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B. H. Burns, Acting Manager, Oriental Bank Cor- poration.	
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C. E. Thomson, Manager National Bank of India Ltd. Blain & Co.	
P. Maclean & Co. Adam Lind, Agent P. & O. S. N. Company.	
David Sassoon, Sons & Co.	
J. Kennard Davis, Acting Secretary, North-China Insur- ance Co.	
Douglas Jones, Agent, Union Insur- ance Society of Can- ton.	
D. Gilmour. W. Hewett & Co., Pro. H. J. Such.	
A. Provand & Co. R. Francis & Co. Cumine & Co. Mackenzie & Co. E. D. Sassoon & Co. Morris & Co. C. J. Skeggs & Co. Geo. Smith & Co. C. Thorne. G. W. Noel. E. G. C. Webb. Wm. Church. R. T. Permewan. A. Veitch. G. H. Townsend. G. C. de St. Croix. P. Wilkie Anton. B. Ruttonjee. R. Wilson. William Brand. G. W. Coutts. Chs. H. King. Chs. Lyall Grant. Frank M. Youd. T. H. Rawson. J. W. H. Burgoyne Geo. B. Dodwell. Robt. H. Artindale Sep. Daly. A. J. Thompson. W. B. Jamieson.	

Mr. DAVENPORT, in acknowledging the address, said—Mr. Hart and Gentlemen, I beg to express my thanks to you, and through you to the community, for the far too flattering address you have presented to me, and for the kindly estimate you have formed of my services.

With regard to what you have said as to the difficulty which exists of being able to gain the approval of both merchants here and the authorities at Home, I would remark that the solution of such a problem is simple. This fact should be borne in mind, that the interests of the parties are identical. You are here to promote commerce and thus to advance British interests, and British interests are of course the end and aim of Her Majesty's Government. You and I alike have one master—the British Government. And in this connection it is important to remember that the Consul and the community should be on a footing of the closest intimacy. Thus only can the former know what is really going on and when he is dealing with the Chinese officials, it strengthens his position enormously when the Chinese officials are aware that he has the community at his back.

Respecting my services in connection with the Yunnan expedition, I fear you

have taken far too flattering a view of what little I did.

Then, as to the Swatow Guild case, gentlemen, it was a revelation to us all. It showed us that our worst enemies in China are not the officials, nor are they that shadowy body which goes by the name of the *literati*. They are our compradores and our ex-compradores. Now all trade is based on credit, and the basis of credit is the sanction of the law. Without such sanction there can be no credit, and without credit little trade. The sanction of the law here is the law as administered by the Taotai, or his deputy in the Mixed Court. For years the difficulties attending legal redress in Chinese Courts have been apparent to us all, and they have been officially recognised in the Chefoo Convention. These difficulties have been much increased of late by the presence of foreign lawyers in the Mixed Court. The only conception of duty which Chinese officials have is to give decisions in favour of the Chinese defendants. They are afraid to lose face by giving a decision in favour of a British plaintiff, and when you have a foreign lawyer in the Court telling the Chinese officials that by British law the British plaintiff is not entitled to redress, the difficulties are increased tenfold, and the Mixed Court becomes an almost hopeless resort for the redress of our wrongs in serious cases.

You have alluded, gentlemen, to the loss I have sustained. It is one I shall never recover from, but I do most sincerely thank you for the expressions of sympathy you have proffered to me.

I thank you all again for the address, and shall always look back with kind remembrances to my Shanghai friends.

In bidding you good-bye, I leave you with thanks for your kindness, and good wishes for your welfare.

OPENING OF THE MACAO TEA SEASON.

In connection with the opening of the Macao tea season, the *China Mail* draws attention to the ever-recurring tendency to overdo this article as to the prices first paid for it. It is said that the usual excessive rates have been paid for the earlier samples; and this fact might be accepted quietly if it merely affected those immediately concerned. The policy, however, of rushing up prices of first shipments tends materially to damage the chance of obtaining tea at anything like reasonable rates; and the same system blindly followed year after year results only in profit to the native teamen, who chuckle and laugh in their capacious sleeves at the want of "nous" and entire lack of combination displayed by the foreign buyers. The latest telegrams, referring to the last shipment of Congou for the season 1879-80, do not favour the notion that the tea brokers at Home are likely to follow in the wake of tea buyers on this side. Common Congous, which had been selling for 9d. per lb., had declined to 7½d. Such a decline, when it affects any other article in the Home market, produces corresponding caution and prudence at this end of the line; but the effect is but too frequently of a different kind in regard to tea and silk. There is every reason to believe that much of the success which has attended business during last season was owing to the combination, such as it was, organised by foreign buyers before the opening of the various tea markets in China. It is sincerely to be wished that the same course will be followed this season, with a like favourable result.

NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION AT A CHINESE CONSULATE.

(San Francisco Chronicle.)

A grand New Year's reception was held at the rooms of the Chinese Consulate, in San Francisco. Consul-General Chen Shu-

tang, Consul F. A. Bee and Vice-Consul Hwang Tah-kuen received the guests, who numbered several hundred, embracing some of the best citizens and a large representation from the army and navy. Several prominent Eastern visitors also availed themselves of the opportunity afforded to become acquainted with the Chinese *haut ton*. The hospitality dispensed was on a scale of magnificence seldom equalled by our own aristocracy on New Year's day. A large table was spread in the Council Chamber, which was loaded with rare and tempting edibles, flanked by a bountiful variety of wines and liquors. The wife of Consul-General Chen Shu-tang also received friendly calls from about 150 ladies, accompanied by gentlemen. Mrs. Chen Shu-tang was assisted by Mrs. F. A. Bee and the Misses Hull, daughters of Captain Hull of the United States army. The wife of a prominent Chinese merchant also participated as hostess and officiated as interpreter between Mrs. Chen Shu-tang and her guests. It was suggested to the Consul-General last year by Consul Bee that his wife should hold a reception, but the proposition at that time met with much opposition, although eventually acceded to, but this year there was no opposition, and the reception was the pleasantest feature of the day. Vice-Consul Hwang Tah-kuen, who has succeeded Sit Ming Cook through the latter's resignation, arrived in America in 1846, subsequent to the signing of the Cushing treaty, and was educated at Amherst College. He has three sons, two of whom are now at college in New England and one in Europe. He has been largely instrumental in inducing the wealthy Chinese to send their sons to this country to obtain an education, of whom there are now a large number at Andover Academy.

Correspondence.

THE ADDRESS TO MR. DAVENPORT.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

DEAR SIR,—Do you not think that if the above had been more generally circulated a much larger number of signatures could have been obtained?

As an old resident of seventeen years standing it would have given me much pleasure to pay this mark of respect to our worthy Consul, and there are doubtless many others who also feel annoyed at having been debarred from signing the address.

Yours truly,

BRITISH SUBJECT.

Shanghai, 3rd April.

[From other representations made to us there are several residents who were anxious to sign the address but could not do so because they did not know where it was to be found; and doubtless the already large number of signatures would have been considerably increased if the suggestion of our correspondent could have been carried out.—Ed.]

THE ROWLAND HILL MEMORIAL.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

DEAR SIR,—The response to the appeal of the Rowland Hill Memorial Committee has been very weak in Shanghai, and this seems to be partly due to uncertainty as to the disposal of the fund. I shall therefore be obliged by your re-printing the enclosed letter, which appeared in *Punch* for 7th February last.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. LITTLE.

Shanghai, 31st March.