

# CAROLINA CENTINEL.

VOLUME IV.]

NEWBERN, N. C. SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1821.

[NUMBER 166.]

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY  
PASTEUR & WATSON,  
At \$ 3 per annum—half in advance.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### CHINA.

The following documents were lately received in this city, from Mr. Wilcocks, our Consul at Canton, and we have been permitted to take copies of them for publication. The interior of this remote, vast, and ancient empire, has been so minutely concealed from the observations of the rest of the world, and so little is known of its singular policy, that any thing authentic relating to its domestic affairs is a matter of almost as much curiosity as if it came from another planet. If the reader find in the papers now published many things to smile at, and some to disapprove, he will also find just maxims and beneficent sentiments, worthy to be admired. —National Intet.

The last will and testament of the Emperor Kea-King, said to have been given September 2d, 1820, the day on which he died.

The Great Emperor who received from Heaven and revolving nature the dominion of the world, hereby announces his will to the Empire.

When I, the Emperor, gratefully received from his late Majesty King-Lung, that high, honorable, and pure Sovereign, the Imperial Signet, and succeeded to the throne, I continued to receive his personal instructions in the affairs of government three years afterwards.

I have considered that the foundation of a country, and the great principles of social order consist in generating Heaven, imitating ancestors, being assiduous in government, and loving the common people.

Since I entered on my office, I have exercised the strictest caution and have felt a solemn awe, whilst I daily meditated on the important duty devolving on me. I have remembered that Heaven raises up princess for the sake of the people, and that the duty of feeding the people, and teaching them, is laid upon one man.

When I first conducted the affairs of government, the rebellious banditti in the provinces of Sze-chuen, Shen-se, and Hoo-kweng, were not reduced to a state of tranquility, and I had to instruct and stimulate the great officers, and to direct them; by which efforts the banditti were successively destroyed, and subsequently the terraqueous world enjoyed tranquility and repose; every hamlet found delight in its proper occupation, whilst I protected, as in my bosom, and bountifully largessed the poor people. Thus, they and I were blessed with repose and rest.

But, in the eighteenth year of my reign, abandoned people again created disturbance, and rushed inside the sacred gate of the palace. The rebels connected themselves over the districts Tsaou and Hwa, and spread themselves over three provinces. However, happily by a reliance on high Heaven's assistance, the leaders were destroyed, and the remnant exterminated, and in less than two months tranquility was again restored.

I have always considered that heterodox opinions were pernicious to the people, and have often issued orders and instructions on this subject to render government respected and to correct men's hearts. I set in order, and enjoyed by authority, fundamental principles, the cords which bind society together, hoping to make the administration of government pure, and the public manners substantially good; these cares I have never for a day dismissed from my breast. The Yellow River has, from ancient times till now, been China's grief. Whenever at Tun-te and Kwan-hea, the mouth of the river has been by sand banks impeded, it has, higher up the stream created alarm, by overflowing the country. On such occasions I have

not spared the Imperial purse to embank the river, and restore the waters to their former channel. Since a former repair of the river was reported to me, six or seven years of tranquility had elapsed, when last year, in the autumn, from the excessive rains, there was an unusual rise of the water, and in Ho-nan province the river burst the banks at several places, both on the south and north sides, and the stream Wos-che, flowing transversely, forced a passage to the sea. The injury done was immense.

During the spring of this year, just as those who conducted the repair of the banks had reported that the work was finished, the southern bank at E-fung, again gave way.—Orders have been issued to commence the repairs after the autumn, and money have been given for the work, which it is calculated may be completed during the winter.

I have paid particular attention to the lives of my people, & have been anxious to prevent a single individual being destitute. When excessive rains or drought occurred in any part of the empire, I have remitted the land tax, and have conferred grain; as soon as distress was reported, immediate relief was given.

Last year, on the 60th anniversary of my birth, when the public servants and people were presenting their sincere congratulations, I thought what benefit I should confer, and finally proclaimed a remission of all debts for land tax, to the amount of upwards of twenty millions, with a wish that every family and every individual should enjoy abundance, and all ranks ascend together the heights of general joy.

This year, during the spring and summer, and onward to autumn, the rains were seasonable, and from every province plenty was announced to me, which afforded real pleasure to my heart. In the middle of autumn, I, with a feeling of reverential obedience to the instructions of my ancestors, was proceeding to Much-lun on a hunting excursion, and to avoid the heat, stopped at the Mountain Cottage. I have hitherto enjoyed robust health, and, although advanced beyond the sixth decade of my life, I could ascend or descend a hill, or could visit the rivers on the plains without a feeling of weariness, on this occasion, in the course of my journey, the intense heat of the atmosphere affected me, and yesterday having whipped my horse across the mountains of benevolence, when I came to the hill cottage I felt the phlegm rise to suffocation, and apprehended I should not recover. But, in obedience to the law of departed sages of my family, I had already in the fourth year of my reign, and the fourth month, on the tenth day, at five o'clock in the morning, previously appointed an heir to the throne, which appointment I myself sealed and locked up in a secret box.—When the rebels in the 18th year attempted to climb over the palace walls, the Imperial Heir, with his own hand fired and shot two of them, which caused the rest to fall with terror to the ground, and the sacred abode was in consequence preserved in quiet. The merit of this conduct was very great, and, as the purpose of making him heir was not to become apparent, I created him a King, to be styled "The Wise," thereby rewarding his singular services.

The present disease will end my life; the "divine utensil," (the Throne) is supremely important, & becomes proper to transfer it to another: I therefore command all the Ministers of the Imperial presence all the statesmen of the military board, and all the great officers of the imperial household, in an assemblable body, to open the secret deposit. The Imperial Heir is benevolent, dutiful, wise and valorous, and will be able to sustain the trust committed to him. Let him ascend the Imperial throne and succeed to the universal rule.

This duty of a Sovereign Prince consists in knowing men's characters, and giving repose to the people. I have long discussed clearly this subject; but, to carry these duties into effect is truly difficult; let them be duly considered; let them be strenuously maintained; attach yourself (oh my son!) to the good and virtuous; love and feed the black-haired people, and preserve our family dominions over the great patrimony to myriads of ages.

The Le Ke Classic says, that dutiful sons perpetuate well the designs of their fathers, and illustrate well the affairs of their ancestors.—May your strenuous efforts never be intermitted.

I have arrived at the high honor of being the Son of Heaven; my years have extended beyond a sexagenary cycle; the happiness I have attained may be denominated great; I hope my successor will be able to continue my purposes, and will cause the world to enjoy the felicity of general tranquility, and thus my wishes will be gratified. When I received the Imperial Seal, I had two elder brothers and one younger brother. In the spring of this year, the royal brother, King-tsin, first departed this life, and only the royal brothers E-tsin and Ching-tsin remain: these, for offences were deprived of their emoluments, which punishment is hereby entirely remitted.

The Shao-King relates that the ancient Emperor, Tu, closed his career on a hunting excursion; my fate has therefore, been that of others; and further, this place, Lwan-Yang, is one, which according to rule, must be annually blessed by the Imperial presence and my predecessor, his late Majesty was born here. Why, then, should I be indignant at dying here!

Let the state mourning be agreeable to former usage, and be put off after twenty-seven days. Announce this to the Empire and cause every one to hear it.

### KEA-KING.

25th year, 7th moon, 25th day.

The He-chaou, or Joyful Proclamation of the new Emperor of China, Taou-kwang.

On the 17th of the 8th moon, (September 23d, 1820,) the Great Emperor, who has received from Heaven and revolving nature the government of the world, issued the following proclamation:

Our Ta-tsing dynasty has received the most substantial indications of Heaven's kind care. Our ancestors, Tae-tsoo and Tse-twang, (about A. D. 1600) began to lay the vast foundation of our Empire; and She-tsoo (in 1643-4) became the sole monarch of China.

Our sacred ancestor, Kang-he, the Emperor Tung-Chung, the glory of his age, and Keen-ung, the eminent in honor, all abounded in virtue, were divine in martial prowess, consolidated the glory of the Empire, and moulded the whole to peace and harmony.

His late Majesty, who has now gone the great journey, governed all under Heaven's canopy twenty-five years, exercising the utmost caution and industry. Nor evening nor morning was he ever idle; he assiduously aimed at the best possible rule, and hence his government was excellent and illustrious. The court and the country felt the deepest reverence and the stillness of profound awe. A benevolent heart and a benevolent administration were universally diffused. In China Proper, as well as beyond it, order and tranquility prevailed, and the tens of thousands of common people were happy. But, in the midst of hope that the glorious reign would be long protracted and the help of Heaven would be received many days, unexpectedly on descending to bless, by his Majesty's presence, the village Lwan-yang, the dragon charioteer (the holy Emperor) became a guest on high.

My sacred and indulgent father had, in the year that he began to rule

alone, silently settled that the divine utensil, the throne, should devolve of my contemptible person. I, knowing the feebleness of my virtue, at first felt much afraid I should not be competent to the office; but, on reflecting that the sages my ancestors, have left to posterity their plans; that his late Majesty has laid the duty on me, and Heaven's throne should not be long vacant, I do violence to my feelings, and force myself to intermit awhile my heart-felt grief, that I may with reverence obey the unalterable decree; and on the 19th of the 8th moon, (Oct. 3d, 1820) I purpose devoutly to enshrine the event to Heaven, to Earth, to my Ancestors, and to the Gods of the Land and of the Grain, and shall then sit down on the imperial throne. Let the next year be the first of Taou-kwang, Benson's Glory.

I look upwards, and hope to be able to continue former excellencies. I lay my hand on my heart with feeling of respect and cautious awe.—When a new monarch addressed himself to the empire, he ought to confer benefits on his kindred, and extensively bestow gracious favors. Whatever is proper to be done on this occasion is stated below:—

1. On all persons at court, and those also who are at a distance from it, having the title of Wang [a king] and downwards, and those of and above the rank of King [a duke] let gracious gifts be conferred.

2. On all the nobles below the rank of King down to that of Kih-kih, let gracious gifts be conferred.

3. Whether at court, or abroad in the provinces, Manchou and Chinese officers, great and small, civil and military, shall all be promoted one step.

4. Those officers whose deceased parents received posthumous titles of honor, shall have those titles increased, to correspond with the promotion of their sons.

5. Officers at court, of the 4th degree of rank, and in the provinces those of the 3d, shall have the privilege of sending one son to the Kuo-tze-keen [national college].

6. Officers who have been deprived of their rank, but retained in office, and whose pay has been stopped or forfeited, shall have their rank and pay restored.

7. Let the number of candidates to be accepted at the literary examinations in each province, be increased from ten or thirty persons.

8. Let the required time of residence in the Kuo-tze-keen college be diminished one month on this occasion.

9. Let all the Kue-jin graduates be permitted, as a mark of honor, to wear a bottom of the sixth degree of rank.

10. Let officers be dispatched to sacrifice at the tombs of departed Emperors and Kings of every past dynasty, at the grave of Confucius, and at the five great mountains and the four great rivers of China.

11. Excepting rebels, murderers, and other unpardonable offenders, let all those who may have committed crimes before day break of the 27th of the 8th moon, (the day of ascending the throne,) be forgiven. If any again accuse them of the crimes forgiven, punish the accuser according to the crime which he alleges against the person already forgiven.

12. All convicts in the several provinces who have been transported for crimes committed, but who have conducted themselves quietly for a given time, shall be permitted to return to their homes.

13. Tartars under the different banners and persons of the imperial household, convicted of the embezzlement of property, and punished by forfeits, if it can be proved that they really possess no property, let them be all forgiven.

14. Let all officers of government whose sons or grandsons were charged with fines or forfeits, on account of their father's crimes, be forgiven.

15. Let officers and privates in the Tartar army, to whom government may have advanced money, not be required to pay it.

16. Let all soldiers of the Tartar and Chinese army who have seen service, and are now invalided, have their cases examined into, and have some favor conferred on them, in addition to the legal compassion they already receive.

17. Let there be an enquiry made in the provinces for those families in which there was alive five generations, and rewards be conferred in addition to the usual honorary tablet conferred by law.

18. Agriculture is of the first importance to the empire. Let the officers of

government every where land those who are diligent in ploughing and sowing.

19. Old men have in every age been treated with great respect. Let there be a report made of all above 70, both of Tartars and of Chinese, with the exception of domestic slaves and people who already possess rank.

20. Let one month's pay be given to certain of the Manchou and Munghoo Tartar soldiers, and also to Chinese troops who joined the Tartar standard at the conquest.

21. Let men who belong to the Tartar army, and who are now above 70 years of age, have a man allowed to attend upon them, and excuse them from all service. To those above 80 years, give a piece of silk, a catty of cotton, a shih measure of rice, and ten catties of flesh meat, and to those men above 90 years of age double those largesses.

22. Let all overseers of asylums for widows and orphans, and sick people, be always attentive, and prevent any one being destitute.

Lo! now, on succeeding to the throne, I shall exercise myself to give repose to the millions of every people. Assist me to sustain the burden laid on my shoulders!

With veneration I receive charge of Heaven's great concerns. Ye king's and statesmen officers great and small, civil and military, every one be faithful and devoted, and aid in supporting the vast affair, that our family dominions may be preserved hundreds and tens of thousands of years, in never ending tranquility and glory. Promulge this to all under Heaven; cause every one to hear it.

### AMERICA.

The following account of the extent and population of the English, Spanish, and Portuguese, dominions in America, compared with those of the United States, is taken from one of Mr. Darby's late lectures in Philadelphia on Geography and History, an epitome of which has appeared in the Democratic Press:

The small tracts claimed by Denmark and the Netherlands, and the uncultivated wastes of Russia, deserve little attention. Russian America lies between the heads of the Columbia and Frozen Ocean, the Chippewa Mountains and Behring's Straits—1,160,000 square miles. Population, 10,000 whites, 190,000 Indians. British America, all the northern part of the continent east of the Russian territories and north of the United States, the Islands of Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Trinidad and parts of Yucutan and Honduras, covering a superficies of 2,600,000 square miles. The Lecturer, from actual view, estimates the Canadas at 1,000,000 of people: the whole Indian population of British America, at 250,000; in the West Indies and Yucutan, 10,000 whites, and 540,000 negroes; the entire population of all British America, 1,850,000. The United States extend over 2,200,000 square miles, peopled by 8,000,000 of whites, 2,000,000 of colored people, and 200,000 Indians; aggregate population 10,200,000.—Spanish America runs through 86 degrees of latitude, winding along the coast of the Pacific Ocean about 7,000 miles. The whole extending over 5,250,000 square miles, with a population of 18,000,000. Of this population 10,000,000 exist in North America and the West India Islands, the residue in South America. Portuguese America runs through 36 degrees of latitude, containing 3 millions square miles, and 6,000,000 of inhabitants—more than one half of them being Indians, from whom but a small portion of the soil has been taken. Mr. Darby gave then the following summary:

Sq. Miles	Population
Russian America, 1,160,000	200,000
British America, 2,660,000	1,850,000
Spanish America, 5,250,000	18,000,000
Portuguese Amer. 3,000,000	6,000,000
Swedish, Danish, Dutch, & French America, 216,300	598,000
Negroes in St. Domingo, 10,000	7,000,000
Total, 14,496,300	37,348,000

Mr. Darby estimates the nett arable lands of America at 10,000,000 of square miles, with a population of less than four to a square mile. Europe covers about 3,000,000 square miles, and is inhabited by 180,000,000 of people. If America was peopled in the same proportion, it would contain 600,000,000, or more than thirty times its present number. Six hundred millions of people on 10,000,000 square miles, would be only 60 to a square