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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1863.

WAR OFFICE, February 12, 1863.

A DESPATCH has been received by the Secretary of State for War, from Brigadier-General Staveley, C.B., Commanding Her Majesty's Troops in China, of which the following is a copy :—

Head-Quarters, Kading,
December 5, 1862.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that the country around Shanghai, within the circuit of the captured towns, has remained clear of the rebels since my last report.

I am now patrolling the country with a field force, strength as per margin,* under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hough, 2d Belooch Regiment, accompanied by a force of similar strength under Captain Fancon, of the French navy, with two objects ; one, I consider that our appearance every now and then in different parts of the country will deter the rebels from entering it ; and the other, to enable Captain Gordon, R.E., to get the country mapped in.

On the 30th ultimo the force marched from Shanghai to Lukuhong ; on the 1st instant from Lukuhong to Lotien ; the 2d being wet, the force remained at Lotien until the 3d, when it marched to Kading, and from thence on the 4th to Ludong.

Captain Gordon, R.E., surveyed the road from the last-named place to the mouth of the Leho River, whither a gun-boat had been sent to clear the town of Leho of rebels, should any be there.

A small party were found there, as also at Ludong, but they withdrew so soon as we appeared.

To day the force moves back to Kading, and goes round in the direction of Tsoiug-poo, back to Shanghai, which latter place it will reach in five days' hence.

The health of the field force is excellent, as is also that of the troops generally.

I have, &c.,

C. STAVELEY, Brigadier-General,
Commanding Her Majesty's Troops in China.

The Right Honourable the Secretary,
&c., &c., &c., War Office.

Extract from a Despatch addressed to Earl Russell by Admiral the Honourable E. A. J. Harris, Her Majesty's Minister in Switzerland, dated Berne, January 29, 1863, respecting "Cartes de Séjours" and Passports.

"THE Decree of the Swiss Federal Council, dated April 16, 1862, states that it is no longer necessary for foreign travellers to exhibit passports either on the frontier or in the interior ; but the Cantonal Governments still retain the power of requiring from those who prolong their residence beyond the period indicated by the laws of each Canton, the exhibition of passports or papers for the purpose of obtaining 'Cartes de Séjour,' for which a fee is to be paid. In the case of British subjects under the Treaty of 1856, the scale of fees is the same as that demanded from Swiss Citizens of other Cantons."

CROWN OFFICE, February 13, 1863.

MEMBERS returned to serve in the present PARLIAMENT.

Borough of Devonport.

William Ferrand, of St Ives, in the county of York, in the room of Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, G.C.B., who has accepted the office of Steward or Bailiff of Her Majesty's Chiltern Hundreds.

Borough of Cambridge.

Francis Sharp Powell, Esq., in the room of Andrew Steuart, Esq., who has accepted the office of Steward or Bailiff of Her Majesty's Manor of Hempholme.

(129.)

Board of Trade, Whitehall,
February 11, 1863.

The Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade have received from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers, inclosing a Decree issued by the Governor-General of Algeria, fixing a new rate of Fees to be levied by the Ship Brokers at that port.

* 162 Rank and File, 31st Regiment ; 150 Rank and File, 2d Belooch Regiment ; 4 Mountain Guns, with proportion of Royal Artillery.

