Household on the Emperor's birthday' devoted to distress in Moukden.

The Emperor having been privately informed that half the *likin* collected in Chekiang is embezzled by the officials, has instructed all the Provincial Governments to reform the *likin* administration.

A curious doctrine is laid down by the Viceroy Li in the *Shên Pao* of the 14th September. *Piece-goods taken 'to Kalgan'* under transit-pass are liable to further taxation if taken elsewhere from Kalgan, *unless the transit pass is in the name of a foreigner*. The Superintendent at Kalgan accordingly issues a proclamation to this effect. Query,—Can two or more names of places be inserted?

A Palace department called the 粘杆處 is mentioned in the *Shên Pao*. As there is not enough money in the Buttery wherewith to make the presents decreed by the Empress, it is proposed to give away the silk in the 緞庫.

Among the appropriations to the Contingent for 1886 are Tls. 400,000 Chê kiang land-tax [地丁], and Ningpo Native Customs Tls. 40,000.

The Board is again making it uncomfortable for the three Silk Commissioners, and shewing a desire to pay 70 per cent. only [七成絲價] of the silk required for the Court. The Viceroy at Nanking and the Governors at Soochow and Hangchow support the contention of the unhappy Commissioners [惶惶之情], who appear to consent to a reduction of their profits. Such expressions, however, as 七五折耗 申箕 and 申餘 in connection with finance make it difficult for us to understand the question. It seems that the purveys are divided into the 上用 and the 官用; also that the mischief was caused some years ago by a rash Commissioner, who failed to distinguish between the 生 and the 熟 silk, thus misleading the watchful Board at Peking.

Ho Nan has commuted her rice-tax for over 20 years, and it evidently pays her to do so, for the governor objects to sending rice, on the ground that the Transport Canal will not work, and his granaries have all toppled down. Ho Nan funds, besides supporting the Ho Nan army, River repairs, and other appropriations, have to send monthly sums to two [? frontier] armies called the 嵩毅 and 精銳.

TWELVE TARTAR BEASTS.—According to to Mayers' Manual, there are traces of the Twelve Tartar beasts [十二禽] as early as the Han dynasty. The Concordance quotes from the 論衡 [See Mayers, No. 795] the following: 以十二辰之禽效之, which the commentary explains to be the 'living emblems' [生肖] of the twelve 辰. Another passage says that the Lun Hêng composed by Wang Ch'ung did not at first find its way into China Proper [中土], but that Ts'ai Yung [Mayers, No. 755] first got hold of it in 吳 [i.e. Shao-k'ing, Chê Kiang Province]. Still another passage speaks of 佛道論衡, which looks as if the ambulatory bonzes had something to do with it.

THE TERM SHENG.—In the second edition of *Marco Polo*, Vol. I., pp. 417-19, Col. Yule discusses the meaning of the 'Shieng' or 'Supreme Court.' He is undoubtedly right when he says that the Chinese 'applied the same word *sing* or *sheng* to the high council of state and to the provincial governments.' The 省 or Central Government Office is a much older title than the 行省 or provincial government offices. The 中書省 and the 尚書省 were the two great state departments at the capital, 三公所歸爲省, and the 內侍省 was the eunuchs' office.

PAPER MONEY.—Colonel Yule says, 'the issue of paper money in China is at least as old as the beginning of the ninth century,' but this seems a century too soon. During the administration of Chang Yung [Mayers,

No. 39] in Sz Ch'wan, he instituted the 質劑之法, in order to meet the inconvenience of heavy iron cash. Each string of cash was represented by one 交, and each redeemable period of three years was called a 界. Sixty-five years (or 22 *kiai*) was called a 交子 a 'cycle.' In the year 1,154, the Nuchên Tartars imitated this plan, owing to the scarcity of copper; their 大鈔 were of 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 5,000 and 10,000 cash, and their 小鈔 of 100, 200, 300, 500 and 700 cash. These 鈔引 were all taken at par.

Military engines.—Regarding Col. Yule's discussions upon military engines, as early as the 7th century Li Nih [Mayers, No. 359], 'used machines for ejecting stones' called 將軍礮. A gun called the 襄陽礮 weighing 150 觔 [? i.e. the shot] was used by the Mongols in their attack upon Siang-yang, and went off with a noise like thunder.

Terms for temple and city.—From Col. Yule's *Chao Naiman Sumé Khotan* or 'city of 108 temples,' we gather that 召 is Mongol for 'temple,' and 于闐 for 'city.'

The terms I and Tih.—It is amusing to notice how ready the Tartar rulers of China are to dub each other 夷狄. The Tartars who ruled China from 923-934 did so call the Kitans, and the present Manchu dynasty would certainly, in the Chinese mouth, revert to the 胡 and 狄 category if it lost the Throne.

Hereditary titles.—The Chinese law is that noble titles are inherited first by the eldest son by the wife [嫡] and then by his son [and ? grandson] and then, again, by the second son by the wife and his son [and ? grandson] to the exclusion of elder sons by concubines. Thus, Tso Tsung-t'ang's grandson by his wife's (deceased) eldest son, inherits the title of earl, to the exclusion of the other three sons by a concubine, or by concubines. At the same time, it is suggested to the Emperor that Tso's second hereditary title of 一等輕車都尉 should be given [分襲] to one of the concubinical sons, as an act of special grace, though, strictly speaking, the grandson is entitled to this too.

Slicing the ear.—An amusing account is given in the *Shên Pao* of the slicing off of a piece of a Chinese pickpocket's ear by an irate Mongol who took him in the act. Unimportant though this act may seem, it may have historical connection with the Turkish custom of running an arrow through thieves' ears.

National colours.—The idea of national 'colours' possibly originated with the colour adopted by ancient Chinese dynasties as the national colour. On the accession of a new dynasty one of the five elements is always selected as a symbol [e.g. 以火德 or 德火], and a colour is affected [e.g. 色尚赤]. The colour of the Great T'ang dynasty was yellow, and that of the Great Sung red.

QUERIES.

In connection with my preceding remarks on the *ula* grass, can any reader of the *China Review* tell me what is the botanical name of *ula*?

How is the 樺樹 called in botanical nomenclatare?

Would anybody explain to me what is 合式號?

Will Mr. Playfair kindly inform me where is the Ta-hsing he speaks of, and at which he says the 烏拉總管 resides? Is it the 大興 district in the 順天 prefecture? I know only of one *wu-la-tsung-kuan*, residing at Kirin, with control over a band of hunters (*buthai ula*), subject to a sub-departmental office of the Imperial Household at Peking, called the 打牲烏拉處.

J. M.