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MR. MONTGOMERY MARTIN.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 2 July 1847 ;—for,

“ COPY of CORRESPONDENCE of Mr. *Montgomery Martin* with the Secretary
of State for the Colonies, relating to his RESIGNATION of the Office of
TREASURER of *Hong Kong*.”

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }
22 July 1847.

B. HAWES.

(*Viscount Sandon.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
23 July 1847.

SCHEDULE.

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1. R. Montgomery Martin, Esq. to James Stephen, Esq.	18 July 1844	That a severe attack of illness has obliged him to leave Hong Kong; requesting to be permitted to return to England; enclosing Certificate of Colonial Surgeon, recommending that a temporary leave of absence be granted to Mr. Martin - - - - -	1
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COPY of CORRESPONDENCE of Mr. *Montgomery Martin* with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, relating to his RESIGNATION of the Office of TREASURER of *Hong Kong*.

—No. 1.—

EXTRACT of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq., to *J. Stephen*, Esq., dated Macao, 18 July 1844.

No. 1.

R. Montgomery Martin, Esq. to *J. Stephen*, Esq. 18 July 1844.

A SEVERE attack of illness obliged me to leave Hong Kong as soon as I could be moved. My health had been for some time declining, and the colonial surgeon, as you will perceive by the enclosed certificate, ordered me to sea. I was preparing to do so when my illness became aggravated. I have slightly rallied here, but am reduced to a skeleton, and the doctor says, a cruise at sea for two months affords the only chance of my recovery, but that my constitution will not stand this climate. I earnestly implore Lord Stanley to relieve me, and permit my return to England. My office here is a useless expense to the colony. The whole colonial and consular payments may be made through the Commissariat (as was the case when I arrived), without one shilling additional expense. I have arranged the payments and receipts of each colonial and consular office, so that if Lord Stanley wishes to retain a treasurer here, any man of integrity and common abilities may perform the duties.

I have laboured long and earnestly for the welfare of my country, and I trust that the boon I now seek, of being recalled from a station which is undermining my constitution, will be granted me by return of post. I have nearly completed my Report on Hong Kong for Lord Stanley. I am collecting materials for a Report on the general commerce of China, with separate Reports on the tea and opium trades. I am also collecting materials for a Report on the five consular stations in China. All these will, I trust, contain information useful to Government. I expect to have these ready by Christmas next, by which time I hope to be favoured with Lord Stanley's permission to return to England, and for which I shall feel deeply grateful.

Enclosure in No. 1.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

I do hereby certify, that Robert Montgomery Martin, esq., has been for some time past suffering from general debility, with frequent feverish attacks, and threatenings of dysentery, which render it highly advisable that a temporary absence from Hong Kong should be permitted, and I do strongly advise that leave of absence should be granted to him for six weeks, to proceed to sea or to the N. E. coast.

Encl. in No 1.

Victoria, Hong Kong,
3 July 1844.

(signed) *Alexander Anderson*,
Colonial Surgeon.

—No. 2.—

(No. 63.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Governor Sir *J. F. Davis*, Bart.

No. 2.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 December 1844.

Lord Stanley to Governor Sir *J. F. Davis*. 6 December 1844.

MR. STEPHEN has placed in my hands a letter addressed to him by Mr. *Montgomery Martin*, requesting to be relieved from the situation of Treasurer of Hong Kong.

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Under the circumstances stated by Mr. Martin, I can have no hesitation in directing you to accept his resignation of his office, should he repeat to you the offer of it; but he must distinctly understand, that it will not be in my power to offer him another situation elsewhere.

In the event of his resignation, you will offer the appointment of treasurer of Hong Kong to Mr. C. Stewart, who, I understand, discharged the duties of the office under an appointment from Sir H. Pottinger, previously to the arrival in the colony of Mr. Martin.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Stanley.*

— No. 3. —

(No. 49.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. F. Davis*, Bart., to Lord *Stanley*.

No. 3.
Governor Sir
J. F. Davis to
Lord *Stanley*.
1 May 1845.

My Lord,

Victoria, Hong Kong, 1 May 1845.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 63, of December 6th, relating to the subject of Mr. Treasurer Martin's proffered resignation, I communicated its purport to that gentleman, from whom the enclosed reply has been received, stating his wish to continue in his present office; as long as his health enables him to discharge its duties.

I need scarcely observe, that repeated recurrences of absence on account of ill health, similar to those which Mr. Martin has already applied for, would produce the most serious embarrassment, from the great difficulty and responsibility that must always attend the providing a substitute.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. F. Davis.*

Enclosure in No. 3.

Sir,

Colonial Treasury, 29 April 1845.

Encl. in No. 3.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, this day, of your letter, No. 182, requesting to be informed, "without loss of time, whether I still wish to be relieved from the situation of treasurer of this colony."

When suffering from severe illness and depression in July last, I wrote to Mr. Undersecretary Stephen, and to the best of my recollection expressed a hope that Lord Stanley would be pleased to relieve me, as I found the climate of this island destructive to my health, and as I did not see there was any useful object gained by retaining me here.

By the advice of the colonial surgeon I made a voyage to the N. E. coast of China for six weeks, which temporarily recruited me, but the recurrence of warm weather has produced a return of the symptoms of the disease under which I suffered last year, with aggravated indications, threatening the breaking up of my constitution.

I am unwilling, however, from any personal considerations to abandon my duty, as it appears to be the determination of Her Majesty's Government to maintain a distinct Treasury department for the civil establishment of this island; I shall, therefore, so long as my strength lasts, endeavour to the utmost of my ability to fulfil the trust reposed in me.

The Hon. F. W. A. Bruce,
Colonial Secretary.

(True copy.)

(signed) *Frederick W. A. Bruce.*

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

—No. 4.—

— No. 4. —

(No. 97.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Stanley to Governor Sir J. F. Davis, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 25 March 1845.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th* December last, No. 66, I transmit to you herewith, the copy of a further communication addressed to my Under-secretary of State by Mr. Montgomery Martin, repeating in very strong terms his arguments against the retention of Hong Kong as a British colony. I have to request you to report to me your opinion of the accuracy of Mr. Martin's facts, and the inferences which he draws from them; I must also request you to inform Mr. Martin, that it will be impossible for me hereafter to take cognizance of any communications from him, unless sent according to the official regulation, through yourself; and that I regret that it is not in my power to hold out to him the prospect of employment in any other part of Her Majesty's dominions.

I have, &c.

(signed) Stanley.

No. 4.
Lord Stanley to
Governor Sir
J. F. Davis.
25 March 1845.

20 November 1844.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Dear Sir,

Hong Kong, 20 November 1844.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing you in July, I have been severely afflicted with fever and diarrhoea, and nearly at the point of death. It has pleased an ever-merciful Providence to spare my life, and I returned to Hong Kong from Chusan and the N. E. coast in the beginning of September, with my health somewhat improved, but my frame very debilitated, and I fear my constitution much impaired, at least for a continued residence in a tropical climate. The sickness here this season has been very great, but excepting the numerous deaths among the troops, the mortality has not been so extensive as last year. The Governor was unwell before he went to Chusan, in September; the Chief Justice was given over, and is now but slowly recovering; his eldest daughter is dead, and his son is going home an invalid. The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Bruce, was almost despaired of, and is still a convalescent on board Her Majesty's ship "Castor." The Auditor, Mr. Shelley, has had fever twice, and is now on sick certificate at Macao. The Surveyor-general is absent on sick leave; his assistant is nearly as ill as his chief; and the Civil Engineer has had fever twice, and obliged to go to Macao for his health.

Encl. in No. 4.

I have had two chief clerks since my arrival, one is dead, the other dying, and I was unable to get continuous work for a week out of either. The official accounts and official correspondence of all the departments are in arrear, in consequence of the incapability of the clerks to stand the effects of the climate, which sooner or later undermines the most robust frame, and after a severe illness renders a man utterly unfit for a longer residence in Hong Kong, if mental or bodily labour be required. The troops have suffered and are still suffering (although cold weather has set in) dreadfully. The returns to the Horse Guards, and the letters of the commanding officer, Major-general D'Aguilar, present a melancholy picture; General D'Aguilar reports, that three years' residence in Hong Kong suffice to destroy, by death, an entire European regiment.

For some time the deaths in Her Majesty's 98th regiment have averaged one man every day; last week six deaths occurred in 24 hours; the strength of the men not in hospital is so reduced, that they are unable to wear a knapsack on parade, and at guard-mounting, the General does not require the troops on the ground to stand with shouldered arms. I have been in the most sickly countries, but never felt anything equal to depressing influence of the climate of Hong Kong, whose unhealthiness is proverbial to the Chinese on the adjacent main land.

When Lord Stanley honoured me with the offer of treasurer of this colony, I was unwilling to appear even ungrateful of his kindness, and resolved under any risk to fulfil the duty assigned me, and to the best of my ability to place his Lordship in possession of such information as might be useful to Her Majesty's Government. With this object in view I prepared (with perfect disinterestedness) a "Report on Hong Kong," and a "Report on Chusan," which I laid before Mr. Davis, with a respectful request that he would transmit these reports to Lord Stanley. Mr. Davis has transmitted the "Report on Hong Kong," to Lord Stanley, and the "Report on Chusan," to the Earl of Aberdeen.

I pray your early and serious consideration of those reports; I beg your oblivion as to who the writer may be, and that you will view the facts and reasonings therein contained with the comprehensive and far-seeing eye that you possess. Whatever of public reputation

* Lord Stanley's Despatch of the 17th December 1844, No. 66, acknowledges Sir J. F. Davis's Despatch, enclosing a Report by Mr. M. Martin upon the Island of Hong Kong, and the expediency, in a political and commercial point of view, of its retention by Great Britain.

tion I may possess, I stake it on the question raised whether Hong Kong or Chusan ought to be the seat of British power in China. I am supported in the views I have taken by Major-general D'Aguilar, by Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, by Brigadier Chesney, by Commissary-general Coffin, by Colonel Campbell, of Her Majesty's 98th, by the chief medical officer, the principal Military Engineer, and by the frank avowal of the French Admiral, and by the United States special Ambassador, that Hong Kong was valueless as a trading emporium, as a military post, or as a colony of any European nation. I believe that Mr. Davis, first opposed my views as to Hong Kong, and that he has thus expressed himself to Lord Stanley; in this he was supported by the Colonial Secretary and Auditor, but since Mr. Davis visited Chusan in September, his views of that place have materially changed, and since the recent illness of Mr. Bruce and Mr. Shelley, their sentiments are much altered. Almost every one here has bought building allotments, or own houses, from which they derive a large rental, and they are therefore very adverse to any diminution of Government expenditure, or to any transfer of the seat of Government to Chusan. My letters to Mr. Trevelyan (which I hope he will show you, as the closing post leaves me no time for detail) will indicate the danger we are in of another war with China.

The war party are now the cabinet at Pekin; Muchangah, the person most opposed to Europeans, is prime minister; and one of his first measures was the degradation of Keying, on account of his having betrayed the interests of the Chinese Empire to "Barbarians." I have shown, I think, how the possession of Chusan would save the fearful calamity of another war.

If no effort be made to retain Chusan permanently (although I feel confident it can be done without any breach of treaty), then I respectfully submit there can be no necessity for the British Government expending 100,000*l.* per annum for mere civil purposes on this barren rock, while the utmost amount of revenue to be raised cannot exceed 10,000*l.* a year. If any great future object is to be attained, then let the present large expenditure of blood and treasure go on, and I, for one, will submit to be a cheerful victim for my country's welfare. But I am prepared to prove there can be no justifiable grounds for spending here nearly half a million sterling from the resources of the British Exchequer, and if I do not prove this, let the loss of my official position in Her Majesty's service be the penalty. With the view of placing before Lord Stanley the information I have obtained, I respectfully solicit from his Lordship leave of absence to proceed overland to England, the leave not to exceed six months, and the journey to be defrayed at my own cost. Should I not demonstrate to his Lordship's complete satisfaction, that I was perfectly justified in soliciting this leave, let me be dismissed Her Majesty's service. My duties may be performed by the Commissariat during my absence, as they were before my arrival, or Mr. Mercer, the Governor's private secretary, shall receive half my salary as *locum tenens*. I am aware of the labour, risk, expense, and above all, the danger I incur of Lord Stanley's displeasure; but confiding in the justness of my views, I will gladly submit to any penalty which may be the forfeiture of my failure. It will add to the obligations you have conferred on me, if the answer to this request be transmitted by the ensuing mail which leaves England for China after your receipt of this letter. General D'Aguilar, and the Attorney-general, are favourable to my being permitted leave of absence for six months, to lay my statements before Lord Stanley; but General D'Aguilar is of opinion that Mr. Davis would not grant me the leave I seek, as I would be enabled then by *vivâ voce*, to substantiate my own views; for this reason, I have not applied to Mr. Davis, with whom, however, I am on the most friendly terms. The treaty provides for the cession of Chusan to the Chinese Government 25 December 1845; there is therefore no time to be lost on the subject. But if I receive an answer to this letter in April or in May, I would be able to reach England in time to allow of instructions being sent to Mr. Davis, not to restore Chusan until the final decision of Her Majesty's Government be known. Ere that time, I have little doubt that Mr. Davis will become convinced that Chusan alone can be the depository of the British power in China.

Should Lord Stanley not be pleased to comply with my request for six months' leave of absence, and that Chusan be restored to the Chinese, then there can be no necessity for retaining a treasurer here, and incurring a charge of several thousand a year, when the whole of my duties may be transferred to the Commissariat Department. The abolition of my office may with public advantage take place.

I say this in perfect sincerity, as I have never permitted my own interests to interfere with what might be conducive to the advantage of the State. I shall therefore have to rely on Lord Stanley's goodness, and entreat his transfer of me to some other position. Here, as a mere cashier of the sums required by the Colonial and Consular services, I could be of no use to Her Majesty's Government, and I cannot conscientiously receive 1,200*l.* per annum, when I am incapacitated by my position of serving the Crown, or of doing aught which may be creditable to myself.

James Stephen, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I remain, &c.
(signed) R. M. Martin.

— No. 5. —

(No. 44.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. F. Davis*, Bart., to Lord *Stanley*;
dated Victoria, Hong Kong, 25 April 1845.

IN despatch No. 66, of the 17th December, your Lordship desires me to furnish a report as to the points on which I dissent from the views stated by Mr. Martin, in a paper of observations which I forwarded at that gentleman's request.

His objections to Hong Kong are founded on an apprehension of its peculiar unhealthiness, the improbability of raising a local revenue, and its inutility as an entrepôt for trade; I shall endeavour to show that his statements were exaggerated and partial, and I am still of opinion that Mr. Martin wrote under a feeling of strong prejudice, founded in apprehensions for his personal health, regarding which he is remarkably sensitive, and on account of which he has had more leave of absence than any individual in the service. Your Lordship will have observed in that gentleman's paper, that he suggests the expediency of his being provided for in some other colony.

No. 5.
Governor Sir
J. F. Davis to
Lord *Stanley*.
25 April 1845.

— No. 6. —

(No. 85.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. F. Davis*, Bart., to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord,

Victoria, Hong Kong, 24 June 1845.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch, No. 97, of March 25th, forwarding copy of a letter from Mr. Martin to the Under-secretary of State; I beg to observe, that my despatch No. 44, of April 25th, will have anticipated much that I might have said in answer to that letter, although the nature of some of its statements requires a specific notice.

No. 6.
Governor Sir
J. F. Davis to
Lord *Stanley*.
24 June 1845.

Mr. Martin commences with the climate, observing, however, that "the mortality has not been so extensive as last year." Among the victims to sickness before he wrote, he enumerates myself, whom your Lordship may deem competent to deny the fact; and to add, that I never for a single day was unequal to my work. It is singular, that of a list of other official persons whom he enumerates as labouring under attacks that render persons "utterly unfit for a longer residence, if mental or bodily labour be required," the whole number are now at their duties. These are, the Chief Justice, the Colonial Secretary, the Auditor, the Surveyor general, and the Clerk of the Works. Mr. Martin himself, not being able to obtain a sick certificate, addressed to me the enclosed application for leave of absence on other grounds, which by my answer also enclosed, I informed him, did not justify the abandonment of his duties without leave from home. The Colonial Regulations are quite clear on this point, as your Lordship is aware.

18 June. No. 1.
19 June. No. 2.

Mr. Martin has altogether misunderstood his position, as I have endeavoured to show him in my reply to his letter enclosed herewith. A steady adherence to his own duties as Treasurer would have prevented that restlessness which has kept him moving perpetually between this and one or other of the points on the coast, with no other result than the accumulation of arrears in his work, and the creation of such crude theories as these scampering visits of a few days could afford.

I have before observed to your Lordship, that a comparison between Chusan and Hong Kong is mere loss of time, unless the former place were still at our option. Mr. Martin has not yet explained how it could be retained without a breach of treaty, after all the Chinese indemnity shall have been received.

It would have been well had Mr. Martin taken less liberty with others' opinions as the alleged supporters of his own. He even states that my views had changed after a visit to Chusan, a place with which I was perfectly well acquainted before. He very improperly observes, that the sentiments of Messrs. Bruce and Shelley on a public question had been altered by "a recent illness;"

and I believe that most of the other authorities whom he cites would be found, on trial, to be no better supporters of Mr. Martin, than the Major-general above quoted.

But, I do not believe that a worse supporter of Mr. Martin's opinions could be found than the treasurer himself. Of Hong Kong he inconsistently, but most truly, observes, "almost every one here has bought building allotments, or own houses from which they derive a large rental (*sic*), and they are therefore very adverse to any diminution of Government expenditure, or to any transfer of the seat of government to Chusan." If the colonists are the best judges of their own interests, your Lordship will perhaps consider this as a strange account of a hopeless colony.

My surprise, on reading in Mr. Martin's letter, that we are "in danger of another war with China," could only be equalled by what I felt at his proposal that this should be averted by retaining Chusan, that is, violating the treaty of peace. If we are so near another war, I have been strangely remiss in not preparing your Lordship and the Earl of Aberdeen for the contingency. The fine levied on Keying (to which Mr. Martin alludes), was merely one mode of helping to recruit the desperate state of the Chinese finances. The Chinese Ministers' treaties with America and France have since been ratified by the Emperor, and he has been raised to the rank of a Cabinet Minister, for quietly preventing the French and American squadrons approaching the Peiho. With the observance of ordinary justice and moderation, though with a due assertion of our rights, I know of no country on earth with which war is so little probable as China. During more than a year's diplomatic intercourse with the Government, I have, without once hinting at such an alternative, maintained the rights of our Consuls at Foochow-foo and Amoy, resisted monopolies and impositions on the trade, and asserted the Queen's sovereignty over this island; and, if a knowledge of the proper reserve to be maintained in the exercise of my high duties had not been sufficient, the very terror which the Chinese entertain of any recurrence to past scenes might have influenced a person of common generosity to abstain from any unnecessary allusion to the last alternative.

I now descend to matters more within Mr. Martin's scope and experience, but in regard to which he is scarcely more fortunate. He states 10,000*l.* to be the utmost amount of revenue to be ever attainable, and his own estimate for the current year enclosed, is nearly 18,000*l.*, but much below what may be expected. In another paper he predicted that more than 5,000*l.* could never be obtained from the Crown Lands, and the rent-roll already exceeds 13,000*l.* When he applies the magnifying end of the glass, with reference to *expenditure*, he talks of spending "nearly half a million sterling" on this colony; while my despatch No. 79, of the 14th instant, will show that the whole estimated charge for public works, required subsequent to my arrival (supposing them to be all authorized) will be 96,145*l.*, to be completed in the course of the next two years.

Having thus, and in a previous despatch, No. 44, disposed of Mr. Martin's facts, I will leave his inferences to shift for themselves; and if I am accustomed to make less frequent allusions than the Treasurer in his letter to the effects of "a tropical climate," to "my perfect disinterestedness," to "my perfect sincerity," and to my readiness to be "a cheerful victim for my country's good," I hope your Lordship's knowledge of mankind will not give you a worse opinion of me on that account.

I will conclude by observing, that I cannot understand how the recommendation, that the Treasurer's business be transferred to the Commissariat, could be carried out; for if a treasurer is necessary in every other colony, he could hardly be dispensed with in this, when the Consular accounts are superadded to the Colonial. At the same time, if Mr. Martin's great wish, as he declares, is to be "transferred to some other position," I have every personal motive for wishing him success, if it were only to be relieved from much unprofitable discussion, while two distinct departments require my constant attention.

The enclosed letter has just reached me from Mr. Martin, declaring his intention of proceeding home without leave (in fact resigning) for the reasons he states. There is no proper person to substitute in his place, pending Mr. Stewart's arrival, except my private secretary, Mr. Mercer, whose father, a gentlemen

24 June, No. 3.

gentleman of fortune, has tendered security to the amount of 10,000*l.* for his son, in any official situation. At the same time, Mr. Martin's securities must also be considered responsible.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. F. Davis.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 6.

Colonial Treasury, Hong Kong,
18 June 1845.

Sir,

IN my recent "Minute on the British Position and Prospects in China," I ventured to indicate, according to the best of my judgment, the mistakes committed during our past negotiations with the Chinese authorities, to demonstrate the apparent defects of our present policy, and to point out in some respects the course which it seems advisable to pursue previous to the evacuation of Chusan in February next. Encl. 1, in No. 6.

Having devoted 20 years to an investigation of our colonial and commercial relations, I believe that my opinions thereon receive some attention at home, and that when Her Majesty's Government, unsolicitedly, selected me for office in China, it was expected I would be enabled to collect useful information.

Desirous of justifying the confidence reposed in me, I prepared and submitted several reports and documents to your Excellency, and these, together with a Commercial Report which I am framing for the Lords' Committee of the Privy Council for Trade, will I hope demonstrate that I have minutely examined affairs in China.

Although several of the conclusions at which I have arrived, after anxious investigation, may be at variance with those emanating from high authority, I trust I may without arrogance ask a full and fair hearing for opinions originating in integrity of motive, and a solicitude to ascertain what would be most conducive to the trade and permanent interests of the British empire.

Being therefore convinced that an immediate investigation of our Anglo-Chinese policy is of the highest importance on general as well as on financial and commercial considerations; aware that the sentiments I entertain find little concurrence in England from several gentlemen who recently filled office in China, and thinking that Her Majesty's Government have been acting under some erroneous impressions, I am very desirous of personally placing before Her Majesty's Ministers the information collected, and the opinions thence deduced, after visiting every part of China accessible to Europeans.

For this purpose I have the honour to solicit from your Excellency leave of absence for six months, on the following terms; viz.—

- 1st. That I draw no salary for these six months.
- 2d. That I defray my own expenses to England.
- 3d. That if Her Majesty's Government decide there were no justifiable grounds for this application, that I resign my present office.

By granting my request no detriment whatever can accrue to the public service.

The treasury accounts are close up, the books are daily balanced, and all the required returns will be made to the 30th June.

I believe the payments on account of public works will be comparatively small for the next six months (or until final orders from home,) and I am certain that with ordinary care no delay or embarrassment can arise in the Treasury Accounts.

Confiding in the importance of the information which I believe it to be in my power to convey, and in the probability of its being duly appreciated by Her Majesty's Ministers, I ask permission to forego all my salary, to incur considerable expense, and to destroy, perhaps, my remaining strength by travelling during this hot and adverse season; and further, I propose to risk my commission in Her Majesty's service, in order that I may have an opportunity of communicating personally to the authorities at home the result of my inquiries in this country.

His Excellency J. F. Davis,
Governor of Hong Kong, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert M. Martin.*

Enclosure 2, in No. 6.

Colonial Office, Victoria, Hong Kong,
19 June 1845.

Sir,

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to send you this reply. Encl. 2, in No. 6.

The object of your present application is, to obtain the Governor's sanction to proceeding home for the reasons stated by you.

The regulations as to leave of absence by which the Governor is bound, are clear and peremptory, confining such leave to cases of serious indisposition requiring a change of climate.

climate. But it is plain that such is not your own case, as among the personal sacrifices which you state you are ready to make for the public benefit, is the probable injury to your health, in quitting Hong Kong at the commencement of the hot season, to proceed to England.

Lord Stanley having appointed you to the responsible office of Colonial Treasurer, the substitution without absolute necessity, of any other person in your place, is an act of responsibility on his own part which the Governor does not feel justified in incurring.

Giving you full credit for all that you claim for yourself in the letter under reply, the Governor is bound to state that he has not received the slightest intimation from Her Majesty's Government (which alone can authorize his acts) concerning your employment in the ways which you mention. Every paper, however, that you thought fit to offer has been forwarded home to the Colonial and Foreign Offices, and the same mode of communicating your sentiments, in the fullest manner in writing, is always open to you. At each of the five consulates, a gentleman bearing Her Majesty's commission as Consul, has been placed for the express purpose of supplying the fullest and most careful information, and it is the duty of the Governor, as Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent, to report this to Her Majesty's Government, with a previous experience of Chinese diplomacy and commerce not inferior to your own.

Until, therefore, a stronger case of necessity can be made out than the one conveyed in your letter, the Governor, with the unanimous concurrence of the Executive Council, regrets his inability to sustain that degree of responsibility which must always attach to his acts where they deviate materially from the plain course indicated by his instructions and the usages of the service.

I have, &c.
(signed) Frederick W. A. Bruce,
Colonial Secretary.

R. M. Martin, Esq., Colonial Treasurer,
&c. &c.

Enclosure 3, in No. 6.

Sir,

Colonial Treasury, Hong Kong, 24 June 1845.

Encl. 3. in No. 6.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, conveying to me the refusal of his Excellency the Governor to my application for six months' leave of absence, on the following grounds:—

1. "That the regulations by which the Governor is bound, as to leave of absence, are clear and peremptory, confining such leave to cases of serious indisposition requiring change of climate."

2. That "his Excellency does not feel justified in incurring an act of responsibility by the substitution of another person in my place," &c.

3. That "by granting the leave sought, his Excellency would materially deviate from the usages of the service."

In reply, I beg to observe that, 1st. the words of the Regulations (c. iv. p. 25) are "leave of absence should be confined *as much as possible* to cases of serious indisposition requiring change of climate." The regulations then proceed to define when leave of absence should be granted on private affairs. *A fortiori*, leave may be granted on public affairs.

2d. By granting the leave sought, no responsibility whatever would be incurred by his Excellency, as my sureties would stand good during my absence, as well as those of my *locum tenens*.

3d. By the usages of the service, colonial officers frequently obtain leave of absence to proceed to England, irrespective of sickness.

But even were the regulations clear and peremptory against leave of absence being granted except in cases of imminently fatal illness, I venture to think that the novel and peculiar position of Great Britain in China, the nature and prospects of this island as a new settlement, and the many years I have devoted to the study and personal examination of other colonies, and to an investigation of the commercial and financial relations of England, might have rendered me an exception to the general rule, particularly as my temporary absence could be no detriment to the public service, and as I offered to take upon myself all the responsibility of my proceedings.

I put aside the question of my health (although it has been materially shaken by my residence and mental labours here). Life or death is of little moment compared with the great interests which England has at stake in China. These interests are too vast and pressing to be affected by individual considerations, or by the ordinary usages and proceedings of the service, which are applicable to every day occurrences.

Whether I am right or wrong, I have endeavoured to demonstrate in my reports and minutes, that our affairs in China require immediate and special reconsideration and revision; that time and experience have made manifest several mistakes, which if not rectified previous to the evacuation of Chusan, in February or March next, will be a subject of deep regret and serious injury; and that our policy and proceedings are not productive of the extended beneficial results which the British nation has a right to expect in China, and not commensurate with the large expenditure incurred on this coast.

Feeling

Feeling strongly on these points as of high national importance, and believing that, however humble my rank in Her Majesty's service, it is my bounden duty to my Sovereign to bring them under the early and serious consideration of Her Majesty's Ministers, and deeming that my personal attendance is indispensable to answer questions on the spot, and to explain various points which, even if time permitted, could not be done by a lengthened and tedious correspondence, I have resolved to undergo the responsibility of proceeding to England, to bring the whole question under the immediate attention of Her Majesty's Government; and I cannot help entertaining a confident hope, that when the magnitude and pressing exigency of the case is fully seen and understood, and the motives in which my conduct has originated been explained, I may rely on the justice and liberality of Lord Stanley and Her Majesty's Ministers.

My accounts are made up, and the monies under my charge ready to be transferred, on the half year ending 30th instant, to whomsoever his Excellency may be pleased to direct to officiate as Treasurer.

I have, &c.

The Honourable F. W. A. Bruce,
Colonial Secretary.

(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

Enclosure 4, in No. 6.

Encl. 4, in No. 6.

ESTIMATED REVENUE OF THE COLONY OF *Hong Kong*,
from 1st April 1845 to 1st April 1846.

	£.
Crown Rents.—Sold to June 1844 - - - - -	9,000
Sales in July 1844 - - - - - £. 2,323	
Will not be paid - - - - - 550	
	1,773
Sales in December 1844 to Chinese - - - - -	290
Ditto to Europeans - - - - - \$ 4,130	
Will not be paid - - - - - \$ 939	
	\$ 3,191 =
	664
Total Crown rents - - - - -	11,727
Deduct deposits on purchases - - - - -	343
	11,384
Remains due for 1845-46 - - - - -	300
Fees on leases for transfers, &c. - - - - -	1,405
Government markets - - - - - 3 = \$ 560 a month =	1,774
Opium farm - - - - - \$ 710 a month =	500
Auction duty 2½ per cent., on estimated sales of £. 20,000 per annum.	
Licenses.—Pawnbrokers, 5 in number - at \$ 250 each - - - - - £. 260	
Auctioneers - 7 - - - - - \$ 50 - - - - - 72	
Spirit Licenses (Europeans) 27 at \$ 50 - - - - - 281	
Ditto, samshoo (Chinese) 35 at \$ 50 - - - - - 364	
Salt-broker, or weigher - 1 at \$ 700 yearly - - - - - 145	
Stone quarries - - - - - \$ 800 - - - - - 166	
Ghaut Serang (head) - 1 at \$ 200 - - - - - 41	
Ditto, deputies - - - - - 4 at \$ 25 each - - - - - 20	
Billiard-tables - - - - - 2 at \$ 50 - - - - - 20	
	1,369
Fees.—Supreme court, Police courts, burials, &c. &c. - - - - -	600
Fines of ditto - - - - -	300
Incidental receipts - - - - -	100
Rent of Albany and other buildings, about - - - - -	150
	£. 17,882

(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

(True Copy.)

(signed) *Frederick W. A. Bruce.*

— No. 7. —

(No. 93.)

No. 7.
Governor Sir
J. F. Davis to
Lord Stanley.
8 July 1845.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. F. Davis*, Bart.
to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord,

Victoria, Hong Kong, 8 July 1845.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of Mr. Martin's letter tendering his resignation of the office of Treasurer; which resignation I have accepted according to your Lordship's authority before conveyed to me.

In my reply, also enclosed, I have informed Mr. Martin that, although I could not sanction his proceeding home without a sick certificate, nor recognize those pleas which he had advanced for leave of absence on points which had no concern whatever with his official duties, I was at liberty to accept his resignation, by which he quits his office on his own responsibility.

Mr. Martin has been directed to deliver the cash in his charge to a Committee of Survey, composed of the Auditor, Mr. Mercer and Mr. D'Almada. There is no person to whom I can entrust the office of Treasurer, thus vacated, except Mr. Mercer, who will hold it pending Mr. Stewart's arrival, or your Lordship's further commands, having produced abundant security as I before had the honour to report. Mr. Martin proceeds home immediately overland.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. F. Davis*.

P. S.—I beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the concluding paragraph of my reply to Mr. Martin, in which I inform that gentleman that I cannot, without authority from home, comply with his request to be furnished with copies of voluminous public documents, and I accordingly await your Lordship's instructions for my guidance on this and other similar occasions.

J. F. D.

Enclosure 1, in No. 7.

Encl. 1, in No. 7.

Sir,

Colonial Treasury, Hong Kong, 8 July 1845.

THE decision of his Excellency the Governor on my letters of 18th and 24th ultimo, refusing me leave of absence for six months on public business, and with a view to what I deem the public good, compels me most reluctantly to adopt the only alternative of requesting his Excellency to receive my resignation as Her Majesty's Treasurer for the Colonial and Diplomatic services in China, until I can bring the subject, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, under the consideration of my Sovereign, who was graciously pleased to appoint me to the important office and trust which I have now the honour to place in the hands of his Excellency.

My quarterly accounts are made up to the 30th of June 1845, declared before a magistrate, and passed by the auditor.

I beg that a Board may be appointed to receive from me the monies under my charge, and that his Excellency will state to whom I am to transfer the accounts and books of my department, and the vouchers of payments made by me since 30th day of June last.

In order that I may be enabled to pass my accounts in England, and to receive for myself and for my sureties the Exchequer quietus, I have the honour to request that a copy of my Day Cash Book be furnished me from this office.

The Honourable F. W. A. Bruce,
Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin*.

Enclosure 2, in No. 7.

Encl. 2, in No. 7.

Sir,

Colonial Office, Victoria, Hong Kong, 8 July 1845.

IN reply to your letter, tendering your resignation of the appointment of Treasurer, I am directed by his Excellency the Governor to state, that although he could not authorize your absence, without a sick certificate, from your duties (a step which would have rendered himself responsible for their performance), his Excellency has been duly empowered by Lord Stanley to accept your resignation, if tendered, (as you have already been informed,) and he accepts it accordingly.

The only person at present in the colony whom his Excellency can appoint to the office which you have thus vacated is Mr. Mercer. That gentleman, together with the Auditor and Mr. D'Almada, will receive from you the monies under your charge, and to Mr. Mercer you will transfer the Colonial Accounts, with the vouchers for payments made by you since June 30th.

You

You must be aware that the few hours that will elapse previous to your embarkation in the "Lanrick" would, under any circumstances, be insufficient for transcribing the voluminous book of which you request a copy; but as his Excellency entertains doubts as to its being within the limits of his discretion to allow copies of public documents to be withdrawn by any officer on his departure, he will refer your request for Lord Stanley's decision by the present despatch.

I have, &c.

(signed) *A. E. Shelley,*
Acting Colonial Secretary.

(True copy.)
A. E. Shelley,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

—No. 8.—

(No. 95.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *J. F. Davis*, Bart. to Lord *Stanley*.

No. 8.
Governor Sir
J. F. Davis to
Lord *Stanley*.
9 July 1845.

My Lord,

Victoria, Hong Kong, 9 July 1845.

I AM sorry to trouble your Lordship with another despatch relating to Mr. Martin, but that gentleman, after his embarkation yesterday, caused to be conveyed to me this morning the enclosed copy of a letter to your Lordship, in breach (as it appears to myself) of the following section of the Colonial Regulations (page 49):—

8 July, vide p. 12.

"The practice which has in some instances been adopted of addressing memorials direct to this office, and only sending copies of them to the Governor on the eve of the departure of the vessel which is to convey them, will not be recognized as a proper course of communication, and must not be repeated."

The sub-enclosures in Mr. Martin's letter (which has no date of the month, and being sent from the ship is headed "Colonial Treasury,") have already been forwarded with my previous correspondence (Nos. 85 and 93) in relation to that gentleman, and your Lordship may, therefore, not wish them to be repeated in the duplicate of this despatch, as they would, in fact, constitute quadruplicate copies.

Pages 5, 10.

I need not occupy your Lordship's time by dwelling on the enclosed letter of Mr. Martin, as it merely repeats his previous statements as to the necessity of retaining Chusan, &c. His assertion as to having "recently ascertained that Governor Davis is proposing for your Lordship's sanction a further expenditure of half a million of dollars," is disproved by a simple reference to my despatch No. 79, of 14th June, where the following is the total amount proposed:—

	£.
Schedule 1 - - - - -	31,312
Schedule 2 - - - - -	30,937
	<u>£. 62,249</u>

I could not grant Mr. Martin leave of absence without incurring an uncalled-for degree of responsibility, as he had been only a year in the colony, enjoyed such health as precluded the possibility of obtaining a medical certificate, and had been appointed by your Lordship to an office involving pecuniary liabilities. He has had more leave of absence by far than any other member of the colony, not one of his numerous applications to proceed to the north, to Canton, &c., having been denied. His allusions, therefore, to harsh treatment are hardly justified.

I need not observe, that his resignation of office and his departure to England are the most perfect acts of free will, and that the public reasons which he assigns for quitting his post without leave, as far they are intelligible, have no concern whatever with his proper duties as Treasurer.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. F. Davis.*

— No. 9. —

No. 9.
R. Montgomery
Martin, Esq., to
Lord Stanley.
8 July 1845.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*, to Lord Stanley.

My Lord,

Colonial Treasury, Hong Kong, 8 July 1845.

I HAVE the honour to solicit your Lordship's persual of the enclosed correspondence with Governor Davis, and a consideration of the following statement.

Nos. 1 to 6.

Soon after my arrival in this Island I observed that there had been a large and unnecessary expenditure of the public money here, which expenditure had been greatly facilitated by the power of arresting portions of the Chinese Indemnity Money, in its transit to the Home Exchequer.

Perceiving that this disbursement was daily augmenting, I felt it to be my duty, even at the hazard of losing what I much covet—the confidence and support of your Lordship—to state openly my opinions to my superiors, and to substantiate them by facts relative to the true nature and value of Hong Kong, and to its necessary concomitant, the British position and prospects in China.

The reports, minutes and papers, written in support of these opinions, were transmitted either to your Lordship, to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, or to the Lords of the Treasury; and, as I understood, they were producing some effect at home, by suggesting various inquiries, and by causing a check to be put upon the expenditure here; I resolved, although my health and constitution has been much impaired by this climate, to await the result of those inquiries, and the correction of errors which time and circumstances generally induce.

No. 1, of 18 June 1845.
Vide p. 7.

No. 1, of 19 June 1845.
Vide p. 7.

Nos. 3 & 4,
of 24 June 1845.
Vide pp. 8, 13.

Having, however, recently ascertained that Governor Davis is proposing for your Lordship's sanction a further expenditure of half a million of dollars for civil works here, irrespective of the unnecessary extent of outlay incurred and projected in the Military and Ordnance Departments, believing that Her Majesty's Government must be under great misapprehension relative to the value of Hong Kong, and to the present state of our affairs in China, and understanding that it is intended to evacuate Chusan in February or March next, without any attempt or negotiation for the retention of that most valuable and important island (worthy of being an Anglo-Chinese colony), I applied to Governor Davis for six months' leave of absence on public grounds in order that I might bring the whole subject under a complete and unbiassed investigation, and thus, if possible, timely correct what are deemed primary errors of national importance. That the question might be placed above personal considerations, I offered to give up all my salary, to defray my own expenses to England; to continue my bonds of pecuniary security to the Crown, and to forfeit my commission in Her Majesty's service, should my application for leave of absence be disapproved of at home. The Governor refused the leave sought on the plea that I was not dying, and requiring change of climate, a decision as shown in the accompanying correspondence, contrary to the obvious meaning of the Government Instructions (ch. 4, p. 25), and which, if thus interpreted, would make every colonial servant of the Crown an exile for life, or subject to the caprice, favouritism or vindictiveness of any colonial governor.

No. 5, of 8 July 1845.
Vide p. 10.

The yet unsettled state of the British affairs in China; the very short time intervening for their imperatively required better arrangement, previous to the contemplated evacuation of Chusan, when our expenditure of every description ought to undergo the most careful revision and retrenchment; the desire to prevent an intended expenditure of half a million dollars for civil works, and other unnecessary projected outlays; a conscientious belief, that as a sworn servant of the Crown, I am bound to lay all the information I have collected before Her Majesty's Ministers, and that I can only effectually do so, without further loss of time in person, have compelled me to adopt the only alternative in my power; namely, to place in the hands of Governor Davis my conditional resignation as Her Majesty's Treasurer for the Colonial and Diplomatic service in China, in order that I may at once bring the whole matter under the full and fair consideration of your Lordship, and be on the spot in case of necessity for reference.

I will

I will not advert to myself personally, to any treatment which I have experienced, or to any misinterpretation or misrepresentation of my motives and conduct; these are points of comparatively little moment.

But I do confidently hope that the newness and vast importance of our position in China, the still partial blending of colonial, diplomatic and commercial affairs here, the possible imperfections of individual judgment arising from various interests and from natural causes, and the advantages consequently derivable to the state from a minute examination and exposition of our affairs in the most distant, most complex, and yet least understood settlement and relations of the British Crown, may induce your Lordship to grant, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, and on public grounds, a court of inquiry previous to the acceptance by my Sovereign of the responsible commission with which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to invest me.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert M. Martin.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 9.

Copy of a LETTER from *R. M. Martin, Esq.*, to Governor *Davis*, dated Colonial Treasury, Hong Kong, 18 June 1845 :—*Printed at page 7.* Encl. 1, in No. 9.

Enclosure 2, in No. 9.

Copy of a LETTER from the Colonial Secretary to *R. M. Martin, Esq.*, dated Victoria, Hong Kong, 19 June 1845 :—*Printed at page 7.* Encl. 2, in No. 9.

Enclosure 3, in No. 9.

Copy of a LETTER from *R. M. Martin, Esq.*, to the Colonial Secretary of Hong Kong, dated Colonial Treasury, Hong Kong, 24 June 1845 :—*Printed at page 8.* Encl. 3, in No. 9.

Enclosure 4, in No. 9.

Colonial Office, Victoria, Hong Kong,
24 June 1845. Encl. 4, in No. 9.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day's date, which has been duly laid before his Excellency the Governor for his consideration.
In reply, I am directed by his Excellency to refer you to his decision upon the subject conveyed in my letter of the 19th instant.

R. M. Martin, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Frederick W. A. Bruce,*
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 5, in No. 9.

Copy of a LETTER from *R. M. Martin, Esq.*, to the Colonial Secretary of Hong Kong, dated Colonial Treasury, Hong Kong, 8 July 1845 :—*Printed at page 10.* Encl. 5, in No. 9.

Enclosure 6, in No. 9.

Colonial Treasury, Hong Kong, 8 July 1845. Encl. 6, in No. 9.

Sir,
I HAVE the honour to solicit that your Excellency will be pleased to transmit the accompanying letter and its enclosures to the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, at your earliest convenience.

His Excellency John Francis Davis, Esq.,
Governor of Hong Kong.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Robert M. Martin.*

— No. 10. —

COPY of a LETTER from *James Stephen, Esq.* to *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*

No. 10.

Sir,

Downing-street, 7 January 1846.

James Stephen, Esq.
to *R. Montgomery*
Martin, Esq.
7 January 1846.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to inform you, that he has had under his consideration the despatches from the Governor of Hong Kong and your own letters, explaining the circumstances under which you resigned your office of Treasurer of that colony, in order to come to this country to lay certain representations respecting Hong Kong before Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Gladstone finds, that after a full consideration of the circumstances, Lord Stanley, according to the records of this office, appears to have regarded your resignation of office as final, and Mr. Gladstone desires me to add, that he concurs with Lord Stanley in thinking that, after what has passed on the subject, no other character can be ascribed to it.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Jas. Stephen.*

— No. 11. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.* to Mr. Secretary *Gladstone.*

No. 11.

Sir,

Poloe, near Glasgow, 13 January 1846.

R. Montgomery
Martin, Esq., to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone.
13 January 1846.

IN reply to Mr. Under-secretary Stephen's letter of 7th instant, I beg to refer to my correspondence with Governor Davis of 18th and 24th June and 8th July last, by which it will be seen that the tendered resignation of the office of Treasurer of Hong Kong was constrained, conditional and dependent on the information I laid before Her Majesty's Government being deemed insufficient to justify my coming to England.

In my letter to Lord Stanley from Hong Kong of 8th July last, I asked his Lordship to suspend decision until he had personally heard my statements, and to grant an inquiry previous to accepting my resignation.

Lord Stanley informed me by letter, that "in compliance with my request, he had not formally accepted my resignation," and on 28th November last his Lordship observed, that he could not discuss with me the statements I transmitted on Hong Kong, as it had been resolved to make them a subject for the deliberation of the cabinet.

Under these circumstances, it is submitted, that I was fully justified in coming to England in July last to make what have been deemed important representations to Lord Stanley, Lord Aberdeen, Mr. Goulburn and the Lords of the Treasury, previous to the treaty of Nankin settled in January or February 1846; and it is consequently respectfully suggested, that I do not deserve to forfeit my commission, and be deprived of employment in Her Majesty's service, after having usefully, zealously and at no inconsiderable hazard and sacrifices, done my duty as a faithful servant of the Crown in China, whither I am again prepared to proceed when ordered.

Relying on your equitable consideration, and with the request that as my official statements have been made the subject of cabinet discussion, so also will be this letter, and my removal or otherwise from Her Majesty's Service.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

— No. 12. —

— No. 12. —

COPY of a LETTER from *James Stephen, Esq.* to *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*

No. 12.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 January 1846.

*James Stephen,
Esq. to R. M.
Martin, Esq.
31 January 1846.*

I HAVE laid before Mr. Secretary Gladstone your letter to me of the 13th instant, in which you state that "Lord Stanley informed you by letter, that in compliance with your request he had not formally accepted your resignation," and you add, that "on the 28th November last his Lordship observed, that he could not discuss with you the statements you transmitted on Hong Kong, as it had been resolved to make them a subject for the deliberation of the Cabinet."

On perusing this letter, Mr. Gladstone directed me to write to Lieutenant-colonel Wilbraham, who had acted as Lord Stanley's Private Secretary, to ascertain whether it was in his power to throw any light on the contradiction between the statements I have thus quoted, and the documents remaining in this office in Lord Stanley's hand-writing.

On the 27th instant, Colonel Wilbraham addressed to me his answer to that inquiry in a letter of that date, a copy of which, by Mr. Gladstone's direction, I enclose for your information. Mr. Gladstone desires me to add, that he must consider this statement from Colonel Wilbraham as closing the discussion respecting the resignation of your office as Treasurer of Hong Kong; and that he must regard that resignation as having been finally, and therefore irrevocably accepted by Lord Stanley.

27 January 1846.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Jas. Stephen.*

Enclosure in No. 12.

My dear Sir,

55, Portland-place, 27 January 1846.

Encl. in No. 12.

IN answer to your letter of the 21st instant on the subject of Mr. Montgomery Martin's resignation of the treasurership of Hong Kong, I beg to say, that the only communication with him that I am aware of, was a letter which I wrote to him from Lancashire on the 13th November last, by desire of Lord Stanley, and which I presume he refers to in the extract of his letter of the 13th January last, which you have sent me, where he states that "Lord Stanley informed me by letter," that "in compliance with my request, he had not formally accepted my resignation."

The words of my letter of November 13th, after saying that Lord Stanley would on his return to town give him the interview he requested, were "Colonel Wilbraham is desired by Lord Stanley to add, that in compliance with Mr. Martin's wishes, he has delayed the formal acceptance of his resignation of the Treasurership of Hong Kong, though he considers the resignation as final."

With reference to Mr. Martin's statement, that at the subsequent interview Lord Stanley "observed, that he could not discuss with (him) the statements (he) transmitted on Hong Kong, as it had been resolved to make them a subject for the deliberation of the Cabinet;" I am desired by Lord Stanley to say, that Mr. Martin must have greatly misunderstood him, as his expression to Mr. Martin was, that the matters on which Mr. Martin had written to him, such as the evacuation of Chusan, &c., were such as he could not discuss with Mr. Martin, they being properly subjects for the consideration of the Cabinet; an expression which bears a very different meaning from the construction which Mr. Martin appears to have put upon it.

Lord Stanley has further desired me to observe, that at the interview, Mr. Martin did not say a word to him about the confirmation or otherwise of his resignation; but expressed himself to the effect that he knew he had committed faults, and must bear the penalty of them.

I remain, &c.
(signed) *E. B. Wilbraham.*

*Jas. Stephen, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.*

— No. 13. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.* to *S. H. Northcote, Esq.*

No. 13.
R. M. Martin, Esq.
 to *S. H. Northcote,*
Esq.
 30 January 1846.

Sir,

29, Bloomsbury-square, 30 January 1846.

IN reply to your note of yesterday, I beg to inquire whether Mr. Secretary Gladstone will sanction there being laid before Parliament my Report on Hong Kong (24 July 1844), Report on Chusan (30 August 1844), and Minute on the British Position and Prospects in China (19 April 1845). These were all transmitted officially to Governor Davis, with accompanying letters, and were forwarded by the Governor to Her Majesty's Ministers.

As I have been kept nearly three months in suspense in England, an early reply will add to the obligations conferred on, Sir,

Yours, &c.
 (signed) *R. M. Martin.*

— No. 14. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.* to *James Stephen, Esq.*

No. 14.
R. M. Martin, Esq.,
 to *James Stephen,*
Esq.
 3 February 1846.

Sir,

29, Bloomsbury-square, 3 February 1846.

I AM favoured with your letter of 31st January, enclosing copy of a letter from the Hon. Lieut.-colonel Wilbraham, and informing me that Mr. Gladstone considers the correspondence closed as regards my resignation of the Treasurership of Hong Kong.

I am equally unwilling to prolong this correspondence, and regret having caused so much already; but I cannot, in justice to myself, avoid the reply I now make, without, however, seeking from Mr. Gladstone any alteration of the decision at which he has arrived.

1st. I never said a word to Lord Stanley respecting Chusan in my interview of 28th November; I referred solely to Hong Kong, which was in his Lordship's department, and on which I sent that morning a memorandum offering to prove in detail that Hong Kong could never be a colony, a commercial emporium, a military post, or a political station. Lord Stanley, holding that memorandum in his hand, said (as I understood him) "I cannot discuss this with you, as it has been resolved to make your statements a subject for the consideration of the Cabinet." On hearing this I remarked, "then I have nothing more to say."

2d. Lord Stanley misapprehended me, if he supposes I said, "I knew I had committed faults, and must bear the penalty of them."

The words I used were, "I fear I have incurred your displeasure, Lord Stanley, in coming to England, but I feel assured that had your Lordship been placed in my situation, and seen the waste of public money, and our impolicy in China, you would have acted as I have done. If I am to pay a penalty for this fault, and make a sacrifice which I cannot afford, let me at least have the satisfaction of knowing that the sacrifice will produce some good to the country."

I declare on my honour that these were as nearly as possible the words used; and I certainly did think that, if my views respecting the British position and prospects in China were worthy the consideration of the Cabinet either in part or in the whole, that I would not be required to make the (to me) great sacrifice of forfeiting my employment in Her Majesty's service.

The best proof I can give of a conviction that I do not deserve the penalty inflicted is, by reiterating my earnest solicitation that Mr. Gladstone will permit me to have my Reports, &c. laid before Parliament.

I cannot conclude without expressing my misfortune at having misunderstood Lord Stanley, and of being misapprehended by his Lordship. May I beg you will do me the favour of placing this explanatory letter before Mr. Gladstone, who I fervently hope will not add to my penalty, by denying me the means of justifying myself before the public.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *R. M. Martin.*

— No. 15. —

— No. 15. —

COPY of a LETTER from Lord *Lyttelton* to *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 February 1846.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to inform you that your letters of the 30th ultimo to Mr. Northcote, and of the 3d instant to Mr. Stephen, have been laid before him. In answer to your inquiry whether Mr. Gladstone will sanction there being laid before Parliament your Report on Hong Kong of the 24th July 1844, your Report on Chusan of the 30th August 1844, and your Minute on the British Position and Prospects in China of the 19th April 1845, I am directed to inform you, that Mr. Gladstone cannot ascribe any official character to any report made by you, excepting only as far as such reports related to the discharge of the duties of your office as Treasurer of Hong Kong, in which capacity alone you were employed by Her Majesty's Government. Mr. Gladstone thinks that he should establish a precedent full of inconvenience, if he concurred in the production to Parliament, and the printing, at the public expense, of reports or minutes drawn up by you on subjects with which you had no official concern, and on which you were not invited by Her Majesty's Government to enter. For these reasons, any motion for the production of those papers to either Houses of Parliament would be resisted by the Ministers of the Crown.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lyttelton*.

No. 15.
Lord Lyttelton, to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
6 February 1846.

— No. 16. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq. to
S. H. Northcote, Esq.

Sir,

29, Bloomsbury-square, 2 March 1846.

IN reply to your communication of 27th February (just received), stating that Mr. Gladstone would wish me to reserve any request for an interview until after I had placed before him "a statement of my conduct in China and present circumstances, irrespective of the general discussion which I thought it my duty to raise with respect to Hong Kong," I beg to forward herewith an "Abstract of my proceedings in China," which I confidently hope will, on a detailed examination, prove that I was a faithful and diligent servant of the Crown, and an honest steward of the important trust reposed in me. I am, therefore, anxious to have the most searching scrutiny into my conduct in every point of view, public and private; and this I earnestly solicited from Lord Stanley previous to his acceptance of my resignation, in a letter of 8th July last, which I requested Governor Davis to forward to his Lordship.

With reference to the second point—my "present circumstances" or position, I beg to state, that it will be seen in my correspondence with Governor Davis in June and July last, that the tendered resignation of my office was in obedience to what I conscientiously believed to be an urgent sense of public duty; that the resignation was constrained, because Governor Davis refused me six months' furlough (which it was in his power to grant) although I offered to resign all salary, and yet preserve my heavy securities to the Queen; and that my resignation was conditional, and dependent on my conduct being disapproved in England.

The acceptance of a resignation thus compulsorily wrung from me without any inquiry or investigation, may be deemed tantamount to a declaration that my conduct, and the motives in which it originated, did not justify the step which I felt compelled to take. I am, therefore, subjected to a severe pecuniary loss, which I cannot afford, after an untiring devotion of 20 years in laborious and expensive exertions for the national weal (as shown in the accompanying memorandum): and, what is of still greater consequence to me, my conduct in China is rendered questionable.

I respectfully entreat Mr. Gladstone to permit a committee of three gentlemen to examine the whole of my proceedings in China, to scrutinize, so far as human beings can do, the originating motives for my conduct, and to report whether

No. 16.
R. M. Martin, Esq.,
to S. H. Northcote,
Esq.
2 March 1846.

Page 12.

whether I am deserving of the injury which has been inflicted on me for endeavouring to amend what were deemed national errors of great magnitude, and on which, if I had remained silent and inactive, I should indeed have considered myself unworthy of employment of any kind in Her Majesty's service.

I would venture to suggest the names of three gentlemen well conversant with the subjects referred to; namely, Mr. Trevelyan, Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Lefevre, Secretary to the Board of Trade, and Mr. Otho Hamilton, of the Audit Board; the last named gentleman having had all my accounts as Her Majesty's Treasurer under his supervision.

I will cheerfully bow to any decision at which those three gentlemen may arrive.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 16.

ABSTRACT of Proceedings in *China*.

- Encl. 1, in No. 16.
1. Examination of our Financial state in detail; transmitted to Governor Davis, 17 June 1844; to Lords of the Treasury, 19 June 1844.
 2. On transmission of Specimens of all Chinese Manufactures to Board of Trade, London, forwarded to Governor Davis, 29 June 1844.
 3. Report on the British Currency, and Monetary Exchanges in China.
 4. Report on Hong Kong in all its aspects; to Governor Davis, 24 July 1844; to Lords of the Treasury, August 1844.
 5. Report on Chusan in all its aspects; examination of our policy in China; to Governor Davis, 30 August 1844; to Lords of the Treasury, 20 September 1844.
 6. Comparison between Hong Kong and Chusan; transmitted to Sir R. Peel, 14 November 1844; to Lords of the Treasury, 14 November 1844.
 7. Dissent in Council on proposed Legislative enactment for licensing Opium smoking-shops in Her Majesty's settlement, Hong Kong; read before Governor in Council, 26 November 1844.
 8. Draft Legislative Enactment, to enjoin an observance of the Sabbath in Hong Kong; transmitted to Governor Davis, and caused my "Analysis of the Bible" to be translated by the Reverend Dr. Gutzlaff, for general circulation throughout China.
 9. Despatch respecting French intrigues in China; to Sir Robert Peel, 21 December 1844; to Lords of the Treasury.
 10. Minute on the British Position and Prospects in China, and an Exposition of the Treaty of Nankin; to Governor Davis, 19 April 1845; to Sir Robert Peel, 25 April 1845; to Lords of the Treasury, 25 April 1845.
 11. Representations and Correspondence on the Governor's violation of Instructions from Lords of the Treasury, on the disbursement and account of the Public Monies; to Lords of the Treasury, May, June and July 1845.
 12. Correspondence respecting six months' leave of absence, to represent the state of our affairs in China; Her Majesty's Government, 24th June, July, 1845 transmitted to Governor Davis, with explanatory Letter to Lord Stanley, 8th July 1845, and to Mr. Stephen, Under Secretary of the Colonies, same date.
 13. Rise, progress and condition of the Tea Trade, with numerous tabular statements, &c.; to Lord Stanley, 3d September 1845.
 14. Points for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government on the whole of our affairs in China, with Appendices A. B. and C., showing 1st. A necessary reduction of expenditure to the extent of 250,000 *l.* a year.—2d. Fair and honourable terms of negotiation with the China Government for the cession of Chusan.—3d. Reply to Sir H. Pottinger's reason for preferring Hong Kong to Chusan.—4th. The means to be adopted immediately for the rectification of our erroneous policy, to improve our position, and to expand our trade, &c. transmitted to Lord Stanley, 3d September 1845.
- In addition to the preceding documents (which are very voluminous), abstracts on the above points have been given to Lord Stanley, to the Earl of Aberdeen, to Mr. Goulburn, to the Earl of Dalhousie, and to Lord Canning, in November and December 1845; and a Synopsis of a complete Commercial Report on China (for which the materials were collected during a personal examination of all the consular ports, and after visiting every accessible part of China) was forwarded to the Earl of Dalhousie, 4 December 1845, which has now been three months under the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury and Board of Trade.

These

These labours were in addition to the arduous and responsible duties of Her Majesty's Treasurer for the Colonial, Consular and Diplomatic services in China; which were rendered extremely harassing and anxious by the departure in China, from the clear and positive instructions of the Lords of the Treasury, by the difficulty of procuring proper clerks, or by their death, and absence from illness, and by the frequent recurrence of a depressing climactic disease, which at one period nearly proved fatal.

2 March 1846.

R. M. Martin.

Enclosure 2, in No. 16.

MEMORANDUM of Exertions for the Public Welfare.

TWENTY years have been sedulously devoted by Mr. Martin to an investigation of the Colonial, Commercial, and Financial affairs of the British Empire. Ten of these years have been spent in visiting the Colonies, and 10 years in circulating the information acquired; the result of some of his labours has been as follows: Encl. 2, in No. 16.

	Copies printed.
I. History of the British Colonies, five vols, 28 Maps, Charts, &c. -	8,500
II. Marquess Wellesley's Indian Despatches, five vols., Maps, Plans, &c. -	8,000
III. British Colonial Library, ten vols., Engravings, Maps, &c. -	22,000
IV. Eastern India, three vols., 200 Drawings, Maps, Plans, &c. -	4,500
V. Statistics of the British Colonies, one large vol., 3,000,000 Figures, Seals, &c. -	3,000
VI. Political, Commercial and Financial Condition of Anglo-Eastern Empire in 1832, 8vo. -	1,500
VII. British relations with the Chinese Empire in 1832, 8vo. -	3,000
VIII. Taxation of the British Empire, with Tabular Views, &c. -	1,500
IX. Past and present state of Tea Trade of England, Europe and America -	1,500
X. Analysis of Parliamentary Evidence on China Trade, 1832 -	3,000
XI. Colonial Policy of the British Empire, Part I., Government -	1,500
XII. Marquess Wellesley's Spanish Despatches, one vol. 8vo. -	1,500
XIII. Ireland as it was, is, and ought to be, Tabular Chart, &c. -	1,500
XIV. Colonial Magazine, seven vols. 8vo, completed, Engravings, &c. -	12,000
XV. Poor Laws for Ireland, a Measure of Justice for England, &c., pamphlet -	10,000

Colonial Atlas, with Maps of each Colony, now engraving.

East and West India Sugar Duties Equalization, 40,000 copies distributed.

Monetary System of British India, 10,000 copies distributed.

Various pamphlets on Commerce, Finance, Shipping, &c.

The foregoing publications comprise about 70,000 octavo volumes, illustrated by numerous maps, engravings, plans and statistical charts, and they all refer to subjects of great national importance. The mere mechanical expenditure on these works for printing, paper, engravings, &c., has been upwards of 20,000*l.* sterling.

To defray these heavy charges, to pay assistants, and to provide for personal expenses during 20 years' unremitting toil, and costly labour and travel, not the slightest aid has been furnished by Government; but relying solely on his own energies, and out of his own limited resources, Mr. Martin has prepared the first complete "History of the British Colonies," and by his unceasing exertions, has awakened an interest in the public mind for our trans-marine possessions, whose extent and condition were heretofore imperfectly known, and their intrinsic value inadequately appreciated.

In addition to the preceding mentioned labours, Mr. Martin has zealously contributed to promote various useful objects. The "Colonial Society" of London was consequent on his works, and he has endeavoured to advance its laudable objects. The "Central Agricultural Society" by which the landed interest was united for the protection and encouragement of agriculture, at a period when it was threatened with destruction (1835-36), had its origin mainly in his exertions, and for two years he acted gratuitously as one of its honorary secretaries. He also co-operated as honorary secretary with the "Society for the Protection of Domestic Industry," which was superintended by a committee of 21 Members of Parliament, whereof E. S. Cayley, M. P. was chairman, and which had for its leading object the union of all classes engaged in land, manufactures and trade.

In order that he might obtain an accurate view of the working of our banking system, Mr. Martin made a tour throughout England and Scotland, to the extent of 2,500 miles, during which he visited nearly every public and private bank in the kingdom; and for 12 months he officiated as honorary secretary to the "Commercial Bank of London." The "Bank of British North America" was planned, and its preliminary proceedings were organized

organized by Mr. Martin; and other colonial banks had their origin in his advice and information. The "Bank of Asia," for conducting exchange operations between England, India and China, was framed in its plan and principles by Mr. Martin, and its organization was begun and completed by him; 8,000 shares, of the value of 100*l.* each, were subscribed for in a few days on its first announcement in London, and 6,000 shares of equal value were applied for in India.

These observations demonstrate that Mr. Martin's labours have not been restricted to those of a merely literary character. He has visited several times the manufacturing and commercial districts of the United Kingdom; and since his return from the colonies he has traversed a large part of the continent of Europe, including Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, France, &c., and examined the progress of their trade and manufactures. Mr. Martin is one of the few surviving officers of the disastrous surveying and exploring expedition of Her Majesty's vessels "Levin" and "Barracouta," employed under W. F. W. Owen on the coasts of Africa, and on the shores and rivers of the Eastern and Southern Hemisphere, and for his services he received the marked commendations of the distinguished Commander of the squadron.

During the last four years, Mr. Martin has been an active member of the General Court of Proprietors at the East India House, where he has disinterestedly assisted to obtain freedom of commerce for British India; to procure the adoption of a permanent moderate settlement of the land-tax, and to promote the social and Christian improvement of 100,000,000 of our fellow subjects. He has been several times examined before Committees of Parliament on financial and mercantile measures; and in 1840 he was nearly three weeks under a strict interrogation on the commerce and relative condition of India and the Colonies.

It has proved a source of sincere gratification to Mr. Martin, that his conduct abroad and at home was deemed deserving the gracious approval of his Sovereign William 4th, who was pleased to command the dedication of the "History of the British Colonies," and the "Marquess Wellesley's Despatches," and his presentation at Court; and to express to the Colonial Office the Royal desire that he should be employed in that department of Government, stating that "His Majesty took an interest in Mr. Martin's welfare." Her most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria has also vouchsafed Her Majesty's benign commendation of Mr. Martin's efforts for the welfare of his country.

One of the greatest statesmen who have shed lustre on this or any other age (the most Noble the Marquess Wellesley) has conferred the much prized boon of his friendship on Mr. Martin; and this brief but unavoidably egotistical detail of public services may well be concluded by annexing a copy of a letter from the noble Marquess to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of which Mr. Martin may justly feel proud, as it emanates from a mind of the most lofty, generous and enlightened character, and pre-eminently distinguished for an ardent patriotism, which, for more than half a century, has been efficiently devoted to the maintenance of constitutional liberty—to the extension of Christian civilization—and to the preservation and permanent prosperity of the whole British empire.

Kingston House, Knightsbridge,
17 November 1840.

My dear Lord,

Your Lordship's uniform kindness and obliging attentions induce me to trouble you with a request, in the success of which I am deeply interested, from motives of gratitude and friendship, as well as from a sense of public duty.

Several respectable friends of the present Government, from the same sentiments, have already expressed their concurrence in my opinion, and have declared an anxiety equal to mine on the same subject.

Our object is to see Mr. Montgomery Martin (a gentleman well known to your Lordship and to the public) employed in some station in which his eminent talents and extraordinary industry and diligence, and extensive information, might be rendered useful to the empire.

My friendship for Mr. Martin is founded on no light basis. I entrusted him with the publication of the documents connected with my administration of the British empire in India; a work which he has completed to my entire satisfaction.

This work necessarily involved the most confidential communication and intercourse, by which I am enabled, with the most perfect certainty, to pledge my honour to the integrity, ability, honest zeal and indefatigable spirit of industry by which this worthy gentleman has obtained so high an eminence in public estimation.

Mr. Martin has made the affairs of the British colonies and of India the more especial objects of his laborious studies; but he is also better informed on the interesting subject of Ireland (more particularly on the operation and result of her Legislative Union with Great Britain), than any person I have ever conversed with. Generally his knowledge of statistics is most extensive and most practically useful.

My gratitude towards this gentleman renders me most anxious for his welfare; but I would not recommend him to your Lordship, if I were not satisfied that his active employment in the public service would be beneficial to the empire and honourable to himself and to your Lordship.

The Right hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
(signed) Wellesley.

— No. 17. —

COPY of a LETTER from Lord *Lyttelton* to *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq.

Sir,

Downing street, 7 March 1846.

No. 17.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you addressed to his private secretary on the 2d instant, enclosing an abstract of your proceedings in China, and suggesting the appointment of a committee of three gentlemen, to examine into and report upon those proceedings.

Mr. Gladstone desires me to inform you in answer, that he cannot devolve on the gentlemen you have mentioned, or on any other persons, the office of instituting the inquiries which you have suggested; I am to add, that after a perusal of your letter, and the documents which accompany it, Mr. Gladstone can anticipate no advantage from prolonging a discussion on a subject of which he entertains views so widely different from your own.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Lyttelton*.

Lord Lyttelton to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
7 March 1846.

— No. 18. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq. to
Mr. Secretary Gladstone.

Sir,

29, Bloomsbury-square, 31 March 1846.

No. 18.

I HAVE had the honour of laying before you a printed statement of my proceedings in China. I have now been nearly five months in England, and I respectfully submit that I have shown I did my duty as a faithful servant of the Crown, and therefore do not deserve the treatment I have experienced, unless Her Majesty's Government disbelieve my statements, or are unwilling to amend those proceedings, which I have I think demonstrated are errors of primary importance.

Under these circumstances I beg to inquire, whether you will grant me a personal interview, to enable me to substantiate my statements; or,

2dly, Whether you will permit an inquiry into my conduct while in China; or,

3dly, Whether you will offer no opposition to my friends in the legislature obtaining an inquiry before Parliament into my statements.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. M. Martin*.

R. M. Martin, Esq.
to Mr. Secretary
Gladstone.
31 March 1846.

— No. 19. —

COPY of a LETTER from Lord *Lyttelton* to *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq.

Sir,

Downing-street, 6 April 1846.

No. 19.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, in which you inquire; 1st, Whether he would grant you a personal interview to enable you to substantiate the statement which you have already submitted of your proceedings in China; 2d, Whether any inquiry into your conduct while in China will be permitted; and 3d, Whether Mr. Gladstone would offer any opposition to a Parliamentary inquiry into your statements.

Mr. Gladstone desires me to inform you in answer, that he is not a present aware that there is any question depending between Her Majesty's Government and yourself, which could be made the subject of discussion at a private interview, or an inquiry in or out of Parliament. He apprehends, that having resigned your office at Hong Kong, and your resignation having been accepted, you no longer stand in any official relation to the Government; and Her Majesty's Government do not deem it convenient to enter into any discussion with you on the questions of Chinese policy, to which your several communications to them relate.

743.

c 3

I am

Lord Lyttelton to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
6 April 1846.

I am to add, that although Mr. Gladstone is not aware of any cause for inquiry in Parliament into your statement, he must reserve his reply to your question whether opposition would be offered on the part of the Government to such inquiry, until he shall have been apprized in a more definite manner of the nature and proposed aim of it.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lyttelton.*

— No. 20. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*, to
Mr. Secretary Gladstone.

Mansfield House, Iver, near Uxbridge,
7 April 1846.

No. 20.
R. M. Martin, Esq.,
to Mr. Secretary
Gladstone.
7 April 1846.

Sir,

THE City article of the "Times" of yesterday, contains the following remarks:—"Hong Kong has quite lost caste as a place for mercantile operations. Many of the merchants had already abandoned the island. Since the beginning of the present year, two firms have given up their establishments; two more of old standing had expressed their determination to quit the colony; and others were hesitating about following their example, or at most of leaving a clerk in possession to forward goods or letters."

I believe the foregoing to be a true statement; it is an ample confirmation of my "Report on Hong Kong," dated July 1844, which was transmitted by Governor Davis to the Colonial Office; and it is, I respectfully submit, in justification of my having come to England to bring this and other equally misunderstood and misrepresented portions of our affairs in China, under the immediate and serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government. Yet, for thus acting in accordance with what I deemed an urgent and responsible public duty, I am now subjected to severe punishment, and all inquiry into my conduct, or the means of self justification in public estimation, and which I have so earnestly solicited, is denied me.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

— No. 21. —

COPY of a LETTER from Lord *Lyttelton* to *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*

No. 21.
Lord *Lyttelton* to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
15 April 1846.

Sir,

Downing-street, 15 April 1846.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, calling his attention to the "City Article" in the "Times" Newspaper of the 6th instant, on the subject of Hong Kong, which you consider to be a justification of your having returned to England to bring the state of the colony under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. Mr. Gladstone desires me to observe in answer, that, whether the statement in the "Times" Newspaper be accurate or otherwise, he cannot acknowledge that it was the duty of a subordinate officer of the Government of Hong Kong to repair to this country without the consent, or rather after the dissent of the Governor, to lay those facts before Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lyttelton.*

— No. 22. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.* to Mr. Secretary Gladstone.

No. 22.
R. M. Martin, Esq.,
to Mr. Secretary
Gladstone.
8 April 1846.

Sir,

Mansfield House, Iver, near Uxbridge, 8 April 1846.

I AM this day honoured with Lord *Lyttelton*'s communication of 6th instant, wherein his Lordship states, that you are "not at present aware there is any question depending between Her Majesty's Government and myself, which could

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could be made the subject of discussion at a private interview, or of any inquiry in or out of Parliament."

Pardon my saying, that I think you are still imperfectly informed of the causes of my conditional resignation of office, which was not tendered until I had vainly endeavoured for more than twelve months to check what I viewed as an utter waste of the public money to a serious extent, as testified in the accompanying correspondence; wherein, at page 17, it will be seen that on 19th June 1844, I recommended, in proof of my sincerity, the abolition of my own office, with the hope that the attention of Her Majesty's Government would thus be awakened to the true state of affairs at Hong Kong; and on 14th November 1844 (page 65), I even stated that I "could not conscientiously continue to receive my salary and remain silent when I perceived that a great error had been committed," which it was not too late to rectify; and (at page 72), that "any suffering or degradation would be preferable to witnessing the pursuance of an erroneous course of policy fraught with great injury to England, which may be averted by prompt, judicious and timely measures."

Printed Pamphlet.

Her Majesty's Government had incurred, and were still incurring a very large expenditure on Hong Kong without having had any detailed report on the place; I thought I should have neglected my duty, had I not endeavoured to remedy this defect. My "Report on Hong Kong," was therefore completed 24th July 1844, and forwarded by Governor Davis to the Colonial Office. I am ready to substantiate the truth of every statement contained in that report, which, however, from some motives was unheeded, as were also my urgent representations for a reduction of the public expenditure in China, although these views were forcibly sustained by Commissary-general Coffin, and Deputy Commissary-general Miller, in their reports to Mr. Trevelyan at the Treasury.

Understanding in July last, that it was in contemplation to expend a further sum of several million dollars on a barren useless rock, which the British merchants declared to Lord Stanley (13 August 1845), "was never actually required for the purposes of commerce," and which they are "now abandoning" (Times, 6 April 1846), I sought six months' leave of absence, offering to resign all salary, to retain my securities to the Crown, to defray my expenses overland to England, and to resign my commission should my conduct be disapproved of at home (see page 114). The leave thus sought was refused, as Governor Davis was aware of my determination to carry out what I thought was correct, and was as I believe desirous of conferring my appointment on his relative Mr. Mercer. Conceiving that a servant of the Crown is a steward of the public interests, that he is bound by his oath and by Christian morality to incur any sacrifice rather than permit the continuance of what he considers to be seriously prejudicial to the national weal, and in the hope that Her Majesty's Government would ultimately appreciate my conduct, I was constrained to tender my conditional resignation, until I could bring the whole subject under the full and unbiassed consideration of Her Majesty's Government (see pages 111 to 118).

Previous to my departure from China, and likewise since my arrival in England, I explained the amendments and retrenchments which appeared requisite, and on 13th November last, I gave to the Chancellor of the Exchequer at his request, the details of a plan by which 250,000*l.* a year might be saved in China.

Lord Lyttelton informs me, that the tendered resignation of my office having been accepted, "I no longer stand in any official relation to Government, and that Her Majesty's Government do not deem it convenient to enter into any discussion with me on the questions of Chinese policy to which my several communications to them relate."

In other words, after devoting no inconsiderable portion of the most valuable period of my life to the service of the Crown with industry, honesty and zeal, as evinced in the accompanying reports, after incurring considerable expense in obtaining useful information of which Her Majesty's Government have derived the benefit, and while still engaged in preparing an elaborate commercial report on China for the Board of Trade; I am informed, that I have forfeited my position in Her Majesty's service, while those who preferred their emoluments to the public good retain their offices in Hong Kong.

I am unwilling to believe, that Her Majesty's Government really mean to treat me thus—that they intend to deprive me of employment in Her Majesty's service because I refused to be silent when silence would have been a crime; because I preferred risking office rather than not timely endeavour to correct errors of great national consequence; because I deemed integrity and a vigilant watchfulness to prevent waste and mismanagement ought to be a paramount consideration in a public officer, especially in a distant and novel portion of the empire. I therefore, respectfully ask the application of the principle of justice to me, as if I had been the steward of a trust confided to me by a private individual.

Should this unfortunately be denied me, I have to express an earnest hope that you will not refuse me permission to justify my conduct in not having hastily resigned the commission with which my Sovereign was graciously pleased to invest me, and to enable me to demonstrate, that I am not deserving the censure which an acceptance of a resignation thus tendered may by implication convey. And as you desire to be "apprized in a more definite manner of the nature and proposed aim" of my intended application to Parliament, I beg to state, that the motion which it is proposed to submit to the legislature is, that there be laid before Parliament copies of the correspondence connected with my resignation of the office of Her Majesty's Treasurer for Hong Kong.

I humbly hope that this not unreasonable request will be conceded, and which is made without the slightest intention of attempting to embarrass Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

— No. 23. —

COPY of a LETTER from Lord *Lyttelton* to *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 20 April 1846.

No. 23.
Lord Lyttelton to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
20 April 1846.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, in which you enter into an explanation of the causes which led to your resignation of the office of Treasurer of Hong Kong, and state that the motion which it is proposed to submit to Parliament is for copies of the correspondence connected with such resignation.

Mr. Gladstone desires me to inform you in reply, that he anticipates no advantage from prolonging this correspondence; but that, if any Member of Parliament should move for the production of the correspondence to which you refer, Her Majesty's Government will raise no objection to the production of so much of it as could be so produced without injustice to individuals or prejudice to Her Majesty's service.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lyttelton.*

— No. 24. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.* to Lord *Lyttelton*.

Mansfield House, near Uxbridge,
16 April 1846.

My Lord,

No. 24.
R. M. Martin, Esq.,
to Lord Lyttelton.
16 April 1846.

PERMIT me to remark, in reference to the observation of Mr. Secretary Gladstone, contained in your Lordship's letter of 15th instant, that I most fully acknowledge the principle, that "it is not the duty of a subordinate officer to repair to this country without the consent of the Governor;" yet, as every rule has its exception, I venture to hope, that on further examination and reflection, it will be seen a departure from the principle in the present case was not only justifiable, but rendered imperatively necessary, from my strong conviction that national interests of the highest importance required immediate and serious investigation, which could only effectually be done by my repairing to England; and that I was bound by the highest obligations to risk even life itself for the accomplishment of the great objects in view.

Supposing,

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Supposing, however, that the exception to the rule be not admitted, I trust that the motives which influenced the procedure, and strenuous exertions for 25 years, to promote the public good, as exemplified in the accompanying memorandum of services, will have their due weight with Her Majesty's Government,

Vide p. 19.

I have, &c.
(signed) R. M. Martin.

— No. 25. —

COPY of a LETTER from Lord Lyttelton to R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.

Sir,

Downing-street, 22 April 1846.

No. 25.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, in justification of your proceeding in returning to this country from Hong Kong without the consent of the Governor; and I am to inform you, in reply, that he must regard the correspondence on this subject as having reached its close.

Lord Lyttelton to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
22 April 1846.

I have, &c.
(signed) Lyttelton.

— No. 26. —

COPY of a LETTER from R. Montgomery Martin, Esq. to Lord Lyttelton.

My Lord,

29, Bloomsbury-square, 21 April 1846.

No. 26.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of 20th instant. All hope of inducing Mr. Secretary Gladstone to consider my resignation of office as an act which it was imperatively the duty of a trust-worthy servant of the Crown to perform being now at an end, it is not my wish or intention to prolong this correspondence.

R. M. Martin, Esq.,
to Lord Lyttelton.
21 April 1846.

I beg to return my thanks to Mr. Gladstone for granting my request respecting the production before Parliament of the correspondence connected with my resignation; and as my "Reports on Hong Kong and on Chusan," transmitted to Governor Davis, formed the basis of my resignation, and were enclosed with the correspondence, there will not, I presume, be any objection to their production before Parliament. I am not aware that any of my correspondence involves "injustice to individuals."

I have stated openly that the leading Government officers of the past and present administration in Hong Kong had private and personal pecuniary interests at total variance with the public welfare relative to Hong Kong, the true nature of which is now in the course of being fully evinced by the intelligence received by the last mail from China (27 February 1846) stating that the merchants are abandoning the settlement, which is rapidly hastening to "ruin."

I am ready to prove the truth of every portion of my reports on Hong Kong and on Chusan; and I may here be permitted to observe, that my earnest entreaties for the retention of Chusan, even after the payment of the last instalment of the Chinese indemnity money, and until the completion of the treaty of Nankin, have now been adopted.

I therefore respectfully submit, that I have stated nothing which can by publicity in the slightest degree be "prejudicial to Her Majesty's service," or be "unjust to individuals."

My quiescence for the last five months in England, proves that I have not the slightest idea of doing aught that may embarrass Her Majesty's Government; and my whole conduct shows, I trust, that the public good has ever been the paramount motive of my actions; but I cannot forget there is some degree of justice due to myself, and that it is my duty, in the fulfilment of an important trust, to enable my friends and the public fully to examine into the whole of the causes which compelled me to tender my resignation.

I therefore confidently hope that Mr. Gladstone will, in the full meaning and spirit of the concession contained in your Lordship's letter of the 20th instant, not object to my "Reports on Hong Kong and on Chusan," or to any other documents which may not be really prejudicial to the public service, being

laid before Parliament, and which may be necessary to a vindication of the line of procedure which I felt obliged to adopt in China.

I have to apologize to your Lordship for thus again trespassing on your time; but to me the question is one of vital importance, and I am anxious there should be no blame hereafter attached to my conduct, and no misconception on my part of Mr. Gladstone's intentions as to the extent of the concession which he has had the goodness to grant.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

—No. 27.—

COPY of a LETTER from Lord *Lyttelton* to *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq.

No. 27.
Lord Lyttelton to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
30 April 1846.

Sir,

Downing-street, 30 April 1846.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, inquiring whether any objection would be made to the production to Parliament, among the papers connected with your resignation, of your Reports on Hong Kong and Chusan, or "any other documents which may not be really prejudicial to the public service."

In reply, I am to inform you, that my letter of the 20th instant referred exclusively to correspondence connected with your resignation, and that Mr. Gladstone cannot consider as coming within that description, your Reports on Hong Kong and Chusan, or on any other general question of policy. With respect to those Reports, I am directed to refer you to my letter of the 6th February last, in which you were informed that any motion for the production of your Reports to either House of Parliament would be resisted by the Ministers of the Crown.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Lyttelton.*

—No. 28.—

No. 28.
Petition of *R. M. Martin*, Esq. to the
Queen.

To The QUEEN's most Excellent MAJESTY.

The humble Petition of *Robert Montgomery Martin*, late Her Majesty's Treasurer for the Colonial, Consular and Diplomatic Services in China, and a Member of Her Majesty's Legislative Council.

Humbly sheweth,

1st. THAT your Majesty was graciously pleased to appoint petitioner Treasurer at Hong Kong, on 20 January 1844.

2d. That petitioner having devoted his life to an investigation of the British colonial possessions and commercial interests, deemed that he would be fulfilling his duty to your Majesty by examining, in all their relations, our position and prospects in China.

3d. That the accompanying public documents were therefore, from time to time transmitted to your Majesty's Ministers, and it is respectfully submitted, they testify that petitioner acted as a faithful, industrious, and useful servant of the Crown in China.

4th. That petitioner deeming an erroneous course of policy had been pursued, which, if not timely rectified, would be productive of great national injury, and being desirous of checking a wasteful expenditure of public money, which could only effectually be done by his immediate return to England, was most reluctantly compelled to tender the conditional resignation of the commission with which your Majesty was graciously pleased to invest him, in order that he might bring the whole state of our affairs in China under the early and serious consideration of your Majesty's Ministers, and be on the spot to explain personally the amendments and retrenchments which he was, and is prepared to prove, were imperatively required in China.

5th. That for thus acting in accordance with what he believed to be his duty as an honest steward of the trust reposed in him, and for refusing to remain silent and quiescent, when silence and quiescence would he thinks have been a crime.

a crime. Petitioner has been deprived of his position in your Majesty's service; and all redress or inquiry has been denied him, while your Majesty's Government have derived the benefit of his information and experience.

6th. That petitioner respectfully declares he feels conscious this punishment is unmerited; he is most anxious to have the fullest scrutiny into every part of his conduct, and the most searching investigation into the truth of his statements; and looking to his Sovereign as the source of justice, petitioner earnestly prays the gracious interposition of your Majesty, to prevent the infliction of a wrong which does not alone affect an humble individual, but which, if sanctioned, destroys the moral and christian responsibility of the servants of the Crown, especially when acting conscientiously in the distant provinces of this vast empire.

And your Majesty's Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

London, 1 May 1846.

— No. 29. —

COPY of a LETTER from Lord *Lyttelton* to *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq.

Sir,

Downing-street, 12 May 1846.

No. 29.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to inform you that the Queen has been pleased to refer to him the petition which you addressed to Her Majesty on the 1st instant, praying for an inquiry into your conduct, and into the truth of the several communications which you have addressed to Her Majesty's Government on the subject of Hong Kong.

Lord Lyttelton to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
12 May 1846.

I am to inform you, that for the reasons already explained to you in the correspondence in which you have been engaged with this office, Mr. Gladstone has been unable to advise Her Majesty to accede to the prayer of your petition.

I have &c.

(signed) *Lyttelton*.

— No. 30. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq. to Mr. Secretary *Gladstone*.

Sir,

29, Bloomsbury-square, 13 May 1846.

No. 30.

I REGRET to learn that you have not deemed it necessary "to advise Her Majesty to accede to the prayer of my petition for an inquiry into the truth of my several communications on the subject of Hong Kong."

R. M. Martin, Esq.
to Mr. Secretary
Gladstone.
13 May 1846.

I am unaware of any "reasons already explained" to me which ought to preclude the investigation sought.

The only reason ever given for refusing me inquiry was, that I had resigned my office; the truth or otherwise of my statements being deemed alike immaterial. I beg leave to observe, that I tried in vain every other mode of procuring investigation into the utter worthlessness of Hong Kong.

My faint hope that there was still some power in the Crown to grant that which is even conceded to a criminal—inquiry—is nullified by referring my petition to that department which, for six months, has rejected all appeals for investigation. I respectfully submit that this can scarcely be considered in accordance with justice, or with a desire to obtain truth.

I therefore venture to ask, even as a boon, that my petition be referred to the Privy Council, and that I be permitted, at my own expense, to substantiate by evidence the truth of my statements.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. M. Martin*.

—No. 31.—

COPY of a LETTER from Lord *Lyttelton* to *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq.

No. 31.
Lord Lyttelton to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
18 May 1846.

Sir,

Downing-street, 18 May 1846.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, in which you request that your petition to the Queen may be referred to the Privy Council.

Mr. Gladstone desires me to inform you in reply, that Her Majesty's Executive Government must reserve to itself the responsibility for the decision of a question of this nature, and that the Queen cannot be advised to refer the investigation of it to the Privy Council, or to any Committee of the Council.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Lyttelton*.

—No. 32.—

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq. to Earl *Grey*.

No. 32.
R. M. Martin, Esq.
to Earl Grey.
8 July 1846.

My Lord,

29, Bloomsbury-square, 8 July 1846.

I HAVE the honour to solicit a consideration of the following circumstances.

In January 1844, I was requested to undertake the duties of Her Majesty's Treasurer at Hong Kong. The office was unsolicited, and it was stated that I was entitled to higher employment, but that as our affairs and prospects in China were of great interest, my proceeding thither would be advisable; I therefore gave up my occupations at home, and fulfilled the duties enjoined.

Soon after my arrival in China it appeared to me that we had committed ourselves to an erroneously restrictive policy; that a most ill-judged selection for a British colony had been made, and that we were incurring a large expenditure without any commensurate advantage.

Believing it to be my duty, as a faithful servant of the Crown to aid in procuring an examination by Her Majesty's Government of the British position and prospects in China, I framed from time to time several reports and minutes on the subject, but perceiving that these reports produced no effect; aware that there were several influential persons in England as well as in China whose interests were in opposition to any correction of our errors; and believing that no further time was to be lost for the rectification of our affairs previous to the intended evacuation of Chusan in January 1846, I applied for six months' leave of absence, offering to resign all salary, to defray my own expenses to England, to retain my personal and collateral securities to the Crown (amounting to nearly 10,000*l.*), and to forfeit my position if Her Majesty's Government deemed my views erroneous; or that I had erred in seeking leave to lay before them the information I had collected in every accessible part of China.

Governor Davis thought it right to refuse the leave sought, I was therefore compelled to resign, and my appointment was conferred on his relative, Mr. Mercer.

I acted in accordance with the solemn dictates of my conscience, and hastened to England, where I laid before the Colonial, Treasury, Foreign and Trade Departments various information which was deemed useful. I have also laid before the Board of Trade a voluminous report on the commerce, internal and coasting trade, government, population, revenue, &c. of the vast Chinese Empire, with special accounts of each consulate; of the commerce of each foreign nation, and detailed statements of the Tea and Opium Trades, &c.

I submitted to the Colonial Office and Exchequer the plan of a reduction of expenditure to the amount of 200,000*l.* a year, and I laid before the Foreign Office and Board of Trade propositions for opening a commerce with Japan, Corea, Siam, Cochin China, &c., regions abounding in various and valuable commodities, and containing a population estimated at 100,000,000.

For thus acting I have lost my position in Her Majesty's service, and have been, during the last 12 months, devoid of income; after having devoted a considerable period of the best portion of my life, and a large sum of money, to the promotion of the public good; while those who have acquiesced in what

was

was nationally injurious, have been rewarded and advanced. I beg the favour of your Lordship's perusal of the accompanying documents, which have been printed for their more easy reference. I ask earnestly for inquiry into the correctness of my statements.

It is true that for many years I have been seeking colonial reform.

On the 5th December 1837, my petition for an amended administrative colonial department was favourably received by the House of Commons, but its consideration was voluntarily suspended by me, when the Canadian rebellion broke out, rather than embarrass Her Majesty's Government.

This petition, and the efforts I have made on the subject generally, may have operated to my prejudice in the Colonial Office, but the justness of my views are now pretty generally acknowledged, and it is respectfully submitted, that 20 years untiring exertions, and a heavy expenditure for the public welfare in a most important but hitherto neglected department—that of our colonies—are worthy the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

— No. 33. —

COPY of a LETTER from *B. Hawes, Esq.*, to *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 July 1846.

No. 33.

I AM directed by Earl Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, calling his attention to your services in China, and to the circumstances under which you resigned the situation of Treasurer of Hong Kong. In reply, I am to state to you that Lord Grey concurs in the opinion expressed by his two predecessors in this office, in regard to your resignation of your office in Hong Kong.

*B. Hawes, Esq. to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
13 July 1846.*

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Hawes.*

— No. 34. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.* to Earl Grey.

My Lord,

29, Blomsbury-square, 14 July 1846.

No. 34.

I BEG the favour of being informed of the grounds on which my conditional resignation of the Treasurership of Hong Kong was received, as I have not yet been granted this information.

*R. M. Martin, Esq.
to Earl Grey.
14 July 1846.*

It will be some satisfaction to know why I am deprived of my position in Her Majesty's service, after a faithful discharge of my duty, and an anxious effort to render public services, which I naturally hoped would have merited and received the approval of Her Majesty's Government; but, which on the contrary, have subjected me to a heavy punishment.

I venture to add, that all inquiry into the correctness of the statements which caused or rather compelled my conditional, resignation, have been refused.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

— No. 35. —

COPY of a LETTER from *B. Hawes, Esq.*, to *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 July 1846.

No. 35.

I AM directed by Earl Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, requesting to be informed of the grounds on which your conditional resignation of the Treasurership of Hong Kong was received.

*B. Hawes, Esq. to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
21 July 1846.*

In reply I am to inform you, that it appears from the records of this office that Lord Stanley and Mr. Gladstone considered your resignation not as conditional

tional only, but as a final act binding on you. I am to add, that Lord Grey concurs in the view thus taken by his predecessors.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Hawes.*

— No. 36. —

No. 36.
R. M. Martin, Esq.
to B. Hawes, Esq.
18 July 1846.

Letter, 8 July 1845.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq. to *B. Hawes*, Esq.

Sir,

29, Bloomsbury-square, 18 July 1846.

IN consequence of the observations which you had the goodness to make to-day, I venture to solicit your examination of the enclosed copy of the only letter which conveyed to Governor Davis my conditional resignation of the Treasurership of Hong Kong; "until I could bring the subject under the consideration of my Sovereign through the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

I am now prepared to prove, by Governor Davis's own hand-writing to the draft, and by a letter from the Acting-secretary, that my resignation was received subject to this condition by Governor Davis, who, however, never communicated this fact to Lord Stanley, by whom, as I now learn, my resignation was viewed as absolute. The peculiar grounds on which my resignation was given in, or rather forced from me, have therefore never yet been considered; and I earnestly pray that Earl Grey will, as an act of justice to me, authorize that inquiry into my case for which I have in vain petitioned my Sovereign, and which I have never ceased to seek for the last twelve months.

I am ready to resume my duties at Hong Kong, and to fulfil those of Colonial Secretary there, should it be the intention of Her Majesty's Government to unite the two offices.

I state this, to indicate that the unhealthiness of the climate will not prevent my pursuing any duty which may be prescribed by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

Enclosure in No. 36.

Colonial Treasury, Hong Kong,
8 July 1845.

Sir,

Encl. in No. 36.

THE decision of his Excellency the Governor on my letters of 19th and 24th ultimo, refusing me leave of absence for six months on public business, and with a view to what I deem the public good, compels me most reluctantly to adopt the only alternative of requesting his Excellency to receive my resignation as Her Majesty's Treasurer for the Colonial and Diplomatic services in China, until I can bring the subject, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, under the consideration of my Sovereign, who was graciously pleased to appoint me to the important office and trust which I have now the honour to place in the hands of his Excellency.

My quarterly accounts are made up to the 30th June 1845, declared before a magistrate, and passed by the auditor.

I beg that a Board may be appointed to receive from me the monies under my charge, and that his Excellency will state to whom I am to transfer the accounts and books of my department, and the vouchers for payments made by me since 30th day of June last.

In order that I may be enabled to pass my accounts in England, and to receive for myself and for my sureties the Exchequer quietus, I have the honour to request that a copy of my day cash-book be furnished me from this office.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

The Colonial Secretary.

— No. 37. —

COPY of a LETTER from *B. Hawes*, Esq. to *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq.

No. 37.
B. Hawes, Esq. to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
27 July 1846.

Sir,

Downing-street, 27 July 1846.

I AM directed by Earl Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, soliciting a reconsideration of the circumstances under which you tendered

tendered to the Governor of Hong Kong a conditional resignation of your office as Treasurer of that colony.

In reply I am to inform you, that Lord Grey must consider your coming to this country, after having been refused leave of absence by the Governor, as in itself a resignation of your office; and that you could not be allowed to alter the effect of such a step, by describing your resignation as conditional only. His Lordship, like his predecessors, must regard that resignation as final, and must consider the correspondence with you on this point as now closed.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Hawes.*

—No. 38.—

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*, to Earl Grey.

My Lord,

29, Bloomsbury-square, 4 December 1846.

No. 38.
R. M. Martin, Esq.,
to Earl Grey.
4 December 1846.

I BEG to transmit herewith the first part of a Report on China, which I prepared for the Board of Trade, and which I have caused to be printed, as it may be useful to Her Majesty's Government. The three subsequent parts will be ready on the 1st of each succeeding month.

I still venture to hope that your Lordship will grant me the inquiry which I have earnestly sought during the last eighteen months; the more especially as every mail from China demonstrates the correctness of the views which I came to England to bring under the early consideration of Her Majesty's Ministers.

I am ready to prove before a Committee of Parliament, or before any impartial tribunal, that I have done nothing to forfeit my position in Her Majesty's service; on the contrary, it can be shown that I am entitled to commendation; and I have reason to think that if my case had been fully and impartially placed before Lord Stanley, his Lordship would have seen that my resignation was "conditional," and that I was at least entitled to a hearing before I was condemned to the sacrifice of my appointment.

It is painfully humiliating to be thus an importunate beggar for justice, which would not be denied to a criminal; but I am desirous to exhaust every means before I appeal to Parliament, as I am unwilling to do aught in opposition to Her Majesty's Government.

Surely, my Lord, by conceding the boon of inquiry, no detriment would accrue to the public service; and your Lordship (to whom I am, personally, a stranger) can have no cause to permit the continuance of the injustice I am now enduring, and which I feel assured, if you were in possession of the whole facts, you would not hesitate to redress.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

—No. 39.—

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.* to Earl Grey.

My Lord,

29, Bloomsbury-square, 1 January 1847.

No. 39.
R. M. Martin, Esq.,
to Earl Grey.
1 January 1847.

I BEG leave to place before your Lordship the second part of my General Report on China.

I have not been honoured with any notice of my letter of 4th December last. I still entreat the concession of an inquiry into the causes which compelled me to return to England from China.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. M. Martin.*

— No. 40. —

COPY of a LETTER from *B. Hawes, Esq.* to *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*

No. 40.
B. Hawes, Esq. to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
 13 January 1847.

Sir,
 I AM directed by Earl Grey to acquaint you, in answer to your letter of the 1st instant, that his Lordship did not consider it necessary to return any answer to your letter of the 4th ultimo, because he had nothing to add to the communications which had already been addressed to you by Lord Grey's predecessors in this office, and by himself.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *B. Hawes.*

— No. 41. —

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.* to *Earl Grey.*

No. 41.
R. M. Martin, Esq.,
to Earl Grey.
 23 June 1847.

My Lord,
 MR. CAYLEY, M. P., and Mr. M. Forster, M. P., who have known me intimately for many years, and who were my securities to the Crown in China, have recently earnestly appealed to Lord John Russell in my behalf. His Lordship, on the 18th instant, states that "he must decline entering further into the case, and must refer it to the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

Your Lordship, as I understand, declines to inquire into a case decided by your predecessor.

The case of the late Sir E. Wilmot may perhaps suggest, that my condemnation, unheard, is scarcely consistent with justice.

I respectfully submit there can be no precedent for continuing a punishment inflicted by your predecessor, which I am ready to prove is unmerited.

Time, circumstances and the Select Committee of the House of Commons recently sitting to inquire into our commercial relations with China, demonstrate that the Report which I prepared in China, at the suggestion of Lord Stanley and of Mr. Gladstone, and which the Queen has graciously permitted to be publicly dedicated to Her Majesty, were just, true, and of national importance in various points of view.

That my return to England was not injurious in respect to any important duties as Treasurer of Hong Kong is evident from the fact of my office not being yet filled up.

Yet, for a zealous and conscientious discharge of my duties, according to my oath, I have been deprived of my position, and all hearing denied me for two years.

I now solicit that your Lordship, in the spirit of justice, will grant permission for the correspondence connected with my conditional resignation of office to be laid before Parliament.

Mr. Gladstone conceded this point, but I hesitated to avail myself of it, as I was unwilling, even in appearance, to do any thing which might be displeasing to Her Majesty's Government.

But now, the Select Committee of the House of Commons having closed its inquiry on China, and all prospect of redress or inquiry having passed away, I am necessitated to entreat from your Lordship this boon in favour of one who has long, faithfully, and I trust not uselessly, endeavoured to serve his country.

I have, &c.
 (signed) *R. M. Martin.*

— No. 42. —

COPY of a LETTER from *B. Hawes, Esq.* to *R. Montgomery Martin, Esq.*

No. 42.
B. Hawes, Esq. to
R. M. Martin, Esq.
 28 June 1847.

Sir,
 I AM directed by Earl Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, requesting that the correspondence connected with your resignation of the office of Treasurer of Hong Kong may be laid before Parliament, and

and I am to acquaint you in answer, that on the understanding that the correspondence in question shall be strictly limited to those papers which relate to your resignation, no objection will be raised on the part of Her Majesty's Government to any motion which may be made in the House of Commons for its production.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. Hawes.*

-- No. 43. --

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Montgomery Martin*, Esq. to Earl Grey.

My Lord,

7, Pall-mall East, 28 June 1847.

No. 43.

I AM grateful for the permission accorded by your Lordship for the production before Parliament of the correspondence in the Colonial Office, relating to my conditional resignation as Her Majesty's Treasurer in China, to which object the motion shall be limited.

R. M. Martin, Esq.
to Earl Grey.
28 June 1847.

I have, &c.
(ed) *R. M. Martin.*

MR. MONTGOMERY MARTIN.

COPY of CORRESPONDENCE of Mr. *Montgomery Martin* with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, relating to his RESIGNATION of the Office of TREASURER of *Hong Kong*.

(*Viscount Sandon.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
23 July 1847.

743.

Under 8 oz.