

AFTER HORACE DAVIS.

THE SIX COMPANIES WRITE HIM A STRONG LETTER.

**They Accuse Him of Ingratitude—
They send Secretary Everts Their
Resolution of the Chinese Problem.**

It having transpired that the Six Chinese Companies had written a very strong letter to Horace Davis, a reporter of the CHRONICLE called upon Col. F. A. Bee, the attorney for the Six Companies, yesterday, and inquired as to the truth of the statement. He replied that it was so, and gave the following reasons as the ones which led to the sending of the letter: The flour trade of San Francisco with China has grown from very small to quite large proportions. Horace Davis is in the flour trade, being proprietor of the Golden Gate Flouring Mills. The Chinese have looked upon him as interested in trade with China, and the consequence is, they have been purchasing largely in flour, through Mr. Davis, for several years. Their business relations have been close and pleasant. Their purchases of him alone for the last year aggregate, so far as accounts have been examined into, \$167,000, and will probably reach a higher figure when the exact sum has been ascertained; and during the year 1876 their purchases of him approximated \$200,000. Of course, under these circumstances the relations between Mr. Davis and the Chinese merchants have been very warm, and he gave them unlimited credit at thirty and sixty days. Hence the astonishment of the Chinese at his first speech after receiving the nomination for Congress, in which he denounced them. Several of the Chinese merchants called his attention at the time to the position he was taking, and he explained to them that it was a necessity in politics; that he had to take a position

CONTRARY TO HIS CONVICTIONS:

That the vote of the district was very close, and it was necessary to secure the floating vote. Placing implicit confidence in his statements, trade went on, and they purchased thousands of barrels of flour of him during the campaign and after. Colonel Bee stated that he was specially requested in writing by the merchants to subpoena Mr. Davis as a witness to testify before the Congressional Chinese Commission as to the integrity of the Chinese mercantile class with which he had business relations. He came as a witness, but made a personal request to him (Col. Bee) that he would not put him on the stand. Other prominent citizens, friendly to the Chinese, made the same request, and he (Colonel Bee) decided, for good and sufficient reasons, not to put him on the stand. The Chinese merchants still continued to trust and deal with Mr. Davis, and purchased flour largely. Up to the time of the publication, a few days ago, of a dispatch from Washington, stating that Mr. Davis was searching for precedents, and asking the Secretary of State to apply to the English Government for information relative to legislation by the Colonial Governments to restrain Chinese immigration, trade went on and they had unbounded confidence in him. Upon reading the dispatch, they decided to send Mr. Davis a communication, a synopsis of which is as follows: Alluding to his dispatch, they apologized for sending him the letter, which they did on the ground that they did not desire to have him occupy a false position in reference to the Chinese question, claiming the privilege of addressing the letter on the strength of the long and intimate commercial relations which had existed between them, and the desire they had to post him so that he might not commit

THE SAME BLUNDER

His colleague, Mr. Page, had a few days before in a letter to the President, which was an outrageous exaggeration. Then followed all the legislation of the Australian colonies, the different Acts of Parliament and the repeal of those Acts, and then it pointed out to him the legislation quite recently taken by Queensland, giving the London Times as authority for their statements. They called his attention to the growing commerce between China and the United States, and trusted that the Government of China would not check that commerce, and that more particularly in which he was so deeply interested, by placing a duty on flour imported into China. [The meaning of this is that while a certain quantity of rice is sent from China each year, with instructions to return its equivalent in flour, the United States Government levies a duty on the rice, while the Chinese Government does not on flour.] They regretted exceedingly that he, above all others, as an American citizen, should apply for a precedent to a Government that for half a century had, in order to impose upon them a trade in a poisonous drug (opium), slaughtered their countrymen and bombarded their cities, at the loss of millions of treasure to the Chinese Government to resist. They were of the opinion that his intimate connection with them had given him a sufficient knowledge of them without requiring him to send to England for a precedent. They stated also that it was a pleasure to them, and no doubt to him also, to remind him of the fact that in the transactions between them, amounting to many hundred thousands of dollars in the aggregate, the Golden Gate Mills had never lost a dollar. In closing, they regret exceedingly now to admit

THE UNWHOLESOME TRUTH

That their eyes are open, and that they are aware of the gulf which now separates them since he has become a politician.

By way of parenthesis Colonel Bee stated that the China steamer which leaves tomorrow will probably take no flour from the Golden Gate Mills.

Colonel Bee further stated that at the request of the Chinese merchants he had held several consultations with them, which had resulted last Thursday in the sending of a dispatch to Secretary Everts, in which, for the first time, the Chinese themselves suggest a solution of the Chinese question. They ask Mr. Everts to draw up a bill which he himself should recommend to Congress for passage, by which a per capita tax of \$100 shall be collected from every Chinaman who comes to this country, the money so collected to be used as a fund to send indigent Chinese back, it being calculated that for every one who comes under this arrangement, two or three will go back. They have no doubt that this course will fail to lessen the trade between the two countries (which Colonel Bee says is a hint that it will not certainly increase it). They ask also indemnity for past losses and a guarantee of protection in the future. The indemnity, it is suggested, can be paid out of the large sum now lying idle in the Treasury, collected from the Chinese Government for losses suffered by Americans in China. They state that this method of expelling them will not lessen in any manner the respect and regard they bear for native born Americans, with whom, with very few exceptions, their relations have always been of the pleasantest character.

This is the substance of the dispatch, the indemnity portion of which Colonel Bee explained by citing the case of a Chinaman who, after several years of hard labor in this State, had gathered together about \$3000. With this he established a store in the interior, which was visited by a mob one night, gutted and burned, and the Chinaman lost every dollar he had in the world. The Chinese merchants hold that as our Government has required theirs to pay an indemnity for losses sustained by Americans in China, it would be no more than justice for our Government to reimburse the Chinese residents here for losses they have been made to suffer through the acts of mobs, etc.