to accept was a burlesque of one of Sankey's revival songs, given by the little actress and her "leading man." A London audience has a true sense of decency, it seems.

The unpleasant odor left in the breath after eating onions is entirely removed by a cup of strong coffee.