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exported in the Cochin-China vessels alone.—*Sing. Chron.*, July 21.

TRADE WITH SIAM.

The trade with Siam is one of the most valuable branches of commerce which Singapore enjoys. The number of junks, or topes, arrived here (mostly all from Bangkok), from May 1830 to May 1831, amounted to thirty-six in number, the aggregate burden of which was 4,900 tons, being more than double the tonnage of the vessels reported from Cochin-China. This, of course, is owing to the vessels being generally of a large description, the usual tonnage of the Siam junks being from 200 to 300 tons each. Their import cargoes consist of much the same commodities as the Cochin-China vessels convey hither, with the addition of oil, sapan wood, ivory, cardamoms, paddy, onions, and iron pans. Of sugar, rice, and salt they bring a much more plentiful supply than the Cochin-Chinese. The value of the cargo varies, according to quantity and quality, from 5,000 to 12,000 Spanish dollars. Sugar, rice, salt, and oil are, however, their staple articles; of these the Siamese junks brought last season, sugar, to the amount of 14,250 peculs; rice, 19,500 peculs; salt, 15,600 peculs; and oil, 2,000 peculs.

It must not be imagined that this extensive trade is conducted by the Siamese themselves; like the generality of the Malayan tribes, they are a most indolent race, mostly devoid of the spirit of industry and enterprise. The Chinese, either natives of China Proper or descendants of those settled in Siam, manage the whole; and, indeed, to them the vessels and their cargoes invariably belong. To the industry of the numerous Chinese settled in Siam we are further indebted for the cultivation of sugar, the most important article of importation from that country, the Siamese taking on themselves the less difficult occupations of raising paddy, manufacturing salt, and probably preparing coco-nut oil, and collecting gums and valuable woods found in their country.

The Siam junks likewise carry away large quantities of British piece-goods, in their return cargoes, as also much of Indian manufacture, such as Bengal muslins, chints, gurrabs, sannahs, &c. Opium, gold-dust, cotton twist, bees' wax, gambier, rattans, tea, sago, seaweed, cowries, and coarse paper, likewise constitute articles of exportation with them from this port. The following is a statement of the quantity of printed cottons, &c. taken away by them last season: printed cottons, 13,560 yards, 10 corges, and 10 boxes; plain ditto, 359,238 yards; camlets, 400 ditto; woollens, 100 pieces; handkerchiefs, 400 ditto; Brit. salendongs, 400 ditto.

We think we cannot do better in closing this account of the trade than to give the following extract of a letter received lately from a valued friend who resided in the country for some time.

"If there is a country on the globe filled with the ridiculous, as also with immense riches, it is Siam. It is truly a pity that so rich and fertile a country should be in no better hands. It is a fact worth knowing, that the tea tree grows as luxuriantly here as in China; but mark the difference—in China it costs much trouble; in Siam, the lazy Siamese suffer it to grow wild;—yet in its wildness it is equal to the Chinese plant. What would it be if cultivated? But the summit of Buddhist felicity is absorption, and as that is not attainable, sleep is an excellent substitute; so the tea is left to grow as it can. The silk-worm, too, abounds, also the mulberry tree, all wild for the same reason; and others besides, which relate to the government.

"The heir apparent is about twenty years, and is immensely rich in gold, silver, and jewels, but a child in all his manners. He and his attendants play the most ridiculous grimaces.

"In this rich country there must be mines of silver and of gold; of silver it is evident, for several told us that in the rainy season, when the ground is drenched, pieces of silver are found as large as a tickal. Indigo, too, is luxuriant; so also is the coffee plant; the fruits all grow wild;—still they are much finer and more numerous than any I have met with elsewhere. Of the mangoes there are thirty species, most delicious; several species of the mangosteen, oranges, &c. abound, all wild. In fact, this exuberant country, in the hands of Europeans, might become a perfect paradise, and a mart for half the world. Cotton is plentiful, and as fine as silk; but these wretches do not know how to value it beyond stuffing beds and pillows. True it is short, but it is wild."

A later communication, dated last month, informs us that the country is quiet, the productions are abundant, and the river at Bangkok is crowded with Chinese junks.—*Ibid.*, July 21.

Netherlands India.

By private letters we have recent accounts from Batavia, which describe that place as in a very unsettled state. It did not seem to have been as yet known what effect the changes in Holland would have upon the Maatschappij (the Netherlands' Trading Company), but it was apprehended that its dissolution must ensue, in which case, it is to be hoped, that the commerce

of the island may revert to its natural channels.

The intelligence from the west coast of Sumatra was very unsatisfactory. At Padang the greatest alarm existed, in consequence of the approach of the Padres (who had been joined by the Malays) in great force to within two hours' march of the town. All the vessels that could be procured were engaged and in the river, and the inhabitants prepared for immediate flight, which seemed unavoidable, unless assistance should forthwith arrive from Batavia.—*Canton Reg.*, June 6.

The Dutch on the west coast of Sumatra are said to be much pressed both by the Padres and by the Achinese. At Natal, the fort, occupied by 70 or 80 European soldiers, has been attacked by a large force of Malays, but, as far as is known, without success. At Tappanooly the Dutch were apprehensive of a similar attack. The latest accounts mention that at Natal the town had been nearly all burnt down, and that the Dutch had retreated altogether into the fort. The besiegers amounted to several thousands. This disturbance is said to have originated in the Dutch attempting to place Rajahs over the people in their own interest, and without the approbation of the natives.—*India Gaz.* July 11.

The captain of the *Eliza*, arrived at Gibraltar, reports that when at Lobenhage, on the western coast of Sumatra, in May last, intelligence was brought by the captain of a prow, which came from Natal, that the natives had risen at that place, and put all the white inhabitants to the sword, except a few who had taken shelter in one of the strongest forts, and still held out, but were surrounded by the natives.—*London Paper*.

Persia.

Some weeks since we noticed the critical state to which the affairs of Persia had arrived in consequence of feuds and dissensions among the sons of the present king. The weakness produced by such a melancholy state of anarchy and confusion appears likely to be followed by either a compromise of the independence or a dismemberment of some of the fairest provinces of the monarchy.

Since the last accounts, we learn that Abdul Rezak Khan came two stages to meet the prince royal on his march to the city of Yezd; which place his royal highness entered on the 22d Ramaszyanee. Hassan Allee Meerza had, some time before, obeyed the shah's orders to retire, and had moved towards Kerman. After the surrender of Yezd, however, the people of Kerman declined to receive him; and his army having gradually melted

away, he was not in a situation to use force towards them. He therefore proceeded to Sherei Bae, where he was in like manner refused admittance, and is now said to be with a few followers at a village on the borders of Fars.

The shah has issued a firman, addressed to Abbas Meerza, directing him to collect and transmit to the royal treasury the arrears of revenue due by Yezd and Kerman. This affords so legitimate a pretext for interfering in the affairs of the latter province, that there can be no doubt Abbas Meerza is now on his way thither, and that he will eventually establish his ascendancy in the southern portion of the empire.

The early settlement of the dispute has proved particularly fortunate, as the Uzbecks have invaded the province of Khorasan with an army consisting of 30,000 men and forty guns, under the command of one of the sons of the late Mahomed Rahum Khan, of Khiva, who, it is said, has been invited there by the refractory chiefs of Kela and Turbut.

By the latest accounts the force had reached Radean, two stages from Meshed, for the safety of which city considerable apprehensions were entertained. The Uzbecks have frequently invaded Khorasan; their only object hitherto, however, has been the plunder of villages, but from their preparations on the present occasion it is feared that they contemplate a permanent conquest. It is, therefore, not at all improbable that Abbas Meerza will ultimately be obliged to march into Khorasan, although this year, we believe, he will find sufficient occupation in the south.

We learn also, that there is every reason to believe Russia has promised to abandon her claim of one crore of tomanas (still due from the indemnity stipulated in the last treaty), on condition that Persia will unite with her in an attack on Khiva, the avowed object of which is to put down the slave-trade in that country, where there are now probably 10,000 Russian, and twice as many Persian slaves. That the pretext is a good one there can be no doubt; and now that the Persian territories have been violated, and its government alarmed, it is extremely probable that proposals may be made to Russia to undertake the combined movement immediately. Persia will probably make but a feeble exertion to penetrate into Khorism; but the noise of preparations on the Russian frontier, if that power should agree to put troops in motion immediately, may have the effect of recalling the Uzbecks from Khorasan, and leave the Persian government at liberty to effect the permanent settlement of the province, which had for some years been in a disturbed state, and can now hardly be said to be dependent on Persia. There is good reason, we learn, for supposing that the Persian government has already taken steps