



8 March 1830.

W. S. Davidson,
Esq.

2645. Would not the stoppage of the trade which you anticipate be as important a grievance to that country, as the stoppage of a great branch of trade would be to any other country?—Unquestionably; it would ruin those engaged in it at the moment.

2646. Do not you consider that would be an inducement to them to act on reasonable terms?—The government of China and the trading people are so very distinct, that it is impossible to suppose one motive actuating both parties.

2647. Do not the Mandarins and the officers of government gain very much by the trade, both regular and smuggled?—Unquestionably.

2648. Would it not be against their interest that any interruption should take place?—Certainly.

2649. Would it not also be against the interests of the English residing there to produce any interruption?—Certainly.

2650. Both parties being anxious to keep the trade, on what ground do you suppose the trade would be lost?—Because, as I stated before, representatives of the King of England could not temporize in the same way as the East-India Company have always been ready to do, when judged politic or necessary.

2651. You stated, that the present Lord Strathallan, and several gentlemen then in the Company's service, were concerned in business in Canton; did you mean it to be understood that they had any interest whatever in the sale of opium, which you described as having taken place?—I stated that, from the moment I joined the house, it was upon a clear understanding that all the opium agency should be mine, and that the cotton and other agency should be theirs.

2652. Did they at all participate in the opium agency?—I stated distinctly that in point of fact they did not participate. I *bonâ fide* profited by the opium agency, and they *bonâ fide* kept the other agency.

2653. Did you not state that the Company afterwards put a stop to their servants having an interest in the cotton agency also?—They submitted a proposition, that if it was retained by their servants it should be for the general benefit, certain parties being nominated by the whole to act. The parties then concerned in it declined the thing on those terms, and consequently I succeeded to the whole agency, none of the other parties in the Company's Factory choosing to start against me.

2654. Are the Committee to understand, then, that those gentlemen did nothing in the prosecution of that business, that they were not permitted to do as Company's servants?—Distinctly so.

2655. Before you joined the house, had the opium agency been equally divided between the members of the house?—Unquestionably; but the opium agency was much smaller at that time than afterwards.

2656. Had



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2656. Had the gentlemen you have mentioned any concern in any business which they were not permitted by the Company to engage in?—Those gentlemen participated in nothing but what they were legally and strictly authorized to do. When they were no longer authorized to do it, they most honourably gave it up to me, and the thing was done quite *bonâ fide*: and the reason I use that expression is, that in that country it was by some supposed to be otherwise; but I state most distinctly, that the opium agency profits were *bonâ fide* given up to me on joining the house.

Martis, 9^o die Martii, 1830.

Captain CHARLES HUTCHINSON called in, and examined.

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2657. You are a captain in the navy?—A commander in the navy.

2658. Since the peace have you employed yourself in the command of any ship in the mercantile service?—I took the command of a ship called the Bombay Castle, at Liverpool, in 1819, and went to India, where I remained five years.

2659. What was the size of the ship?—Nearly 600 tons.

2660. During the five years you were in command of this ship had you any intercourse with Canton?—I went there three times, three several years, from Bombay, with cargoes of cotton and various other things that are sent from India.

2661. Was there any opium on board the ship?—Not on board the ship; it is generally sent in vessels employed for that particular trade.

2662. To what ports did you return when you left Canton?—Always to Bombay from China.

2663. What were your return cargoes?—They consisted of tea, sugar, silk, camphor, nankeens, and a variety of other articles fit for the market of India.

2664. Was tea any considerable proportion?—No, tea is but a very small proportion; it is chiefly used by Europeans, and by a particular class of people called Parsees.

2665. How long were you at Canton in any one of those voyages?—Generally about three or four months.

2666. Had you the means of knowing whether the trade in which you engaged was profitable?—Yes, I have no doubt it was profitable, more or less, at times: and as one proof of it, I used myself, not knowing any thing of the trade, to lend money to merchants at Bombay, who paid eight per cent.
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for it to Canton, and the same back; and they made very largely upon it again, as I understood from themselves. Since I quitted India, I have heard that they do not succeed so well as they did; but that was the state of the trade while I was there.

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2667. How was the ship in which you were employed manned?—Entirely with Lascars, but with European officers.

2668. Do you know whether any ships have been employed in the country trade with China that were manned by Europeans?—I know of two, but I think there were more. They were ships that had been bought by British merchants, but had been built in India; they had the privilege of going to China. They claimed the privilege, and went with British seamen on board.

2669. Supposing the privilege which belongs now to an Indian-built ship to extend to all British ships, do you consider that advantage would accrue from it to the trade?—I have very little doubt of it. It can be but matter of opinion; but calculating from what I saw the Americans do, I think it must be very advantageous; for they bring goods from England and make a profit; and I have myself carried goods to China from India which have been sold with a profit there.

2670. Supposing there were a greater competition of shipping, would not the expense of that trade probably be lower?—No doubt it would. The freights are very heavy upon the ships that go from India to China.

2671. As you were three times at Canton engaged in those transactions of commerce, what should you say, from your opportunities of observing the character and habits of the people of China, as to their disposition with respect to intercourse with other countries and carrying on trade generally?—They have a very great avidity to trade with every body they are permitted to trade with. The merchants of China are extremely eager to trade with every one that comes into the country; more so than any people I have ever seen.

2672. Do you mean to say that they are a speculative, trading, enterprizing country?—Very much so; beyond any others I have seen.

2673. As they are disposed to favour trade, and to be speculative and enterprizing in it, are they disposed to be accommodating, and to afford facilities in their intercourse?—I think the people themselves are, in every possible way. The government take every opportunity of extorting duties; but those duties are not changed, and so long as you carry on the trade in the regular way appointed by them there is no sort of difficulty. Liverpool, which is one of the most expeditious ports for commerce in England, is not to be compared with Canton for its facility. In half an hour you may conclude a sale of a whole cargo of a ship and the purchase of another, and you have no further trouble with it; with the Hong merchants particularly: the more creditable ones among them are very honest in their dealings.

2674. You say that the government take every opportunity of extorting
duties:



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duties : had you ever an opportunity of observing whether other governments are slack in levying duties on trade?—Perhaps I was a little incorrect in the expression I used. While you adhere to the regulations they have made, you have no fear of extortion ; but if you do any thing at all illegal you are subject to very great extortion, and this extortion their own merchants are liable to if they commit any irregularity. They frequently make the Hong merchants pay fines for no real cause, but some pretended ones.

2675. Had you any dealings with the Hong merchants?—Yes, I had, but not to any great extent.

2676. Are there other merchants, exclusive of the Hong, with whom you can deal extensively?—A great many, and some have very extensive dealings ; indeed many of them much larger than many of the Hong merchants, who are in fact nothing but a name.

2677. So that you might have sold or bought a cargo without having recourse to the Hong merchants beyond what was necessary for securing the ship?—Precisely so ; it is frequently done.

2678. Were there many American ships at Canton at any period when you were there?—Yes ; many come there every year.

2679. Had you any intercourse with the captains or the supercargoes of those ships?—I saw them frequently.

2680. Did you ever hear of any complaint of any want of facility in carrying on the trade in China?—No, I never heard any one complain of any want of facility in carrying on the trade, as long as they adhere to the regulations of the country.

2681. Had you any opportunity of observing instances in which the Americans had to dispose of British manufactured goods in China?—There were two ships arrived one season when I was there, I understood, entirely loaded with British manufactures. I did not see the actual disposal of them, but it was well known that they did dispose of them. They were, I believe, not of a very good description, and consequently they did not sell so advantageously as those of a better description would have done. I had some in my ship at the same time which sold at a good profit ; they had been bought in India at a profit, and they were sold again in China at a profit. Those were British cotton manufactured goods ; chiefly long-cloths and cambrics. I have taken woollen goods likewise.

2682. Did you ever carry any cotton-twist to China?—I think a small quantity, but that trade had not then acquired any great extent.

2683. At what period were you last at Canton?—I was there last in 1824.

2684. As the Americans carry on a considerable trade with the Chinese, do they carry it on through the same system of agency, and with merchants of the same character as those who deal with the English?—Precisely in the same manner.

2685. And



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2685. And they meet with the same facility?—Precisely.

2686. From your observation of the Chinese, are you of opinion that if this trade was thrown open in the same manner as every other trade carried on from this country, there would be a great increase in the demand for British manufactures and British produce in China?—I think there would ultimately, but not immediately. There would be some increase immediately; but of course, that, like all other trades, must increase gradually.

2687. Have they any dislike to British manufactures?—Certainly not.

2688. Do you think they would be induced to purchase them by the same considerations which prevail in every other part of the world, namely, their cheapness and their excellence as compared with the cheapness and the excellence of light goods, either the productions of their own country or of other countries with which they trade?—Undoubtedly. I see them regulated by the same considerations as other people now, and I conceive they would be when the trade was open: I can see no reason why it should change their natures.

2689. Should you say it is a just distinction, speaking of the Chinese nation, to say that the people are speculative and much disposed to foreign trade, although the government is professedly adverse to communication with foreigners?—Yes, certainly. The government may be said to be so far adverse to trade, that it is jealous of you, knowing what you have done in India, and it is apprehensive of your intrusion; but so long as they may be secure that nothing else would be attempted, they are as desirous of carrying on the trade as the people themselves.

2690. Although the government professes jealousy in its intercourse with foreign nations, do not the servants of the government afford facility to that intercourse, from the consideration of the advantage they derive from it?—I cannot say that the government *does* profess any such feeling; it is believed to be so, but I do not know that they absolutely *profess* it.

2691. In point of fact, are any difficulties thrown in the way of commerce by the servants of the government?—Certainly not: they have every desire for it, because they derive all their emoluments from it. Almost all offices in China are bought. The Hoppo at Canton buys his office at a large price, and if the trade were stopped he would lose his emoluments, and he would have no redress from the government.

2692. Was there any interruption to the trade when you were at Canton, in consequence of any irregularities or difficulties?—There was an interruption occasioned by the supercargoes of the Company themselves. Some men had been killed by the Topaze frigate, and two men were demanded in lieu of them. For two years they were told that the British Government would be applied to. In the third year they insisted upon a decisive answer as to those men; they were told that they were men under the King's control, over which the Company had no power, and therefore they could



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give them no answer about it, and the Company's ships were not permitted to go to Whampoa, lest they should not afterwards be permitted by the Chinese to quit the country. This interruption, I think, continued for nearly two months; and the Chinese, finding that the Factory were determined not to give up the point, at last yielded, and sent a message that the King of England might punish those men. The trade was then opened again, and all went on as before.

2693. What year was that in?—I think it was in 1822.

2694. Are you aware of any other interruption arising out of the difficulties with the Chinese authorities, or with the Chinese people?—Not while I was in China.

2695. Do you know of any interruptions that have arisen in the American trade?—Not while I was in China; but I have heard of such an interruption, on the occasion of an Italian sailor, who was on board one of their ships, having been supposed to have killed one of the people.

2696. Are you aware of any difficulty or interruption that has occurred in the country trade?—None but where the ships have committed some irregularity, and that has been but momentary.

2697. In that case, has the interruption been confined to the ship that has so offended, or has it been extended to the trade generally?—It has been confined to the ship that has so offended; it has generally arisen from some of the Lascars attempting to smuggle opium.

2698. Has the interference of the government been confined to the ship that had been guilty of the offence?—Certainly, in cases of that kind.

2699. And the others have received no molestation?—None at all.

2700. Have the Americans any public officer at Canton to transact their business with the government?—There is an officer there who is called the consul, but he has no power over the ships that come there. There are many nominal consuls, of different nations, in China, but they have no power. Many obtain these appointments as an excuse to reside, the Company having the power to send away all British subjects.

2701. Is not the consumption of tea quite general in China among the native population?—Quite so, so far as I have seen; but having had intercourse only with a particular portion of the empire, it is difficult to pronounce positively.

2702. Must not the whole quantity exported from China bear a small proportion to the quantity that is consumed at home?—I have always understood so from the Hong merchants.

2703. Do you understand that if there was any increased demand for tea there would be any difficulty in supplying it?—Certainly not.

2704. Supposing any interruption to occur to the trade with Canton, from any political or other cause, do you suppose there would be any difficulty



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culty in the Chinese trading with Singapore?—I am not certain whether there would or not. If the Chinese government discovered that you obtained tea by that means, it is possible that they might prevent such vessels going as would bring you a sufficient quantity; but I cannot speak with any certainty, not knowing what their regulations are with regard to their own trade.

2705. Have you ever been at Singapore?—I have been there three times.

2706. Are there any considerable number of Chinese junks resorting to that settlement?—I have not seen many myself, but I have always understood that six or seven go there in a year, and sometimes more.

2707. Supposing the Chinese were to put a stop to the export of teas altogether, are you of opinion that the prohibition would be effectually enforced, so as to prevent its being sent to Singapore?—I think it is extremely probable that they would be enabled still to bring it to Singapore, but I am not certain.

2708. What do you apprehend would be the effect in China of a total prohibition of the export of tea?—It would be difficult to say. The Chinese government feel themselves to be a very rotten sort of government; they know that the people are ready to revolt in many of their provinces, and they would therefore be very cautious how they gave any cause of discontent to any part of their empire; but whether they are particularly afraid of that part of it situated near Canton I cannot tell. There are some of the provinces where they are much more inclined to revolt and to resistance than in that, particularly the province of Chichoo.

2709. You are aware that tea can be exported from other ports of China besides Canton in Chinese junks?—Yes, because it is brought to Singapore from other parts.

2710. Is it brought from the tea provinces?—It is brought by canals to the coast, and then put on board the junks, who bring it to Singapore.

2711. Are the junks that come to Singapore with tea loaded at Canton, or at ports nearer to the growth of the tea?—At ports nearer to the growth of the tea, I believe; I know they are not loaded at Canton.

2712. Had you any opportunity of ascertaining that the tea exported to Singapore is of a good quality?—I believe not, because a good quality is not wanted. It is for the use of the Chinese there, who are of a very low description, and who therefore require only very cheap tea.

2713. Do you think the Chinese government could more effectually prevent the exportation of tea than it does the importation of opium?—Perhaps it might more effectually, because tea is a more bulky article.

2714. From all its ports?—From all its ports, in the same proportion as to the two articles, of course.

2715. Is



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2715. Is the exportation of tea by the Chinese junks to Singapore an illegal trade or a permitted trade?—It is a permitted trade, I believe.

2716. Do you know whether the duty paid upon the exportation of tea in a Chinese vessel is lower than it is upon the like article exported in a foreign vessel?—I am not aware whether it is or not.

2717. Is not Singapore too new a settlement for you to be able yet to form an opinion of what effect that step may have upon the trade of China?—Yes, I suppose it may be.

2718. Do you know, of your own knowledge, where the tea sent to Singapore is shipped from in China?—No, I do not; I only know it is not shipped at Canton.

2719. Is it not shipped from ports nearer to the growth of the tea?—So I have always understood; of course I have no positive knowledge.

2720. Can you state what the relative prices of tea, of the same quality, at Singapore and at Canton are?—No, I cannot, never having inquired.

2721. Have you heard, whether, upon the whole, it is cheaper or dearer at Singapore?—I cannot say. It would, of course, be dearer than the same tea bought by the Chinese at Canton not exported and paying no duty.

2722. Do you happen to know whether the Chinese government exact the same measurement duty and the same dues from their own junks as they do upon foreign shipping?—I do not know. I should suppose not, from their desire to impose upon foreigners as much as they can.

2723. Then, of course, they could navigate much cheaper in those junks than the foreign ships could navigate?—I should suppose so.

2724. Is it not the case that those ships frequently do clear out for one port with an intention to go to another if the market suits them?—I conceive they would have no difficulty in going where they pleased, the Chinese government having no means of knowing where they went to after quitting the country.

2725. What do they take back from Singapore to China?—They take back tin, rattans, and betel-nut, if it can be obtained.

2726. Any British manufactures?—I dare say they do.

2727. Have you a personal knowledge of this trade by junks?—Yes; I have seen the junks at Singapore.

2728. Are you aware whether the exportation of tea in native vessels is prohibited by an edict of the Emperor of China?—No; I stated that, as far as I knew, it was perfectly legal. I never heard that it was contrary to their laws.

2729. Is not tea exported from China to every part of the Eastern Archipelago in considerable quantities, for the consumption of those countries?—I have always understood so.

2730. If the trade be an illegal trade from China to Singapore, would it not



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not follow that it must be without any export duties?—Of course there would be no charges, but fees to the Mandarins, who will always allow themselves to be bribed.

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2731. But, to the best of your belief, it is a legal trade?—I believe so.

2732. Can other parties procure teas of equal quality at Canton with the teas purchased by the East-India Company?—The tea required for the Indian market is generally of a superior description to that brought to England, and is obtained very readily; but, of course, the quantity of it is not so great. I have no doubt that any quantity of tea of any quality might be obtained by making engagements for it the year previous.

2733. When you say that the quantity is not so great, is the reason of the quantity being so small that the demand in India is more limited, or that a supply in China could not be obtained?—Entirely because the demand is limited.

2734. Are you then of opinion, that the India Company, if they chose to contract for it beforehand, and to stipulate for it, could procure a better quality of tea than they now habitually import?—I have always understood so from the Hong merchants and the Chinese: but those finer kinds of tea, either from the depraved tastes of the English, or some other cause, are not relished in this country.

2735. Does any quantity of that very fine tea come here?—Yes; there is some proportion of it comes here.

2736. Are you speaking of green or black tea?—Black tea.

2737. Do you know any thing of the tea that comes by land through Russia?—I know nothing of it but from report. I have always understood that it is of a very superior quality to that obtained in this country.

2738. Are the teas you mentioned as being carried to India known by any particular name in this country?—Yes; Pahoe or Pekoe is the finest of their teas; and Pouchong is another, it is a very delicate tea, wrapt up in papers.

2739. Have you ever heard at Canton that the Company procure the best teas for the English consumption, in consequence of paying a higher price than the private-traders?—They have no rivals in the English market, therefore, of course, they obtain what teas they please.

2740. Have not they rivals in the Americans and other traders?—Yes, but the Americans chiefly take the green tea. I think perhaps they may obtain better tea than the Americans, by making engagements for the tea the year previous, and paying a larger price.

2741. Do you think the Company procure their teas at the cheapest price at which that quality of tea could be procured?—No. I have always understood that they pay more for it than the same quality would be paid for by the private merchant. Sometimes, when I have wished to purchase tea of
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the Hong merchants, they told me they must wait till their teas had been examined by the Company, and chosen, and then that they would sell me what remained. They always look upon their trade with the Company as their greatest advantage.

2742. Is not the largest dealer likely to be the best supplied with tea, and to buy it at the cheapest rate?—I do not think he buys at the cheapest rate, but he will be the best supplied.

2743. Having the greatest command of the market, will he not be able to deal upon better terms?—He could if he tried, but the Company does not try.

2744. Why do not they try?—I do not know: it may not be their interest.

2745. With respect to that very fine quality of tea, do you know what would be the price of that as compared with the best sort of black teas that come here?—It is almost at any price; I have heard of it being as much as four or five dollars in China.

2746. Do you know the prices which the Company pay for their teas?—I do not know the prices.

2747. How do you know that they pay higher prices than individuals?—Because, though I cannot state the prices now, I heard them at the time, and they appeared to me to be higher.

2748. Might not the quality compensate for the price?—I do not think it did.

2749. Why not?—Because it was not as good.

2750. Did you examine it?—Yes; I have seen the teas myself.

2751. Was the tea offered to you, tea that had been rejected by the Company?—Yes.

2752. You have stated that the consumption of India is the very finest quality of black tea?—Not the very finest, but superior to that generally brought to England.

2753. Did you pay a higher or a lower price than the Company?—I suppose that I paid a higher price than the Company, because the tea was very superior to that generally bought by them.

2754. When you bought tea which you supposed to be of equal quality, did you pay a higher or a lower price than the Company?—I imagine that I bought it upon better terms than they did.

2755. Why should the Company pay a higher price than they could obtain the article for?—I can hardly say. I suppose it must be from want of sufficient diligence in their servants.

2756. Is it considered to be a very profitable thing for one of the Hong to have



have a share in the Company's trade?—They look upon it as one of their chief profits.

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2757. Is the value of that share known?—The precise value is not known, but it is always considered more desirable to obtain than that of any other dealer.

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2758. May not that be on account either of the great demand of the Company, or of their giving a better price?—I have understood that it was on account of the better price as well as on account of the greater quantity.

2759. Are you speaking of black or green tea?—Of both; but in comparing the prices given by the Company and by private merchants, I am speaking of black tea chiefly.

2760. Is not the consumption of tea in India confined to green tea?—At Calcutta it is, but at Bombay the consumption is almost entirely of black.

2761. Did you ever hear that the value of a share in the supply of black tea to the India Company by the Hong merchants was considered 40,000 dollars?—I never understood what it precisely was; I always understood it was considered by them as a bonus beyond what they could get from any private trader.

2762. Supposing that an edict on the part of the Chinese government could be produced, prohibiting the exportation of tea from all parts of that empire excepting Canton, would you not consider that as a strong demonstration of the anti-commercial spirit of the Chinese government?—I should consider it as a government not having very enlightened views of commerce; but it might be to guard themselves against smuggling from a great number of ports.

2763. You have stated, that you, as an individual, could purchase tea at a cheaper rate of the same quality as the East-India Company, do you attribute that to your paying money instead of paying part in goods, or to any other cause?—I can hardly say to what cause to attribute it; I only say that it exists.

2764. Do you know the fact, that an individual pays in dollars, and that the Company pays partly in goods?—I know that if you pay in dollars you can buy upon far better terms.

2765. Do not the Hong merchants, when they have obtained a share of the Company's trade, pay a considerable sum to the Hoppo in consideration of that share?—I do not know.

2766. Do you know, when you yourself transacted business, whether any thing was paid by the Hong to the Hoppo on account of that business?—I do not know.

2767. Are there any goods that are reckoned prohibited goods in China exported by the country ships?—A large quantity in almost every ship.



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They chiefly consist of cassia and a coarser kind of silk, upon which the duties are too heavy to be taken in the regular way; they are therefore bargained for with the outside merchants, to be smuggled on board the ship, and it is done with as great facility as the regular trade, the Mandarins being all feed and permitting it.

2768. Did you ever know any interruption to this irregular trade?—None whatever; it is as easily carried on as the regular trade.

2769. Did you ever export silver from China?—I have taken it, but that has been regularly shipped: that is, I had a chop for it.

2770. Is a large portion of the assorted cargoes exported from China, articles prohibited or subject to such duties that they are generally smuggled?—Yes.

2771. And that with the knowledge and connivance of the Mandarins?—Certainly. There is an island near Whampoa called French Island, where those smugglers live. Goods intended to be smuggled are sent to French Island, and you receive notice the night before at what hour the cargo will be brought. The Mandarins then surround the ship, and wait for the smuggling boat: when it comes alongside they send a man in a canoe to count the packages, that no more may be brought to the ship than they have received their fee for. In fact, their whole government is one system of corruption from top to bottom.

2772. Do not you think that the facilities they afford to smuggling arise from an anxious desire to extend their foreign commerce?—Certainly, in the people; not in the government, of course.

2773. In the officers of the government, do you attribute it to a desire to obtain a suitable remuneration in return for the sum of money they have given for their offices?—Certainly.

2774. It being notorious that all those offices are paid for?—So I have always been told.

2775. Do you happen to know what is the freight paid at Canton for the tonnage allowed to the officers in the Company's regular service?—It has throughout the different years I have known it varied from £45 to £60 per ton in the regular Indiamen.

2776. Is that the price at which they can let out a ton of their privilege from Canton to England?—Certainly. I know it, because when I was meditating my return to Europe, I was desirous of sending things by means of the Indiamen, and I did not think proper to do it on account of the tonnage being so high. The captains of the ships generally purchased this tonnage, and sometimes private merchants at Canton, for the purpose of making a remittance to England.

2777. Did you ever know any difficulty in procuring silk, or any other article of China produce, to any extent that was requisite for the demand of the foreign market?—I believe sometimes there may have been a scarcity of



of silk, but never to any great extent. With previous notice there certainly would be none, from what I have always understood.

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2778. Do you think if there was a year's previous notice of any increase of demand for tea, say one-third more than is now required, there would be any difficulty in obtaining it?—I should imagine not, from what I have always understood from the Hong merchants themselves.

2779. When the freight from Canton to England was from £45 to £60 per ton, what was the freight from Canton to Bombay?—The trade is generally regulated not by the ton but by packages in the country ships; therefore I am not prepared precisely to say what it might have amounted to per ton, but I should imagine from £10 to £12 at the very least.

2780. Would that be a profitable freight?—Certainly.

2781. Do you know what the freight was on board the American ships from Canton to Boston?—I do not.

2782. Does it consist with your knowledge that there have been any teas exported from Singapore to other parts of the world?—I do not know.

2783. You have stated that you have known of British ships manned with British seamen having made a voyage to Canton from India: can you state their names and the names of the captains?—I know of two, certainly; and I think there was a third. One of them was the Partridge, and the other was the Hannah. The captain of the Partridge I do not recollect: the captain of the Hannah was named Haythorn. They were between 400 and 500 tons.

2784. Do you know whether the trade of other nations with China derives any assistance from the Company's Factory there?—Not in the least, I should suppose.

2785. They do not interfere either to protect or impede them?—Not in the least.

2786. Therefore, whatever is the state of the foreign trade with China, it grows out of their own arrangements, or the facilities afforded by the Chinese government?—Entirely.

2787. Did you ever have any opportunity of applying to the Factory yourself for any assistance or facilities?—I never had. I have known that other people would have been desirous of obtaining their assistance, but did not apply, knowing that the Company's agents would not mix themselves up with any other business than their own. There have been several instances where Hong merchants have failed, and the persons to whom they owed money not being paid their dividends at the times appointed have made applications themselves to the Hoppo at Canton. They collected a number of their friends, and sat themselves down at the city gates for two or three days together, till they obtained an answer.

2788. Notwithstanding those occasional difficulties, you have stated that



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the trade with China is carried on with more facility than any country with which you are acquainted?—I think so.

2789. What is the freight at present from Bengal or Bombay to England?—I had a letter lately from a gentleman at Bombay, who stated that it was £2 a ton, and not obtainable at that.

2790. Supposing the freight from Canton to Bombay to be £10 and from Bombay to England £2, the same goods that are now charged at £45 to £60 might arrive by this circuitous trade at the rate of £12?—No doubt. But I imagine that the freight of the country ships themselves is now very much reduced; because by the same letter of information before alluded to, I understood that the country ships were going on in a much less prosperous way than when I was there.

2791. When you were in the command of a ship, had you a supercargo, or did you manage the transactions of trade yourself at Canton?—There was a supercargo at Canton corresponding with the owners at Bombay, sometimes he went in the ship.

2792. Do you know what commission he received for the transaction of the business?—I do not exactly know; he was a native merchant, and their commission is much less than that of Europeans.

2793. Was he Chinese?—No, he was a Parsee, a native of Bombay.

2794. You have stated, that you believe the country trade to be in not so prosperous state as it was; can you assign any reasons for that diminution of prosperity?—I cannot assign any reason but one, that the chief article of export from India is cotton, and the Chinese now grow a greater quantity of cotton than they did formerly, and consequently their demand for that is not so great: a less price is also obtained for it.

2795. You have stated your anticipation of an increase of demand for English manufactures in the event of the trade being thrown open, should you continue of that opinion if you were informed that the Company already exerts itself without much success to stimulate the consumption of British manufactures?—I should continue of the same opinion, because I think private merchants would carry on their trade in a more economical way than the Company do, and therefore they would carry their goods there cheaper.

2796. Are you of opinion, from your observation, that the Company do exert themselves to the utmost of their power?—I take it for granted, from hearing it now asserted, but I do not know that it is so.

2797. You stated that you conceive there would be no difficulty in obtaining additional quantities of tea, do you mean black tea or green tea, or both?—Both; but the black more easily than the green, because the use of green is entirely confined to Europeans and Americans; consequently it would take some time to extend the plantations from which it is brought. Black tea is used throughout the Chinese empire, and what we consume of

it



it is so small a proportion that I have no doubt a much larger supply of it might be obtained immediately.

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2798. Do you think that an increase of quantity might be obtained without any increase of price?—I think it probable that at first the Chinese would demand a greater price for tea, but that would soon find its level, as a larger price could not be given with advantage, and of course, like all other things, tea would become reasonable again.

2799. Do you think the quality of the tea would be affected by the larger demand?—I suppose it might be, but the same proportion of good and bad tea would come, I dare say.

2800. Do you think as great a quantity of good tea would be procured?—I should think it could.

2801. You stated that you thought if twelve months' notice were given any quantity of tea might be obtained; are you aware how long it is necessary that the tea-plant should be planted before it produces the leaf?—No. But my reason for supposing that you could obtain any additional quantity is, that our consumption compared with that of the whole empire of China is so small, that I have no doubt there is sufficient tea grown without planting any more.

2802. Do you know that as a fact?—No, I have heard it from the Hong merchants.

2803. Have you ever heard any estimate of the proportion which the quantity of tea exported bore to the quantity consumed at home?—The Chinese are so ignorant of the state of their own country, that they would have no means of making such an estimation, and no European could, of course.

2804.—Is not it true that tea is the general beverage of all the population of China.—Certainly.

2805. Did you happen to hear whether the British manufactures found their way into the interior of China, or whether they were confined to the districts adjacent to Canton?—They find their way into the interior, so far as the carriage of them will allow without rendering them too dear. They are very desirous of obtaining them, I understand, in all parts of China, particularly in many northern districts where they require the woollens for warm clothing.

2806. When the importation of British goods has been much increased has there been any difficulty in disposing of those goods?—I have not been at Canton when such a difficulty has occurred; but do doubt it would occur, if there was a great influx of goods beyond what was required.

2807. You say that tea rejected by the Company has been offered to you; have you ever purchased any of their rejected teas?—Yes, I think I have. It has been so far rejected by them, that it has been offered to them, but perhaps not examined, not being required.

2808. Was



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2808. Was the price asked of you the same that had been asked of the East-India Company? I understood that I was asked less. I always understood from the Hong merchants that they expect to get a better price for their tea of the same quality from the Company than from any private merchant.

2809. You stated that a private merchant could buy tea cheaper and better than the Company's servants buy it; what reason do you assign for that?—It would be difficult to assign any reason; I can only state the fact as I have understood it.

2810. Are you aware that a proportion of the price of the tea is paid by the Company in articles of British manufacture, and that other traders pay ready money for it?—No; other merchants sometimes exchange articles of merchandize for their tea, as well as the Company.

2811. Does not the difference in price depend, in some measure, upon the thing given in exchange?—It depends so far as this, that if you pay entirely for it in money, you will get it cheaper and better.

2812. You stated that you had seen numbers of junks arrive at Singapore, bringing tea and other goods from China: do you consider those junks to be sea-worthy?—Perfectly so.

2813. Have you ever heard of any great losses among those ships?—They are sometimes lost in the typhoons in the Chinese seas, in which any ship may be lost. I should think them more liable to be lost than an European-built ship: they are of very rude and primitive construction.

2814. Do you consider them equally safe and commodious for carrying tea as other ships?—Taking the seasons as they do, and sailing only in the proper monsoons, I see no danger in their vessels; but, as general sea-boats, they are not to be compared to European ships.

2815. You stated, that if you had dollars you could make a better bargain for the teas than if you had goods; from that it is presumed, there is not a very ready sale for goods?—I never found any difficulty in disposing of goods, but at the same time I found much greater advantage in having dollars. I think that would be found in any other country. The merchant can do as he pleases with the money, but he can only do one thing with the article of commerce.

2816. If the goods are desirable in the market, must they not be as valuable as money?—I cannot decide the point. I can only say, that it appears not to be the case with the Chinese. If he have the money he can buy goods or not, as he pleases, but if he have the goods he can only do one thing with them.

2817. You say that you have sold in China British cotton manufactures which you have bought in India, is that trade carried on to any great extent?—No; it would sometimes be a losing trade. It has been done when cotton goods were selling at no great profit in India.

2818. Have



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2818. Have you known it frequently done?—No; because generally goods in India sell to great advantage. They could not generally be carried to China unless they went there direct.

2819. Do you think that if there were an open trade the Chinese would consume British cotton manufactures to any great extent?—The Chinese admitting them only at one port, of course the consumption could not be extended so far as if they were admitted to other ports, but as far as they could be carried with advantage, the Chinese would be glad to buy them and use them.

2820. Could not cotton goods be smuggled with advantage to other ports?—There was a difficulty in smuggling at other ports when I was in China, but some ships with opium succeeded to a certain extent. Since I left that country, I understand that they have smuggled to a larger amount, and I suppose other goods as well as opium.

2821. Do you think that the smuggling could be carried on with the same ease at those other ports as at Canton?—I should think not, because at Canton it is systematised.

2822. Did you carry a cargo of glass bottles to Bombay?—I did.

2823. Was it a new object of commerce upon that occasion?—Not entirely new; but it was so far new, that it was with great difficulty I persuaded the agent at Calcutta to put them into the ship.

2824. What was the result of it?—It was very profitable.

2825. Did you find any difficulty in selling them?—No; I wrote to the merchants at Bombay, and they had sold them before I arrived.

2826. What induced you to try the experiment?—Because I had information from Bombay that bottles were very scarce there, and they were extremely cheap at Calcutta.

2827. Do you conceive that other articles of British produce might, in the same way, be exported beneficially to the China market, by watching the wants of the Chinese and the prices?—If a free intercourse was allowed with China direct from England, I suppose there would be always a sufficient supply of goods in the former country not to require any from India, and therefore the advantage which has existed heretofore of taking goods to China from India, when they were cheaper there, would cease.

2828. You stated that at the time of the men being killed by the *Topaze* frigate the Company's trade was stopped for a certain time; and you also stated that, in the event of such an occurrence happening with a country ship, the trade would only be stopped so far as that ship was concerned?—Unless a man was killed, then I think the whole trade would be stopped.

2829. Do the vessels which take out cotton and other articles from India to China return with full cargoes from China to India?—Always, I believe. There may happen instances when they do not, but I have always known them



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them to go full : and no doubt a great trade might be carried on by British ships in the same way ; they would do it much more economically than the country ships.

2830. When you made a voyage from India to Canton, did the licence which you obtained give you the power of touching at any ports which are not intermediate between the port in India and Canton?—I suppose so.

2831. Should you have considered yourself as empowered by the licence you obtained in India to bring tea from Canton in the country trade, and to have carried that tea to a port which was not intermediate between the two places, such as Mauritius, for example?—If it was out of the direct course I should not have gone there.

2832. In case of the interruption of the trade, would it require a very large number of junks to bring tea enough to Sincapore for the supply of Europe?—A much larger number than now come, and it could not be immediately done. The junks are large vessels, but as it now takes twenty to twenty-three Indiamen, of 1200 to 1300 tons each, to bring us tea every year, and as only six or seven junks visit Sincapore yearly, their number must be much increased before they could bring sufficient tea in case the trade with China was interrupted. I do not, however, myself think any such interruption is to be apprehended, as I have always understood the Chinese government is as anxious to obtain the duties levied upon the tea there as ours is to obtain the duty upon it here.

2833. What number of junks have you ever seen at one time in the Canton river?—I think I have never seen more than two of the large size, but the smaller ones are innumerable.

2834. Do not you think that the number of junks that are constantly in the Canton river at all periods of the year would afford tonnage sufficient to supply Great Britain with tea for one whole season, at any time?—I have no doubt, if they were permitted to go, but I have some doubt whether they *would* be permitted to go with tea ; their object would be suspected.

Mr. CHARLES EVERETT called in, and examined.

Mr. C. Everett.

2835. You are a commission merchant?—I am an American commission merchant.

2836. You have been engaged for eleven years, since the year 1818, in purchasing goods for the China market, on account of American merchants?—I have.

2837. How have those goods been principally shipped to Canton?—They have been principally shipped by American vessels direct to China.

2838. Direct from London, or to the United States, and there re-shipped?—Principally direct. Some few have been sent to the United States.

2839. Have you not had in your hands a very considerable portion of the American trade in woollens to China from this country?—I have.

2840. Were



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2840. Were you one of the first agents employed in England in this business?—I was. 9 March 1830.

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2841. In what manner had the Americans formerly made their remittances to China?—Principally in specie and opium, from the United States and elsewhere.

2842. Have you with you a statement of your annual purchases of woollen and cotton goods?—I have an abstract, marked (A), of all the shipments I have made from the year 1818 to January 1829, and a table marked (B).

[The witness delivered in the same, which are as follows:]

(A.)

ABSTRACT of SHIPMENTS, from 1818 to 1829.

	Packages.		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Ophelia:		Canton:						
July 1818 ...	9	58 pieces cloths	1,186	8	11			
Roxana:		Boston:						
Sept. 1818 ...	4	29 pieces cloths	672	18	3			
Augusta:		Gibraltar and Canton:						
July 1819 ...	68	1,344 pieces bombazetts £	3,662	5	6			
	1	20 — camlets	144	2	0			
	75	1,500 — long ells	4,607	14	0			
	33	200 — cloths	1,718	5	0			
						10,132	6	6
Ophelia:		Canton:						
Dec. 1819 ...	8	80 pieces camlet..... £	585	3	9			
	264	1,824 — cloths	15,170	4	8			
	10	200 — long ells	561	0	0			
						16,316	8	5
Robt. Edwards:		Canton:						
March 1820 .	286	2,867 pieces camlets..... £	20,571	0	5			
	50	1,000 — bombazetts	1,641	15	8			
	141	2,820 — long ells	7,865	8	2			
	150	786 — cloths	6,518	19	7			
	2	100 — cottons.....	191	5	2			
						36,788	9	0
Canton Packet:		Gibraltar and Canton:						
May 1820 ...	100	1,000 pieces camlets..... £	7,042	8	8			
	205	4,100 — bombazetts	9,139	6	6			
	6	24 — cloths	208	15	10			
	9	180 — long ells	505	6	10			
	80	1,388 — cottons.....	2,492	5	0			
						19,388	2	10

(Continued.)



EVIDENCE ON EAST-INDIA AFFAIRS:

	Packages.	Canton:	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Houqua:								
July 1820 ...	180	3,600 pieces bombazetts	£ 8,333	2	8			
	84	839 — camlets	5,486	14	10			
	54	1,080 — long ells	3,074	18	2			
	117	702 — cloths	5,330	18	4			
	20	2,000 — cottons.....	1,378	13	9			
						23,604	7	9
Augusta:								
Nov. 1820 ...	20	670 pieces cottons.....	£ 1,766	6	5			
	554	4,540 — camlets	30,277	9	2			
	130	2,700 — bombazetts	5,927	10	7			
	330	1,982 — cloths	17,169	13	6			
	74	1,480 — long ells	4,159	17	8			
	20	sundries.....	557	7	5			
						59,858	4	9
Cordelia:								139,639 4 4
Jan. 1821 ...	505	7,235 pieces cottons.....	£ 8,156	7	8			
	23	238 — camlets	868	7	5			
						9,024	15	1
Nautilus:								
April 1821 ...	113	1,125 pieces camlets.....	£ 7,817	12	2			
	130	2,600 — bombazetts	7,084	17	1			
	177	3,540 — long ells	9,394	17	6			
	552	3,570 — cloths	33,927	16	4			
	227	6,800 — cottons.....	7,967	2	1			
	32	sundries	1,741	6	2			
						6,793	11	4
Ophelia:								
Aug. 1821 ...	169	5,836 pieces cottons.....	£ 8,836	19	7			
	20	400 — bombazetts	1,090	18	5			
	5	100 — long ells	321	14	2			
	150	1,500 — camlets.....	9,959	17	6			
	50	sundries	3,023	0	0			
						23,232	9	8
Clarissa:								190,190 16 1
March 1822 .	172	8,590 pieces cottons.....	£ 8,154	17	1			
	26	240 — cloths	1,770	9	6			
	20	400 — long ells	957	1	6			
	32	sundries	2,469	9	4			
						13,351	17	5
Canton Packet :								
Sept. 1822 ...	230	2,300 pieces camlets				15,116	5	0
Levant:								28,468 2 5
March 1823 .	50	500 pieces camlets.....	£ 2,972	12	8			
	240	4,800 — long ells	8,209	3	3			
	48	2,730 — cottons.....	5,705	3	0			
	76	586 — cloths	5,459	6	10			
	40	sundries	2,089	19	2			
						24,436	4	11

(Continued.)



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			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Augusta:	Packages.	Canton:						
May 1823 ...	291	5,820 pieces long ells	£ 12,413	7	0			
	207	1,770 — cloths	9,352	12	6			
	89	5,284 — cottons.....	7,485	16	8			
		100 tons iron	1,181	14	4			
	138	sundries	5,637	15	2			
						36,071	5	8
London Packet:		Boston:						
July 1823 ...	50	1,000 pieces long ells	£ 2,244	9	5			
	10	100 — camlets	561	11	4			
	28	sundries	1,612	4	10			
Via Liverpool...	40	400 pieces camlets.....	2,122	5	2			
						6,540	10	9
								67,048 1 4
Duxbury:		Boston:						
Feb. 1824 ...	25	1,148 pieces camlets.....				1,329	17	10
Houqua:								
Aug. 1824 ...	392	23,250 pieces cottons.....	£ 21,499	13	0			
	186	3,660 — long ells	7,440	9	0			
	40	400 — camlets.....	2,430	11	8			
	391	2,640 — cloths	20,521	0	11			
	41	sundries	1,212	10	6			
						53,104	5	1
Nautilus:		Canton:						
Dec. 1824 ...	150	1,500 pieces camlets	£ 8,726	3	0			
	404	2,840 — cloths	23,149	2	1			
	110	2,200 — long ells	4,224	4	4			
	559	28,662 — cottons	28,085	18	8			
	177	sundries	7,061	12	9			
						71,247	0	10
London Packet:		Boston:						125,681 3 9
Feb. 1825 ...	10	900 pieces cottons				443	0	0
Via Liverpool:		Boston:						
April 1825...	81	6,583 pieces cottons.....				5,918	2	2
Ocean:		Boston:						
May 1825 ...	25	500 pieces long ells				1,047	11	0
								7,408 13 2
Houqua:		Manilla:						
Feb. 1826 ...	379	28,087 pieces cottons.....	£ 22,525	19	2			
	20	220 — cloths	2,059	17	2			
	5	100 — long ells	206	0	0			
	5	50 — camlets.....	350	0	0			
	2	50 — bombazetts	145	9	2			
	17	sundries	1,826	17	10			
						27,114	3	4
Nautilus:		Canton:						
March 1826 .	206	2,060 pieces camlets	£ 13,105	17	0			
	363	2,208 — cloths	29,020	2	6			
	448	20,890 — cottons.....	23,192	1	4			
	90	1,800 — bombazetts	5,120	6	6			
	75	sundries	6,927	4	2			
						77,365	11	6

About £80,000 value of the cargoes of the Nautilus and Houqua were purchased in 1825, and the shipment delayed until 1826.



EVIDENCE ON EAST-INDIA AFFAIRS:

				£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Milo :	Packages.	Canton :							
July 1826 ...	483	3,020 pieces cloths	£ 20,699	2	2				
	100	2,000 — long ells	3,941	10	6				
	40	4,000 — cottons.....	1,290	4	9				
						25,930	17	5	
Danube :		Canton :							
Aug. 1826. ...	558	3,588 pieces cloths	£ 23,881	8	6				
	20	200 — camlets	1,200	0	0				
	289	12,528 — cottons	9,543	18	1				
	25	sundries	3,209	14	3				
						37,835	0	10	
Milo :		Canton :							168,245 13 1
Aug. 1827 ...	204	11,258 pieces cottons.....	£ 11,990	8	1				
	50	500 — camlets	4,333	12	2				
	84	508 — cloths	3,219	16	11				
	13	sundries	1,441	18	4				
						20,985	15	6	
Houqua :		Canton :							
Sept. 1827 ...	399	32,690 pieces cottons.....	£ 17,629	8	1				
	70	700 — camlets	3,802	19	10				
	16	sundries	3,278	12	8				
						24,711	0	7	
Dorchester :		Boston :							45,696 16 1
Feb. 1828 ...	7	Sundries				2,025	8	0	
Augusta :		Canton :							
April 1828 ...	140	7,000 pieces cottons.....	£ 7,116	17	2				
	120	1,200 — camlets	6,376	2	6				
	24	sundries	2,697	19	2				
						16,190	18	10	
Nautilus :		Canton :							
July 1828 ...	150	1,500 pieces camlets	£ 7,808	2	6				
	196	1,300 — cloths	10,835	4	0				
	45	900 — bombazetts	1,838	17	6				
	100	2,000 — long ells.....	3,347	6	6				
	142	10,095 — cottons.....	6,414	2	11				
	92	sundries	3,021	11	6				
						33,265	4	11	
	14,392	Packages.							51,481 11 9
									762,118 4 1

London, March 6th, 1830.

CHARLES EVERETT.



(B.)

TABLE showing the QUANTITIES of each Article and AMOUNT Shipped.

DATE.	CLOTHS:		CAMLETS:		LONG ELLS:		COTTONS:		SUNDRIES:	TOTAL.
	Pieces.	Amount.	Pieces.	Amount.	Pieces.	Amount.	Pieces.	Amount.	Amount.	
		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1818....	87	1,809 7 2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,809 7 2
1819....	2,024	16,888 9 8	100	729 5 9	1,700	5,168 14 0	....	....	3,662 5 6	26,448 14 11
1820....	3,494	20,228 7 3	9,246	63,377 13 1	5,560	15,605 10 10	4,158	5,828 10 4	25,599 2 10	139,639 4 4
1821....	3,570	33,927 16 4	2,863	18,645 17 1	3,640	9,716 11 8	19,871	24,960 9 4	12,940 1 8	100,190 16 1
1822....	240	1,770 9 6	2,300	15,116 5 0	400	957 1 6	8,590	8,154 17 1	2,469 9 4	28,468 2 5
1823....	2,356	14,811 19 4	1,000	5,656 9 2	11,620	22,866 19 8	9,010	13,190 10 8	10,421 13 6	67,047 0 4
1824....	5,480	43,670 3 0	3,048	12,486 12 6	5,860	11,664 13 4	51,912	49,585 11 8	8,274 3 3	125,681 3 9
1825....	....	....	....	....	500	1,047 11 0	7,483	6,361 2 2	....	7,408 13 2
1826....	9,036	75,660 10 4	2,310	14,655 17 0	2,100	4,147 10 6	65,500	56,552 3 4	17,229 11 11	168,245 13 1
1827....	508	3,219 16 11	1,200	8,136 12 0	....	....	43,948	29,619 16 2	4,720 11 0	45,696 16 1
1828....	1,300	10,835 4 0	2,700	14,184 5 0	2,000	3,347 6 6	17,095	13,531 0 1	9,583 16 2	51,481 11 9
	28,095	231,822 3 6	24,767	152,988 16 7	33,380	74,521 19 0	226,571	207,784 9 10	95,000 15 2	762,118 3 1

London, March 6, 1830.

CHARLES EVERETT.

9 March 1830.
Mr. C. Everett.



9 March 1830.

Mr. C. Everett.

These statements show the amount and dates of the shipments by each vessel, also the quantities and value of several leading articles; distinguishing the amount of cottons, woollens, and sundry other goods. I have purposely omitted giving information respecting any new articles prepared by me for the China market, as it might prove injurious to those concerned; and although I am not at present engaged in continuing the extensive trade I have been instrumental in opening for the manufactures of this country, I wish to avoid doing any thing against the interest of my late employers.

2843. What was the greatest year?—The greatest year was 1826: but I would remark that of the amount that year, part of the goods were purchased, and they were intended for shipment in 1825, but were detained here in consequence of a failure; the amount was £168,245.

2844. What was the amount in the year 1825?—£7,408. I should say that about £80,000 of the goods exported in 1826 fairly belonged to 1825.

2845. Will you state the amount of each year?—

	£.	s.	d.
In 1818.....	1,809	7	2
1819.....	26,448	14	11
1820.....	13,963	4	4
1821.....	100,190	16	1
1822.....	28,468	2	5
1823.....	67,048	1	4
1824.....	125,681	3	9
1825.....	7,408	13	2
1826.....	168,245	13	1
1827.....	45,696	16	1
1828.....	51,481	11	9
	£ 762,118	4	1

2846. What is the aggregate amount of the eleven years?—£762,118. 4s. 1d.

2847. Can you state the aggregate amount of each description of goods?—By referring to Statement (B) you will find that of woollen cloths the quantity was £231,822. 3s. 6d.; of camlets, £152,988. 16s. 7d.

2848. Is the camlet all woollen?—Yes, the camlets are all woollen. Of long ells, which are also woollens, £74,521. 19s.; of cottons, £207,784. 9s. 10d.; and of sundry other articles, £95,000. 15s. 2d.

2849. Have you also a statement of the number of pieces of goods of different descriptions, and the progressive diminution in past years?—Statement (B) shows the number of pieces of the different descriptions. I have



have also a paper, marked (C), which shows the value of several articles at different periods, from 1820 to 1830, when compared with 1820.

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[The witness delivered in the same, which is as follows:]

(C.)

A STATEMENT showing the Value of *Long Cloths*, *Camlets*, and *Broad Cloths*, at different Periods, compared with 1820.

Cotton Long Cloths.

In 1821.....	were	$2\frac{1}{2}$	to	5	per cent. less.
1822.....	—	5	—	$7\frac{1}{2}$	—
1823.....	—	10	—	15	—
1824.....	—	20	—	25	—
1825.....	—	$12\frac{1}{2}$	—	15	—
1826.....	—	30	—	35	—
1827.....	—	35	—	40	—
1828.....	—	40	—	45	—
1829.....	—	45	—	50	—
1830.....	—	$47\frac{1}{2}$	—	50	—

Camlets.

In 1821.....	were		5	per cent. less.
1822.....	—		10	—
1823.....	—	$12\frac{1}{2}$	to 15	—
1824.....	—	15	— 20	—
1825.....	—	10	— $12\frac{1}{2}$	—
1826.....	—	$17\frac{1}{2}$	— 20	—
1827.....	—	25	— 30	—
1828.....	—	30	— 33	—
1829.....	—	$37\frac{1}{2}$	— 40	—
1830.....	are	42	— 45	—

Broad Cloths, suitable for the China Trade.

In 1821.....	were	5	to	$7\frac{1}{2}$	per cent. less.
1822.....	—	$7\frac{1}{2}$	—	10	—
1823.....	—			10	—
1824.....	—	$12\frac{1}{2}$	to 15		—
1825.....	—	5	—	10	—
1826.....	—	35	—	40	—
1827.....	—	40	—	42	—
1828.....	—	42	—	45	—
1829.....	—	45	—	47	—
1830.....	are	45	—	50	—

It appears from the above, that nearly double the quantity of goods may be bought at the present prices for the sum paid in 1820; therefore, to form a correct estimate of the trade with China, it will be requisite to compare with the quantities, and not the amount shipped.

Long ells are 55 per cent. lower than in 1820.

London, March 8th, 1830.

CHARLES EVERETT.



9 March 1830.

Mr. C. Everett.

2850. Has there been a regular decrease in price from 1820 to the present time?—Excepting the year 1825, when there was a small advance.

2851. Therefore the increase in the *quantity* of goods exported would be much more than would appear upon the increase of the value?—My calculations are from 1820 to this date. £100 at the present time would buy twice as many goods as it would in 1820.

2852. Have you any doubt, from the experience you have had, that if the existing restrictions were removed, the trade to China in British manufactures might be materially increased?—I have no doubt the trade might be increased to a very considerable extent by proper management, if the restrictions were removed.

2853. Have you found the trade in British woollens with Canton a profitable trade?—I am not able to answer that question fully, as I have not known what the goods have actually brought; but I suppose, from general information, they have been profitable, as the shipments being continued is the strongest proof that can be offered.

2854. Do you consider that the American trade in woollens has been generally profitable?—I do.

2855. To what do you attribute that, when the Committee hear from the East-India Company that their trade in woollens has been a losing trade?—I cannot account for the East-India Company's losing money on woollens.

2856. Are the woollens which have been generally sent out by the American traders of a different description, or of a superior quality, to those sent out by the East-India Company?—I can only answer for what I purchased myself; some of the articles have been superior to the East-India Company's.

2857. Have you ever bought any of the rejected cloths of the East-India Company?—Not for many years, excepting a few pieces; I speak of cloths only.

2858. Have you any reason to suppose, from what you have heard from your American correspondents, that they experience any difficulty in carrying on the trade at Canton?—I do not understand that there is any difficulty in carrying it on.

2859. And that so long as you were connected with it, they made it, upon the whole, a generally profitable trade?—I believe so.

2860. Has that trade fallen off lately?—The trade in manufactured goods has been continued lately by the house of Baring and Company.

2861. Has the trade decreased or not lately?—I believe that it has increased the last year.

2862. Can you state as to the two preceding years?—I should think it had increased, as considerable quantities have gone from Liverpool, shipped on account of another party, since 1821, by Willam and James Brown and Company.

2863. It



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2863. Is it within your knowledge that the trade has increased?—I refer you to my statements, (A) and (B), respecting the shipment of woollens and cottons.

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2864. Have you a statement of the export of foreign woollens, cottons, and metals from the United States to China?—Yes, I have; it is drawn up from an official document, printed by order of Congress, for the years 1827 and 1828, ending the 30th of September in each year.

[The witness delivered in the same, which was read, as follows:]

AN ACCOUNT of the Value of Foreign and Domestic Woollens, Cottons, and Metals, exported from the different Ports of the United States of AMERICA, in the years ending the 30th of September 1827, and 30th of September 1828; extracted from a General Statement respecting the Import and Export of Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, printed by order of Congress, 10th February 1829.

	1827:		1828:	
	Foreign.	American.	Foreign.	American.
Woollens	19,264	—	7,210	—
Cottons, white and coloured	76,274	9,388	304,789	14,981
Cotton twist	—	—	3,574	—
Iron in pigs, bars, and bolts	3,398	4,250	14,885	—
Copper in pigs and sheets	4,114	—	11,819	—
Tin plates	3,570	—	2,056	—
Lead.....	178,131	—	69,051	—
Value in dollars.....	284,751	13,638	313,384	14,981

2865. Has any cotton-twist been sent from this country through you?—A small quantity some years ago.

2866. Has any been sent lately?—I believe it has been shipped lately, but not by me.

2867. Have you acted for houses in this country?—I have acted under the direction of houses in this country, but for account of American houses.

2868. Have you been employed by the house of Baring and Company?—I was employed by Bates and Baring, now belonging to the house of Baring and Company.

2869. Do you know whether other persons besides yourself have been employed as agents for purchases of this description?—I understand that Barings themselves have been purchasing goods for four vessels; three of them have gone in 1829. I can state the names of the vessels: the Milo, from London; the New England, from Liverpool; and the Margaret Forbes, from London. There is another cargo in the London Docks.

2870. Were you employed in selecting any part of those cargoes?—No.



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2871. Were you employed in 1829 by any other persons in the selection of cargoes for China?—No, excepting a small amount, which I suppose went by the New England.

2872. Do you conceive the variation in the amount of exports, in different years that you have stated, to have arisen from the variation in the amount of the trade itself, or merely from a variation in your agency for that trade?—I purchased during the years mentioned the whole of the goods that the parties had from England, excepting about £8,000 of woollens, and £2,000 of cottons.

2873. You do not think they have bought any thing through any other channel?—Not any thing, except about £8,000 of woollens and £2,000 of cottons.

2874. Have not there been other houses shipping for American account to China, besides those who had employed you in the selection of their goods?—I have informed you that some goods went through Messrs. Brown's of Liverpool, for another party; that house and my employers are the two principal parties concerned in the trade from this country to China. I know of no others of much importance.

2875. You have stated, that you have upon some occasions bought goods refused by the Company; were those refused by the Company on account of the quality, or that they did not want any more of that description of goods?—I have bought very few rejected goods, except the article of long ells: those were rejected for being a little light in weight, or any other point which does not *exactly* come up to the Company's standard. If a long ell is *too fine*, it would not weigh enough, and of course would be rejected, so that we may select the best goods from the rejected ones.

2876. Do you consider that the long ell is the worse for the China market for being too fine?—No, I consider it much better.

2877. Do you consider yourself able to make a better selection of goods for the China market than the East-India Company?—That would be too much for me to presume.

2878. Do you know how the Company purchase their goods?—They generally purchase by contract, which is not an advantageous way of purchasing.

2879. In the course of making your purchases, have you found the Company in your way in the same description of goods that you were looking for?—No. I have known that when the Company offer a contract, say for camlets, or any particular description of goods, there has been a meeting of the manufacturers, and they have fixed the price at which they should tender at, and I have met with the same difficulty myself in making purchases. When *it was known* that I wanted a large quantity, I found that the manufacturers sometimes combined to hand me a price; and I have had considerable difficulty in counteracting the effects of combinations, not only in purchasing the article itself, but in every part of the finishing.

2880. Is



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2880. Is not that the effect of any large purchaser going into the market at any time?—It would be the effect if known. The Company give *public tenders*; but if I go into the market, I can take care the quantity that I wish to purchase is not known.

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2881. Are you not of opinion that, practically considering the mode in which the Company make their purchases, you make your purchases upon more favourable terms?—I have good reasons to suppose that my goods were purchased cheaper than the Company's.

2882. Are the Americans desirous of purchasing finer goods than what are purchased by the East-India Company?—When I had the management of it, my object was to get better goods than the Company's, and in most articles I have succeeded.

2883. You think, upon a general average, your goods are of at least as good quality as those of the India Company?—Yes, they have been proved so.

2884. In their respective kinds?—Yes. I must except one article; I should think the Company's long ells were superior to those I shipped.

2885. Is the Company's mark ever used in any way by the Americans?—The Company's mark I never use on the outside packages. We have copied the manner of packing and the making-up of the goods, and the number of pieces in the package, but there is never any mark on the bales, at least not of late years, which would appear like the Company's.

2886. Are the Committee to understand that the quantity of goods exported from America to Canton are altogether goods exported from this country on American account?—It is possible that some of the articles included in those may have been shipped from this country on English account.

2887. You have stated that the Company's long ells are better than the long ells you have purchased; could not you get as good long ells?—I consider that they have had them dyed and finished rather superior than what I have done. I could certainly procure the same, or even better quality than the Company's, if it were required.

2888. Do you think that an advantage on the part of the Company?—The quantity of long ells we have shipped is very small in comparison with theirs.

2889. When did the Americans begin to export British manufactures to Canton?—In 1818 I commenced the business.

2890. Can you state any reason why they did not do so before?—It was because the prices were too high to execute the orders that were sent for them; there was a small quantity of goods purchased in England and afterwards returned to the United States from China as unsaleable, in consequence of the quality not being suitable for the market.



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2891. In what years have you known the woollens returned from China ?
—Between 1816 and 1817.

2892. Are you aware of what the mark on the Company's cloths is ?—
Yes ; I do not know exactly what they put on the bales ; a divided heart,
I believe, and some letters.

2893. Did you in the goods you have shipped put on a mark resembling
it ?—I may have done so many years back.

2894. Since 1818 have you done it ?—It is barely possible ; the few first
shipments I recollect were marked with a mark somewhat similar to the
Company's.

2895. Have you done so in the later shipments ?—No.

2896. How long have you discontinued it ?—I can hardly recollect. I
am speaking of the outside packages ; in the inside packages we have in
some degree imitated the Company, but it is not the same.

2897. Did you try to assimilate your mark to that of the Company's for
the purpose of making it appear that they were Company's goods ?—It was
necessary to have them marked in that way, that they might be known as
that description of goods, to give them a greater currency.

2898. Why did you discontinue the practice ?—By the orders of my em-
ployers.

2899. Do you know whether the goods are marked in the same manner
that are sent from America ?—I do not know.

2900. Were they supposed to fetch a higher price in China in consequence
of that mark ?—I do not know what the reason was for putting it on.

2901. But you had been desired to make it similar ?—I acted according
to directions.

2902. Were not you desired to make those marks as near as possible to
the Company's mark ?—In respect to the manner of packing and marks on
the goods, I was. The cloths bought by me are very different from the
Company's, they measure two to five yards longer. I have not for five or
six years marked a package any way like the East-India Company's.

2903. Before that, was it not the practice to do so ?—In the first few
shipments it was customary to do so, but I have not done it for many years.

2904. Did you ever do that for Barings and Company ?—No ; I should
have said it was Bates and Baring that I did business for.

2905. You have stated that you thought the cloths you bought were
better than those of the East-India Company ; if that be so, what interest
could you have in packing them in the same manner as those of the East-
India Company ?—Because the Chinese have been accustomed to see them
in that manner.

2906. If your cloths were of a superior quality, would not that have been
better



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better shown by not imitating the East-India Company?—I always thought so myself, but my correspondents thought otherwise.

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2907. You stated that in the course of eleven years you have exported manufactured goods for American houses to the amount of £762,118; do you know whether to those American houses it was a losing or an advantageous trade?—I have no doubt it was an advantageous trade.

2908. Were there many of those houses interrupted in the course of their affairs afterwards?—The principal part of those purchases were for one house, who are now very rich.

2909. What is their name?—Perkins and Company, residing at Boston; one of the partners is here now.

2910. Which?—Mr. Cushing.

2911. Are not they supposed to have made their fortune in the China trade?—There is no doubt of it.

2912. Have you any means of knowing who they traded with in China, whether the outside merchants or the Hong merchants?—Principally, I believe, with Howqua and Manhop.

2913. What is the general agency charge in this business?—I have received one and a quarter per cent. commission on the purchase.

2914. Is that all you receive?—Yes.

2915. Do you know whether the house of Perkins is looking with anxiety to the decision of the question, whether it shall still be a monopoly trade or an open one?—I understand that they are about giving it up.

2916. Why?—I cannot answer for that reason; that is what they tell me.

2917. Do not Perkins and Company still continue traders?—Yes.

2918. But this particular branch of trade, you understand, they are intending to give up?—That is what I have heard.

2919. Do you know that Mr. Cushing has made a large fortune and has retired from business?—Mr. Cushing is worth perhaps £500,000, and is retiring from business; he has been the acting partner in China for about twenty-five years.

2920. Have you opened any correspondence with any new American house in consequence of Perkins's house intending to give up the trade?—No.

2921. Have not you heard that the house of Perkins and Company owe their chief fortune to the opium trade;—To the China trade; the opium trade is, of course, included in it.

2922. From your knowledge of the trade, as far as you have been employed as a commission agent, are you of opinion, that if we had as free an intercourse with China as the Americans have, the trade between England and China would be the principal trade carried on with China?—I have no doubt



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doubt it would be very beneficial to England to have a free trade ; but whether it would be the principal trade with China, I cannot tell.

2923. Do you think any other country would be a rival with this country in the export of manufactured goods to China?—No, decidedly not at present. But the Germans are improving in their manufactures, and may soon rival yours in woollens, unless your ports are opened for the produce of the Continent, so as to equalize the price of provisions. And if you would admit American flour, &c. it would greatly increase the export of goods to the United States as well as China, and by advancing the prices of their broad stuffs, complete the overthrow of their cotton and woollen factory.

2924. Is there any nation now that rivals the British in the China trade?—Not that I am aware of, excepting the Americans.

2925. Do they rival the English trade now?—Certainly they do.

2926. To any great extent?—There is no doubt they are carrying on a very large trade with China.

2927. Is any other trade with China equal to the English trade?—Not in manufactured goods, certainly.

Mr. ABRAHAM DIXON called in and examined.

Mr. A. Dixon.

2928. You are a foreign commission agent residing at Leeds?—Yes.

2929. In what other lines of business have you been employed?—I have resided in Leeds about two years ; seven years previous I resided in Huddersfield, in the same line of business.

2930. Did you ever carry on business as a Blackwell-hall factor and merchant?—From the year 1795 to the year 1822 I resided in London, and during the whole of that time was engaged in the business of a Blackwell-hall factor and merchant.

2931. What is a Blackwell-hall factor?—An agent for the sale of cloth manufactured in the West of England.

2932. During any portion of that time were you interested in a concern in Yorkshire, for the manufacture and dyeing of coarse cloth for the use of the army and the East-India Company?—I was.

2933. Have you had any dealings with the East-India Company in cloths?—From the year 1795 to 1807 I was clerk with a Blackwell-hall factor, who also was connected in the same trade ; and from 1807 to 1822 I carried on business myself, in conjunction with other parties, as a Blackwell-hall factor and merchant, and also up to the end of 1825.

2934. With what articles of woollen have you been in the habit of supplying the East-India Company?—All the different kinds of cloths : they buy superfine or Spanish stripes, white and stripe list cloths, medley cloths, and kerseymeres.

2935. Do



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2935. Do you consider that there are any other descriptions of cloths, besides those exported by the East-India Company, which are suited to the China market?—Formerly, to my knowledge, a fine and stouter description of cloths was sent by the Russians to China, which I occasionally supplied to merchants in St. Petersburg and Moscow; also a coarser and finer description of cloth than what the East-India Company generally send out to China, is sent out by the Americans.

2936. Do you believe, from any circumstances within your knowledge, that the very coarsest descriptions of cloths might be exported to China with advantage?—I believe, from the information I have had from Americans and others, and also from the evidence that was given before the House of Commons by Mr. Grant, and also by Mr. Roberts, in 1821, that the very coarsest description of cloth that is manufactured in this country, which can be dyed the colour that is required in China, would be saleable to a greater extent than any other description of woollen in that country; for both those gentlemen stated, that the bulk of the Chinese have it not in their power to purchase the cloth which the Company send out, and for that reason I should suppose the coarsest cloth would be the most suitable.

2937. Do you know anything of the nature and extent of the trade in woollens carried on by Americans between this country and China?—Yes, I do.

2938. What are the descriptions of woollens chiefly sent out by the Americans?—The same sort sent out by the East-India Company; also a fine and stouter cloth, and also a coarser and a lower priced cloth.

2939. In the finer descriptions of cloths, do you conceive that the article sent out by the American merchants is equal to that sent by the East-India Company?—They send a considerable quantity of better quality than the East-India Company send out.

2940. Is that which they send of the same description of an equal quality with what the Company send?—Yes, indeed, exactly the same.

2941. Do they obtain it as cheap?—I believe they do; and I may say perhaps more correctly, that they obtain it cheaper.

2942. Do you consider that they have any greater facilities, and what are those facilities?—The principal advantage that the Americans have over the East-India Company is, in having the cloths from Leeds, where they are dyed a great deal cheaper than in London.

2943. Have they also any advantages resulting from late improvements in the manufacture, which the East-India Company, by their mode of proceeding, are debarred from possessing?—Very considerable improvements have been made in the manufacture of fine cloth at Leeds of late years, all of which the Americans have the advantage of, whilst the East-India Company are debarred from it, from the nature of their contracts and the mode in which they purchase their cloth.

2944. Will



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2944. Will you state in what mode the East-India Company make their purchases of cloths?—Always by tender and contract.

2945. Do you consider that to be an advantageous mode of dealing?—No, I do not. In consequence of the objectionable clauses which are in those contracts, the parties tendering for the cloth, in order to save themselves, must make an addition to the price, in order to cover the rejections which they are subject to, and other inconveniences and expenses which they are at.

2946. Is the decision of the overlooker of the Company upon the goods which are sent up final, or is there any appeal from it?—There is no appeal whatever from it.

2947. Where is the objection made when the goods are sent to London?—In London, by the overlookers employed by the East-India Company.

2948. Then the goods are sent up, and if they are not strictly in accordance with the terms of the contract, they are rejected in London?—They are.

2949. The manufacturer then incurs the expense of their transfer to London?—Yes.

2950. Is there any difficulty in obtaining a sale for rejected cloths?—Sometimes there is a difficulty, at other times not; it depends upon the nature of the demand. Formerly the rejections of the East-India Company were sold to the Mogadore jews, and nearly altogether used for that trade; but lately a considerable quantity has been sold to private traders trading to India and to China.

2951. Is there also an inconvenience arising from the mode of conducting business by the East-India Company, from their goods being transmitted through agents in London, and an additional expense incurred by the commission paid to them?—Certainly, that adds to the expense of the goods. During the time I was engaged in business in London, the charge for such business was three per cent., which was charged to the manufacturers for delivering the goods and attending to the necessary business.

2952. Were there any other fees to be paid?—There were fees also paid at the India House.

2953. Can you state the amount of those?—The proportion of the fees is different; sometimes they were 6*d.* per cloth, but sometimes the fees are 1*s.* and even 2*s.* per piece.

2954. In the rejection of their cloths you stated that the overlooker's decision was final; is that decision often made on trifling grounds?—I have understood that the overlookers have strict orders to attend to the contract, which states, in speaking of the fine cloths, that each cloth must weigh thirty-two pounds, and that if it is under that weight he has a power of rejecting it.

2955. Then, though the rejection must be according to the strict letter
of



of the contract, it still may be on very vexatious grounds to the manufacturer?—Certainly.

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2956. Is it the case to such a degree, that manufacturers generally exhibit a decided preference for dealing with any other customer rather than the East-India Company?—It is. A great many of the most extensive manufacturers in Yorkshire will not enter into contracts with the East-India Company, nor supply them with cloth under those contracts.

2957. Supposing the cloth should be short of weight, would that be a ground for rejection?—Certainly.

2958. Would you consider that to be any deterioration to the quality of the cloth?—In making a large quantity of cloths, it is impossible to have them all exactly the same weight; some will be a little over and some will be a little under.

2959. Supposing a private merchant to take a quantity by contract, what would be his practice supposing he found a proportion under weight?—He would take it.

2960. Would he take it without any reduction of price?—If the difference was not much, he would take it without any alteration of price, because if some are a little thinner, others would be a little stouter.

2961. You consider this, then, to be a vexatious ground of rejection on the part of the Company?—Certainly.

2962. Yet to this sort of rejection their overlookers are tied down by their rules, and they can exercise no discretion?—I believe not.

2963. Are the cloths delivered to the Company dyed or undyed?—They are delivered both in a dyed and in a white state. The West Country cloths are generally delivered white, and the Yorkshire generally dyed.

2964. Are they compelled to be dyed in London?—Those which they receive in a white state are all dyed in London, the others are dyed and finished in Yorkshire.

2965. Is the operation of dyeing more expensive in London than it is in the country?—Much more so.

2966. In what degree?—I have a list of the dyeing prices in Yorkshire for the principal colours which the East-India Company purchase, and also of the London prices. The London price for dyeing Spanish striped cloths purple is 2s. 4d. per yard, and in Yorkshire 1s. 6d.

2967. Are those the prices of the present day?—Yes, at least the last prices which the East-India Company paid, as I am informed, for dyeing cloth. The price of black is in London 7d., and in Yorkshire 4d.; for scarlet, London, 2s. 1d., Yorkshire, 1s. 5d.; for mazarine blue, London, 1s. 6d., and Yorkshire, 8d. I have prepared a detailed statement of the prices of dyeing Spanish striped cloths, with the proportions generally
2 P required



9 March 1830. required of each colour, in a quantity of 6,000 pieces, by the East-India Company.

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[The witness delivered in the same, which is as follows :]

PRICES for DYEING Spanish Stripe Cloths ; with the Proportions generally required of each Colour, in a quantity of 6,000 Pieces, by the East-India Company.

Pieces,	London Prices.		Yorkshire Prices.
	Per Piece of 34 Yards.	per Yard.	per Yard.
1,800 Purple	79/	2/4	1/6
1,560 Black	19/	7	4
840 Scarlet (Lac)	71/6	2/1	1/5
720 Mazarine Blue.....	51/6	1/6	8
480*Dark Brown.....	29/	10	9
420 Light Blue.....	29/	10	8
60*Ash colour.....	19/	7	4
60 Saxon Green			6
60*Deep Yellow			5
<hr/>			
6,000			
<hr/>			
Popinjay			5
*Tea colour.....			5
Orange			6
*Red			8
Emerald Green.....			8
*Light Brown.....			9
Pink..... according to the shade of colour			10d. to 1/
Rose	ditto.....		d°
Aurora	ditto.....		1/ to 1/2
Crimson Lac	ditto.....		1/6 to 1/9
* — Cochineal	ditto.....		2/ to 2/9
*Scarlet do.	ditto.....		d°
Maroon.....			—

* With the exception of these colours, the others are partly and some altogether dyed with materials the produce of India.

The London prices left blank I have not been able to procure ; they can be furnished by the East-India Company.

2968. Are those the colours that are principally required for the China market?—Yes.

2969. Are those cloths that are dyed in the piece, or are any of them dyed in the wool?—They are all dyed in the piece.

2970. Are



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2970. Are any considerable portion of the dyes used the products of India?—In the list of colours, I observe there are about twenty-two which the East-India Company are in the habit of exporting; and out of these about fourteen are partly, and some wholly, dyed with materials the products of India.

2971. Is a large quantity of Indian indigo used?—A considerable quantity.

2972. Are you acquainted with the circumstances of the introduction, and the progress which has been made in the improvement of the lac dye?—I am, from information I have had from the dyers and others. I think the introduction of lac into this country took place about the year 1812. For some time there was a great difficulty in producing a good colour from it; but after repeated experiments, a colour was produced equal, or nearly so, to cochineal in point of brilliancy, and in point of durability much superior for military purposes. It was found that the droppings of water from iron did not affect lac scarlet, whilst it discoloured the cloth dyed from cochineal; and gunpowder has a much worse effect upon cochineal scarlet, whilst it has none whatever upon those dyed from lac; and in consequence, I believe, it is generally preferred for military purposes.

2973. Has this article fallen in price in proportion as it has been introduced into the country?—It is difficult to state the fall that has taken place in price, though it has been very considerable, but the article has been very much improved; indeed, a much superior quality is now brought from India than what came at first.

2974. Has cochineal dye fallen in price also?—Very much.

2975. Has the East-India Company ever imported any of this lac?—Very little.

2976. Do they import any now?—I believe not for many years.

2977. Is there any considerable quantity of it exported from this country?—I understand that about 60,000 pounds weight of it is exported annually to Flanders and to Germany. A few years ago I was in a dyehouse at Delph, in Holland, where they were preparing cloths for India, and the scarlets were dyed with lac.

2978. Do you know how much is imported into England?—About 7,000 or 8,000 pounds annually, in value about £100,000 sterling.

2979. Is lac the produce of India?—It is.

2980. And brought by the private trader?—It is.

2981. Can you state when the exportation of British woollens in American bottoms to China first commenced?—In the year 1817, to the best of my recollection.

2982. Can you state what the progress has been of that trade?—In the
2 P 2
year



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year 1818 and 1819 there was imported into Canton 4,957 pieces of woollens, and in the year 1826 and 1827, which is the latest account I have seen, 27,176 pieces, showing an increase of 22,319 pieces in that period.

2983. What is your authority for that statement?—I obtained this from some Parliamentary documents in my possession.

2984. Are you aware that in the evidence before the Committee of the House of Lords in 1821, it was stated that British goods were imported into the China market in so trifling a degree by the Americans as to be no object of contest?—I recollect it perfectly well.

2985. Are you also aware that, within a month after that time, the same gentleman who made that statement produced a commercial letter from the supercargoes in China, containing this passage: "The very alarming inroad that is now commenced by American speculations into a trade hitherto confined to the Honourable Company, will, it is probable, soon place all certain calculation in its economy at defiance"?—I recollect it perfectly well; it interested me so much that I took a copy of it, which I have.

2986. Are you aware that in the same letter there is contained this passage, "The greatest evil, however, which we are led to anticipate from this encroachment is, the death-blow which it inflicts upon the monopoly hitherto enjoyed by the Honourable Company"?—That I recollect also.

2987. By whom was the letter received?—By the East-India Company, and it was produced by Mr. Grant.

2988. Are you aware that at that time the trade, upon which this alarming inroad was said to be made, was represented by the East-India Company to be a losing trade?—Yes, I am.

2989. Have you any means of knowing whether the exportation of British woollens by the Americans has decreased or increased latterly?—I have no means of knowing positively; but from my communications with American merchants and the manufacturers in Yorkshire, I am inclined to believe that it is on the increase. There is at this time, I believe, one of the largest orders that was ever given out at one time in the hands of the manufacturers in Yorkshire for the American China trade.

2990. Do you know the amount of that order?—I do not know the amount.

2991. Has the East-India Company's supply of woollens to the China trade increased or decreased?—From a calculation which I have made, it appears that, comparing the imports into China for the nine years preceding 1819 with the nine years following that date, the decrease has been 236,939 pieces of woollens, making an annual average decrease of 26,326 pieces. The total of the first nine years, from 1810-11 to 1818-19, was 1,821,389; the total of the second nine years, from 1819-20 to 1827-28, was 1,584,450 pieces.

2992. Is



2992. Is not that decrease very nearly the amount of what has been exported by the Americans?—In the years 1824 and 1825 the Americans imported into Canton 23,159 pieces; in 1826, 26,977; in 1827, 27,176 pieces. In broad cloths imported by the East-India Company into Canton, there has been an increase of 53,255 pieces in the last nine years; in long ells, there has been a decrease of 262,868 pieces. In worleys, there has been an increase of 25,040 pieces; in camlets, there has been a decrease of 39,970 pieces.

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2993. Can you furnish the Committee with a detailed statement upon this subject?—I have prepared a statement of the quantity of woollens of the different sorts imported by the East-India Company into Canton in each of the years I have mentioned; also a statement of the quantity of British woollens imported into Canton by the Americans.

[The witness delivered in the same, which are as follow :]

STATEMENT of the Quantity of BRITISH WOOLLENS Imported into
Canton by the East-India Company.

WOOLLENS :			BROAD CLOTHS :		
	Pieces.	Pieces.		Pieces.	Pieces.
1810 }	237,103		1810 }	5,919	
1811 }	242,806		1811 }	6,466	
1812	242,781		1812	6,450	
1813	258,220		1813	7,629	
1814	224,632		1814	8,592	
1815	161,568		1815	8,181	
1816	175,801		1816	11,631	
1817	133,761		1817	9,111	
1818	144,717		1818	7,377	
1819		1,821,389	1819		71,356
1820	150,254		1820	8,814	
1821	157,401		1821	12,171	
1822	172,320		1822	13,320	
1823	136,768		1823	12,183	
1824	221,814		1824	12,396	
1825	178,701		1825	13,701	
1826	212,346		1826	19,266	
1827	231,529		1827	20,289	
1828	123,317		1828	12,471	
		1,584,450			124,611
Decrease in Nine Years.....	236,939		Increase in Nine Years.....	53,255	
Average Annual Decrease...	26,326		Annual Increase	5,472	



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LONG ELLS :		Pieces.	Pieces.
1810 }	240,248	
1811 }	200,000	
1812	200,620	
1813	209,980	
1814	179,520	
1815	.....	128,320	
1816	.....	130,660	
1817	.....	103,400	
1818	.....	118,540	
1819	.....		1,511,288
1820	.....	120,640	
1821	.....	123,000	
1822	.....	132,600	
1823	.....	105,000	
1824	.....	177,180	
1825	.....	140,000	
1826	.....	166,000	
1827	.....	183,940	
1828	.....	100,060	
	.....		1,248,420
Decrease in Nine Years.....			262,868
Annual Decrease.....			29,207
WORLEYS :			
1810 }	.....	3,460	
1811 }	.....	3,100	
1812	.....	3,040	
1813	.....	4,060	
1814	.....	3,940	
1815	.....	3,360	
1816	.....	6,000	
1817	.....	6,000	
1818	.....	4,000	
1819	.....		36,960
1820	.....	4,000	
1821	.....	4,000	
	.....		36,968
Carried forward...		8,000	36,968

WORLEYS—continued.		Pieces.	Pieces.
Brought forward...		8,000	36,960
1822	.....	4,600	
1823	.....	3,520	
1824	.....	7,800	
1825	.....	8,000	
1826	.....	10,080	
1827	.....	14,000	
1828	.....	6,000	
	.....		62,000
Increase in Nine Years.....			25,040
Annual Increase.....			2,782
CAMLETS :			
1810 }	.....	18,750	
1811 }	.....	22,340	
1812	.....	22,020	
1813	.....	23,010	
1814	.....	20,000	
1815	.....	14,390	
1816	.....	13,890	
1817	.....	14,250	
1818	.....	12,000	
1819	.....		160,140
1820	.....	15,000	
1821	.....	15,830	
1822	.....	19,000	
1823	.....	11,340	
1824	.....	12,000	
1825	.....	12,000	
1826	.....	17,000	
1827	.....	13,300	
1828	.....	4,700	
	.....		120,170
Decrease in Nine Years.....			39,970
Annual Decrease.....			4,441

QUANTITY of BRITISH WOOLLENS Imported into *Canton* by the
Americans.

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1824-5.....	Broad Cloths.....	Pieces	10,257		
	Camlets.....		4,338		
	Long ells.....		7,842		
	Bombazets.....		672		
				23,159	
1825-6.....	Broad Cloths.....		12,067		
	Camlets.....		4,290		
	Long ells.....		10,620		
				26,977	
1826-7.....	Broad Cloths.....		14,064		
	Camlets.....		3,272		
	Long ells.....		8,040		
	Bombazets.....		1,800		
				27,176	
1818-19...	Broad Cloths.....	Pieces.	769	1826-7.....	27,176
	Camlets.....		4,188	1818-19.....	4,957
			4,957	Increase.....	22,219

2994. Have you any knowledge of the trade in woollens carried on by the Russians with China?—During the former part of the time I carried on business in London, I executed several orders both for St. Petersburg and Moscow; they were British woollens, which I afterwards found were intended for the China trade, though I did not know it at the time.

2995. Of what description of woollens?—The colours were much the same as those exported by the East-India Company, but the quality of the cloth was considerably thicker.

2996. Up to what period was this?—Previous to the year 1812.

2997. What was the price of cloth at that time, as compared with the price now?—The cloth sent out to Russia was from 17s. to 20s. per yard, and the same quality certainly may be procured now at from 10s. to 12s. or even less.

2998. How do you account for the fact that that trade is not now carried on from England?—From the heavy duties which have been laid by the Russian government upon English cloths, and a reduction of duty upon Prussian cloths: indeed, English cloths are not allowed to be imported into Russia for transit at all, whilst the Prussian cloths are allowed to be entered for that purpose at a very trifling duty.

2999. Do you know the amount of duty in Russia?—I cannot state it exactly



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exactly; I believe the duty upon fine English cloths amounts to between 6s. and 7s. a yard; upon Prussian cloths it is not near half that amount.

3000. Previous to the imposition of this duty, can you state to what amount that trade was ever carried on?—No, I cannot, I was engaged in it but to a very small extent. There were some houses that were nearly altogether employed in preparing cloths for that purpose; Messrs. Austins' and Messrs. Sheppards' houses.

3001. Has there been any disposition shown lately by the Hanse Towns to engage in the woollen trade with China?—They have lately appointed a consul, who is now on his passage to Canton for the purpose of introducing Continental manufactures into China; woollens particularly. They have not yet commenced business; but he has gone over for the purpose of obtaining information, and by the report which he gives the shipments will be guided.

3002. At present do you understand that they have every confidence that that trade may be carried on with success?—They have.

3003. Do you know what are the prices of the same kind of goods at the Hanse Towns as compared with the British?—Till within this last two or three years the fine English cloths were not at all saleable on the Continent; but very considerable improvements have been made in the manufacture of cloths in this country, particularly in Leeds, and they have lately found their way all over the Continent; they have been sold in considerable quantities for the fairs at Leipsic and at Frankfort, and in other parts of Germany.

3004. Do you think there is any probability that English woollens may find their way into China by shipment from the Hanse Towns?—I think it is very probable.

3005. Supposing the trade were thrown open, do you think the English merchants would have a greater advantage in sending out woollens to China than the German merchants and the Hanse Towns merchants?—They would have the advantage of the difference of expence in transporting them to Hamburgh and other places.

3006. Would not the price give the English merchants an advantage over the other merchants?—Certainly.

3007. In what degree would individuals purchase woollens at more advantage than the Company?—In consequence of the objectionable clauses which are in the contracts of the East-India Company. The manufacturer must always provide for those, and in consequence he lays an additional price; at least I always found it necessary to do so when I was engaged in the trade.

3008. Do you think he would prefer selling to an individual at five per cent. less price than to the Company at their price?—It depends in some measure upon the nature of the cloth which is wanted. In some instances
five



five per cent. more would be considered about a fair price ; but in others, perhaps two and a half, or even less than that.

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3009. Upon the whole, would three to four per cent. place the two upon a level ?—About three to four per cent.

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3010. Does that include the difference with respect to the dyeing ?—No, that is quite independent of the saving in dyeing. In scarlet, the difference betwixt being dyed in London and Yorkshire would make a saving on the cost of the cloth of 13 per cent. ; in purple of 17 per cent. ; and in mazarine blue it would be 20 per cent. Altogether, in having Spanish stripe cloths dyed and finished in Yorkshire instead of London, and buying them as a private merchant does, about 15 per cent. on the average would be saved in the six colours, of which the largest quantity is exported by the East-India Company.

3011. Then, in your opinion, an individual can be supplied in Yorkshire with cloth already dyed about 15 per cent. cheaper than the Company ?—If he gets his cloth ready dyed in Yorkshire, and the Company dye theirs in London, he would have that advantage over them in the colours, of which the greatest quantity is exported.

3012. Do the Company dye theirs in London ?—By far the greater part.

3013. Have you the means of knowing that the Company do dye a large proportion of their cloths in London ?—I have ; and I have understood that lately some have also been dyed in Gloucestershire.

3014. Do you mean of their Yorkshire cloths ?—No, the Yorkshire cloths are mostly dyed in Yorkshire.

3015. Do you consider that cheaper mode of dyeing in Yorkshire to produce as good a colour as the dearer mode in London ?—Equally so.

3016. Do you attribute, in any degree, the benefit derived by the Americans from the woollen trade to their smuggling into China ?—In consequence of the evidence given before the House of Commons, I made the observation to several Americans, with a view of ascertaining if it was ever practised, and I am told not.

3017. Have you the means of knowing whether, with all these advantages, there has been any increase in the quantity of consumption in China ?—Not having the amount of what the Americans have exported lately, I cannot correctly answer that question ; but it would appear, up to the year 1827, that there is a little increase of the American importations into Canton, but it is not much, compared with the two previous years.

3018. Is the dyeing as good in Leeds as in London ?—Equally so.

3019. As you have a very general knowledge of the manufacture and trade in cloth upon the Continent, is it your opinion that in any part of the Continent a competition could be entered into with the cloth furnished by Great Britain for China ?—I should be inclined to think not at present.

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A few years ago they had advantages over us; but I think they have not now, owing to the improvements which have been made in the manufacture in this country and the low price of the raw material.

3020. What parts of the Continent do you think most likely, according to the present state of the manufacture, to enter into competition with this country?—The woollen manufacture of Saxony I should consider the most likely to injure us.

3021. Is that of the lower or higher quality of cloth?—The lower and the middle qualities of cloth.

3022. Is it not the case, that in former times there was a considerable manufacture of cloth in Silesia, which was adapted especially for the Russian trade?—I believe so.

3023. Does that manufacture still exist and flourish to the same extent?—I believe it does. I have not had any information to the contrary, excepting this last year; I am told that they have not been able to sell so much cloth as they formerly did on the Continent, in consequence of the introduction of the English.

3024. Are you aware of the state of the manufacture of cloth generally in Russia?—Since my arrival in London I have been informed that the principal and the most extensive manufacturer of woollen cloths in Russia has failed; a manufacturer who went from the West of England for the purpose of carrying on the woollen manufacture in Russia, and found that it would not answer his purpose to do so, and in consequence gave up the idea altogether.

3025. Where was the manufacture in Russia which has failed?—In St. Petersburg, or the immediate neighbourhood.

3026. Are you aware that the cloth manufacture in Russia is protected and fostered very much by the government?—Yes.

3027. Then you attribute the failure of the trade in cloth to Russia to two causes, to the heavy duties that are laid upon British cloth, and the lower duties which are imposed upon Prussian?—Yes.

3028. Are you not aware there are cloths of a particular quality and colour admissible into Russia at a lower duty than cloths generally?—Yes.

3029. Do you know whether the cloth that the Russian soldiers are clothed with is manufactured by native manufacturers?—I have made inquiries regarding that subject, and I cannot get satisfactory information upon it; by some I have been told that it is manufactured in the country; by others, that it is manufactured in Breslau and the neighbourhood.

3030. Can you state whether the export of woollens to India, since the trade was opened in 1814, has increased to any great degree?—To a very great extent indeed.

3031. Much



3031. Much more than to China?—Much more than to China. The exportation amounted, for the year ending 5th January 1829, to 30,555 pieces of cloth.

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3032. Can you state what it was in 1814?—(*For the answer to this question, see Mr. Dixon's evidence of Thursday the 11th of March.*)

3033. Can you state what were the articles which composed the large order of which you have spoken, which is now being executed in Yorkshire?—Cloths of different descriptions, similar to what the East-India Company sent out.

3034. Are you aware whether there have been any new articles of manufacture of late years exported by the Americans, that are likely to suit the habits of the Chinese?—There is one now preparing in Yorkshire; and from the information which I have upon the subject, I am told that the demand is likely to be immense, both in India and China. It is a woollen cloth made with a cotton warp; it may be made extremely thin, and at the same time much stronger than a woollen cloth of perhaps three times the substance.

3035. Is there an order for that to any extent now in execution?—It is not in a situation yet of receiving orders for it, but it will be very shortly.

3036. Have you any means of knowing what the Chinese think of this cloth?—It has been shown to gentlemen who have been in China and also in India, and their opinion is what I have just stated.

3037. You have stated, that at the India-House fees are paid upon the examination of the cloths, and that sometimes 6*d.*, sometimes 1*s.*, sometimes as high as 2*s.*; are those fees arbitrary, or how are they regulated?—They are always stated by the Company in their contracts.

3038. So that they are known by the manufacturers before-hand?—Yes.

3039. Is the commission also known?—It is.

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WALTER STEVENSON DAVIDSON, Esq. again called in, and examined.

3040. You were the senior partner of one of the two leading houses of business in Canton?—I was.

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3041. Will you state any advantages or disadvantages which, in your opinion, result to the British trade generally in China, from the existence of the East-India Company under the present regulations?—I believe I can state both advantages and disadvantages; and they divide themselves into two heads, that is to say, commercial and political. I shall commence with the commercial. The influence of the East-India Company, who can and do act with unity and vigour, form a counterpoise of inestimable value against the Hong monopoly, which individuals could not form. The

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absence of this counterpoise would have the direct effect of decreasing the prices given for all the imports, and of increasing the prices demanded for all the exports. The Company's support of bankrupt merchants (for the greater number of the Hong in my time were so), by its advances on teas, has enabled the consignees of the country trade to do what could be done in no other country with which I am acquainted, namely to deal systematically with bankrupts, and thus obtain much higher prices for their merchandize. During the latter part of my stay in China, although so much property passed through my hands, I scarcely ever thought of dealing with a solvent merchant, because the consequence would have been a great loss to my principal; and this was all in consequence of my knowledge that I had the Treasury and the influence of the powerful East-India Company at my back. Another advantage of the East-India Company in China was the facility to remitters, through bills on their Indian governments, and by which both my constituents and myself sometimes obtained a better exchange than by any merchandize we could ship. I have known large sums of money which were due to me by the bankrupt merchants, and which I could obtain in no other way, come direct from the Company's Hong to my Hong, being advances obtained from the Company's servants. I have also received large sums of money in bills on England, obtained in the same manner, after urgent solicitation on the part of the merchants to the supercargoes; which species of remittance, in those days, went by a technical name which has quite escaped my recollection. I should, perhaps, have stated earlier, that on the first entering of the ships, if I had not resolved to deal with those insolvent merchants, I should have found the greatest difficulty in getting the ships secured, because the extortions of the Chinese government are always proportioned to the wealth of the party who secures the ship. As to British subjects, I conceive that such security of person and property is not to be lost sight of as is afforded by a public body, having every season from eighteen to twenty ships of force at their command, the influence of which was always in my time extended in favour of British commerce, save and except on that of the prohibited article opium. Those are the leading advantages that now occur to me of a commercial nature. Politically, I think that all Englishmen owe the Company's servants in Canton a debt of gratitude for their influence over the last ambassador that went from this country to China, in inducing him to abstain from performing that degrading act of reverence termed the kotow. I call it not a ceremony, because in China it is no ceremony, but a distinct acknowledgment of inferiority and subjection; and if it had been performed by the ambassador, I verily believe the China trade would not have been in existence at this day. I will next state the disadvantages that I conceive the existence of the East-India Company, under the present system, to be productive of; and really I think they are both few and unimportant. It is in the power of the Company's servants to stop all British trade; and it is no doubt possible that such power may be exercised on
mistaken



mistaken motives, and for speculative advantages. I was present during the two great stoppages in 1814 and 1821, and such interruptions of trade have certainly been "few and far between." I was a party who, I believe, as an individual, suffered as much on both occasions, either immediately or prospectively, as perhaps any one unconnected with the Company; and I can conscientiously say, that I believe the stoppage of 1814, which was caused by the Company's servants, to have been perfectly unavoidable. Security against its being done capriciously, or on slight grounds, can only be found in the character of the parties; and the deep responsibility which they incur, not only to their own immediate employers, but to the country at large. I will explain what I mean by saying that I suffered deeply myself from these occurrences. In 1814, the conduct of my house was so much disapproved of by some of its constituents, for not protesting against the conduct of the East-India Company, that we lost a large portion of valuable business. The merchants of Bombay, upon that occasion, framed a memorial to the Board of Control, setting forth the great advantages of their trade to the East-India Company, by reason of the duty paid on the cotton in the first instance; also, by the territorial revenue of that part of the Company's own territory in the Guzerat, from which the cotton came; and again, from the duties on the return-cargoes from China; and they contended, that the East-India Company had no right to stop their ships in China, which gave them just cause to seek remuneration by an action at law. That the case pressed upon them with peculiar hardship I always deeply regretted; that the law was on the side of the Company I never doubted. I have by me the form of bond given by the owners of country ships to the Company's Bengal Government in India, before setting sail for China; in which it clearly appears, that all British merchants trading by such sufferance as they did, were bound to conform to the orders of the Company's servants in China. I say nothing of the original Act of Charter, because that is within the reach of this Committee, and bears also strongly upon that question. In the stoppage of 1821, which was brought about by the Chinese and not the East-India Company, the supercargoes then prevented only the entrance of country ships, not their loading and departing from the port of Canton; and it is a fact, that country ships did load and depart quietly, at a time when it seemed to be pretty universally considered that the Company's ships would have been forced to assume a hostile attitude, pending a reference to England. There is another commercial disadvantage, but it is, perhaps, hardly worthy of being mentioned; such is the jealousy entertained by the East-India Company respecting woollens and worsteds, that I upon one occasion, about the year 1815, was prevented from exporting from Bengal in a ship with myself (a country ship) a couple of carpets, for the use of my house at Canton during the winter season.

3042. Has the East-India Company's Factory, during your experience, given encouragement and protection to, or thrown impediments in the way of individual British merchants in China?—During my time I never knew the British Factory throw a wilful, or, as I conceive, an unnecessary impediment

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ment in the way of British trade ; and so long as that Factory shall continue to be constituted of the same materials as it was during my time, that is, of well-educated, intelligent, patriotic, and honest men, so long will they, I conceive, give encouragement to that trade, and even hazard a departure from that narrow policy which has, on more than one occasion, emanated from the Leadenhall. I will relate the occasion to which I allude. A ship to my consignment lay at Whampoa with the most valuable cargo that in those days had ever been known to be in one small bottom ; the estimated value was 1,600,000 dollars and upwards. Great difficulties then obtained in the opium trade, and threats of search had been thrown out by the inferior Mandarins. I received an express from Whampoa from the captain of the ship, stating suspicious appearances, and expressing the greatest alarm in consequence of both his officers having been taken violently ill immediately after their dinner, from which he inferred they had been poisoned. I immediately collected what strength I could from the country trade ; and, before embarking for the spot myself, I waited upon the then chief of the British Factory : he was my intimate friend, and the sincere friend of all British interests. I said, " I know you can do nothing for me personally, who am known to you only as a foreigner : but there is £400,000 sterling of British property at Whampoa at this moment in the utmost jeopardy ; and I put it to you, whether, with such a fleet as you have there, you will allow that property to be plundered, and particularly as many lives must be sacrificed in the attempt." The president of the committee saw clearly the difficulty he was placed in ; but being most anxious to render every assistance, he most considerately devised a plan which perfectly satisfied me. He said, " You know as well as I what my orders are respecting opium ; but where so much British property is in danger, I will go beyond my orders ; I will speak daggers to them, although I dare not use them ; in short, I will make a demonstration which may be of great service." He merely concerted with me a signal, which should be known between myself and one of the Company's ships at Whampoa. I went down the river with the party I had collected, and when we arrived on board the vessel we found the chief officer had died ; the second remained ill ; the men were all at arms ; but no symptom having been manifested of an intention on the part of the Chinese to commit aggression, the only use I had occasion to make of the president's kindness, was to obtain surgeons from two of his ships to dissect the dead officer ; and having done so, we discovered that poison was not the cause of his death. We continued a strongly-armed watch however, and upon the alert for twenty-four hours. The Chinese either saw that we were prepared, or never intended the attack, and the alarm passed over. I have known the British Factory to throw impediments in the way of British subjects by sending them away from Canton at an inconvenient season for their business ; but that was merely the dry exercise of the law, and I never knew it wantonly resorted to.

3043. What, in your opinion, would be the result of the withdrawal of the
East-



East-India Company from China, and of an open trade to that country?—I conceive the result would, sooner or later, be a war between England and China, accompanied by wide-spread individual ruin; unless the Chinese government be previously either coaxed by discreet, or coerced by energetic negotiation, into that amicable and reasonable intercourse with other nations, which every civilized state is bound by the dictates of nature to cultivate with its neighbours.

3044. Have you, or have you not, understood that the best teas brought to Canton were placed at the option of the Company?—In my time I really think there was an almost universal concession to that opinion.

3045. Do you, or do you not, consider that were individual purchasers of teas competing with each other to enter the China market instead of one great purchaser, the effect of it would be to raise the price of teas in China?—Certainly. This would happen in any market on so thorough a change of system: but that effect would gradually subside of course, because the higher the price was raised, the greater would be the manufacture, and the effect would then be a return to remunerative prices only, and thus matters would in the end, most probably, find their level.

3046. Do you consider that were the privileges of the East-India Company done away with, the Hong merchants would have more control over the trade, or that the trade would be more extended?—It would be quite a natural consequence for the trade to become more extended; but if the East-India monopoly is to be done away with, and the Hong monopoly to continue, it involves an absurdity too great to suppose this country could submit to, because I have already stated that the East-India Company is a counterpoise absolutely necessary to counteract in part, although it must be insufficient to balance the Hong monopoly; still all these consequences must mainly depend upon the future acts of the Chinese government.

3047. Do you consider that the British Factory, by resisting attempted encroachments of the Chinese government on existing privileges, has or has not contributed to the advantage of foreign trade generally?—Most certainly: and that is what I conceive to press so cruelly upon the interests of this country, because I feel that these advantages to foreign trade are obtained at the cost of Great Britain; which trade, I grieve to say, I believe can never safely be opened to British industry and enterprise, but under the sanction of laws and regulations founded upon previous negotiation. I hold that we have hitherto possessed the trade with China on the frail tenure of a thread, and on a footing as degrading to the character as it is repugnant to the feelings of this nation. I hope to see the day when, as regards our intercourse with China, England shall follow the dictates of a wiser policy without losing sight of the maxims of justice; when the name of the East-India Company shall be known but in the past history of the country, and when that justly obnoxious term monopoly shall be expunged from the vocabulary of this great, enterprising, industrious, and most commercial people.

3048. Do

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3048. Do you mean by foreign trade, all that trade that is carried on by persons not British subjects?—Clearly; and that is the reason I have stated that it is at the cost of England that those advantages have hitherto been obtained.

3049. Have you visited other parts of Asia besides that of Canton?—I have visited all the four Presidencies of India, Malacca, Singapore, Java, New South Wales, many of the Eastern islands; and I have sailed from India up the Red Sea, upon which occasion I landed at Cosseir, and the ship proceeded to Suez, near the head of that sea.

3050. Have you any knowledge of the success, or otherwise, of the trade which has been carried on between China and the ports of continental Europe in American or other foreign vessels?—My knowledge of it is not extensive; but I have the results of some such adventures now by me, if the Committee wish to hear them. In the spring of 1819, a very fine ship under Dutch colours came to Canton; she was owned by a very intelligent merchant in Holland, a particular friend of mine, but from motives of expediency was consigned to the Dutch Factory at Canton, and not to me. I was of some service to the concern, however, and in return the owner sent me a particular statement of the result. The ship was loaded with tea, and a small quantity of cassia lignea and sugar. Some of the sugar, by the bye, had been collected at Siam, where the ship had previously attempted to obtain a whole cargo, but failed. On the return of that ship to Holland there was short of £1,500 sterling left for her freight, and the owner in transmitting to me the account wrote as follows: "I waited the result of our adventure, hoping to have found inducement to repeat it. You will be sorry to learn that in this we have been disappointed. This goes by a vessel from Middleburgh, which, by proceeding a second time, one would suppose had done well in the first adventure; but the fact I have reason to know is the contrary: and it is easy to reconcile this, when I inform you that it is not like ours, a private concern, but divided into a great number of shares, and administered by a single house, calling themselves book-keepers, who have, no doubt, only a small share themselves, and are consequently more than compensated for any loss on that share, by a good commission on the whole transaction." The same correspondent, writing a few months afterwards, says, "Our unfortunate Canton cargo, though sold by us nearly eight months ago, is yet nearly all '*in natura*,' and would now certainly sink from 5,000 to 6,000 pounds more than we lost by it." I can state another adventure about which I knew. A French house sent a large ship to China, and the cargo was furnished by bills being drawn through my house, and on Bengal. This occurred in 1819. In December 1820 I saw the owner of that ship in Paris (I had been acquainted with the gentleman at Canton when he conducted the operation), and he told me that it had brought ruin on all the parties concerned.

3051. Do you consider the mode adopted by the Company of contracting for



for teas with the Chinese merchants to have been advantageous or disadvantageous?—Highly advantageous for the Company. In proof of which I will state, that I have by me accounts by which I perceive that teas, which I purchased in the spring of one year at 34 taels, I readily sold in the shipping season at 38, besides interest of money at 12 per cent. per annum; for teas I purchased at 36 taels I obtained 50, and for teas I purchased at 17 taels I got 30. This is but an instance of what I might probably have done on a certain scale almost every year I was in China. I will read an extract from a letter from my firm to a house in New South Wales, written at the time of the Topaze's stoppage in 1821: "Within the last fourteen days your 3,000 chests of hyson skin have advanced three taels, and were it not for our engagement with the ship *Almorah*, we could at this moment readily resell and pass 6,250 dollars to your credit: and what the event may be when another fortnight has passed by, we cannot tell; but we venture to predict, that should the Company's trade be re-opened, the last of their twenty-one ships cannot be loaded with good tea; and, on the other hand, should circumstances unhappily protract the settlement for months, it is notorious that the up-country dealers in that article will be ruined, and the regular supply in consequence deranged, whilst you will be safe from competition in the interim by the rigorous blockade already commenced by the Company's authority on country ships bound inwards."

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3052. Do you consider that, in the event of an interruption of British intercourse with China, tea could be brought in Chinese vessels in any quantity, and of good quality, to the islands of the Eastern Archipelago?—My experience can be of no use in answering that question. The thing is possible, but I should think the most improbable thing in the world that it could be done so as to answer the purpose of England. In the first place, the law of China is expressly against it; in the second place, the vessels are of that precarious and insecure description, that certainly none but such a body as the East-India Company could think of trusting their property upon them. When I say the East-India Company, I mean that or any other such body on which the failure of an enterprise would not bring ruin, because a company, of course, can venture to hazard what individuals cannot do; but I am satisfied that no individual British merchant would ever have thought of resorting to such a desperate expedient in my time.

3053. Would you consider property of your own to be safe in Chinese junks, such as navigate the Chinese seas?—Most certainly not. I think I am correct when I say that the calculation in my time ran thus: if seven junks sail from China to a distant port, one out of the seven was lost; but I should say that that calculation is wide of the truth. On recollecting myself, I believe the proportion returning is too great; and from what I know of their construction, outfit, and manning, (for the only thing good about them is their conduction, they have an European, generally a Portuguese captain,) I should say that the probable loss of one in five is a better answer to the question. The confusion, from the want of discipline, that prevails