

## CHINA, INDIA, AND EGYPT.

### CHINA.

(From the Canton Press of May 30, 1840.)

**BLOCKING-UP CANTON RIVER.**—We learn that several large junks, loaded with stones, have been anchored at the first bar, with an intention, apparently, of blocking-up the passage of the river, in case of need. Quantities of blocks of granite have also been piled up on both banks of the river, whether intended for the same purpose, or to build new fortifications, is not known.

On the 22d of May the *Hellas*, Captain Jauncey, was becalmed not far from the Brothers, to the northward of Namu, in company with eight junks and three large pulling boats, to all appearance trading vessels, and no particular notice was taken of them on board until their moving nearer to the *Hellas* roused the suspicions of the commander, who gave orders to clear for action. Before every thing could be got in perfect readiness, the junks had approached the vessel right astern, and immediately opened a smart fire of musketry upon her, which the *Hellas* could only answer with a similar fire, the calm preventing her from bringing her guns to bear; besides which she had got entangled between the fishing stakes, which rendered motion without the aid of wind altogether impossible. The fire from the *Hellas* proved ineffective, the junks being well defended with mattresses and mats, from behind which their crews fired with great steadiness, taking such good aim that they generally wounded whoever for a moment exposed himself to their fire. The Chinese besides made use of hand-grenades, by means of which the vessel was fired several times, but the flames were fortunately extinguished before they could communicate to the rigging or sails. At length a breeze sprung up, which enabled the *Hellas* to make use of her guns, and after having done considerable damage to the junks, and killed, it is supposed, a great number of pirates, these, after a fight of four hours, sheered off. Of a crew of 50 the *Hellas* had all the Europeans, 15 in number, and 10 lascars, more or less severely wounded, and we are sorry to report that Captain Jauncey was of all most badly wounded, having besides several flesh wounds in the legs and other parts of the body, been struck by a ball on the chin, which broke his jawbone, and also received a dangerous wound in the eye; the wounds are not, however, considered dangerous, and we are happy to hear that he is doing well. From all accounts the officers and crew of the *Hellas* have behaved most gallantly, and an act of bravery by the First Tindal, a Malay, deserves particular mention, who, when one of the junks had got foul of the *Hellas*, jumped on board the junk, and cleft the head of a fellow whom he saw just taking aim with his matchlock, and then returned unhurt again to the vessel. Had the pirates had cannon it is more than probable that in spite of the most gallant defence the *Hellas* would have been overpowered. After the guns of the vessel had been brought to bear she again got foul of a junk, when Mr. M'Minnis, the first officer, followed by two sailors, jumped on board, on which all the crew on deck leaped into the water, but one of the pirates fired his matchlock from the hold, and badly wounded a sailor on the head. On trying to regain their junk many were shot, and it is supposed their loss must have been very severe.

Madras, August 8.

We have been favoured with extracts from a private letter received by the *Ine* from Singapore, dated the 25th of June, being four days later than our previous accounts by way of Calcutta. The items of intelligence thus furnished are not quite so explicit as we could wish, but serve, notwithstanding, to throw some further light on the progress of the expedition. The first division, under the command of Sir Gordon Bremer, had made but slow progress, having on the 13th of June got no further than the island of Pulo Sapata, which is about midway between Singapore and Macao; at this rate it would not reach China much before the end of the month. It was therefore considered pretty certain that Admiral Elliot, with the second division of the fleet, would overtake them before reaching Canton. The union with the two fleets, previous to opening the communications with the Chinese government, will be of course a fortunate circumstance, as we shall present a more imposing force to the Chinese, and be enabled to carry on our operations in a more systematic manner, and in stricter accordance with the instructions of the home government, whatever they may be.

Notwithstanding the interruption of commercial intercourse, large shipments of tea have been effected, amounting, it is stated, to no less than 26,000,000lb., a circumstance which, although highly acceptable to the public at home, will no doubt greatly derange the results of late extensive speculations in this article. It is also stated that the American merchants have quitted Canton, a measure of precaution doubtless dictated by the apprehension of approaching hostilities. It seems probable that our next intelligence from China may announce some crisis in our proceedings with the Chinese, as, judging from the late seizure of the war junks at Singapore, Admiral Elliot's instructions are of a summary and preremptory nature, should his negotiations be not speedily attended with satisfactory results.—*Spectator*.

It appears most likely that Admiral Elliot and the English force would be on the coast of China, and probably have commenced operations, before the arrival of Sir Gordon Bremer and the India squadron.—*Bombay Times*, August 15.

The interest connected with the proceedings of the British expedition against China continues to increase. Calculations are made on all sides as to the probable time when the news of its arrival on that coast, and of its first operations, can reach this city, and great hopes entertained that news will arrive in time to be sent hence by the next mail to Europe.

What those operations may have been, or what their results may be, it is useless to speculate upon; for, as China is in a great measure an unknown land in times of peace, no one can with any pretensions to correct reasoning attempt to decide what effects a powerful expedition may produce there.

There is a traditionary prophecy among the Chinese that they are to be conquered by a white people from the west, clothed from the head to the feet. What if that prophecy should now influence some of them in submitting at once to the British attack?