profits [繳花息], and have the land 'raised to taxation.'

Over 700 甲 of land have been cleared for cultivation at Kamaran near Tamsui. On each *kiah* of land in Formosa is paid a rent of over 40 石, which makes it the land equivalent of 'one picul of seed' (as it is put in China). On the arrival of the new treasurer, the land will be 'raised to taxation.'

The land laws [議租議賦] of Chih Li [順直兩屬] are under revision. As the two points are to place banner lands under rent [荒地宜租], and raise banner-lands to taxation [旗產升科], it is evident that tenures there differ. The system of the 四圍, which has been applied as a test, has proved a failure.

For the last half of 1886 the following sums were sent from Chêkiang. First, Treasurer's chest; land-tax 1886 Tls. 91,000 and salt excise Tls. 189,000, all in aid of Peking and Chih Li armies.

Kiang-nan has to send tribute of wood once in three years, and the Nanking treasurer has just been ordered to find Tls. 20,000 for this season. It appears that the timber [cedar, teak, &c. 杷梓楩楠] is then brought from the forests of Kiang Si and Hu Kwang.

Experimental cash, each .0085 of an ounce in weight, are being coined at Foochow. The waste [火耗] on the copper and lead allowed by law is 9 per cent. on both lead and copper [折耗火斤]; and now 54 catties of Yün-nan copper and 46 of lead are mixed, *or* 一五折耗 on the 100 catties of copper and lead combined is allowed; but, as the copper now to be used is not equal to the Yün-nan copper, 20 per cent. gross deduction will leave no undue profit. On each 150 catties of copper issued, Tls. 3,227 are by law allowed for labour, &c., that is, 6,490 cash on 170 catties of cash. The cash when finished are to be sold to the banks at market rates, and not paid to the soldiers at 1,000 to the tael, as used to be the case when silver was less valuable.

The *Hu Pao* mentions the interesting discovery in Formosa of four jars of fine 永歷 cash, each bearing the word 臺 on the obverse, or *man* side. The *Hu Pao* thinks these must have been coined by Koxinga.

The Northern Fleet and Defences [北洋海防] cost Tls. 4,000,000 a year: part of this appropriation has been diverted to the support of the Peking garrison [京營],—so says the *Shên Pao*.

The Custom House at T'ung Chou near Peking exists mainly by a tax on grain and pulse.

From a recent Memorial by the Governor of Kiang Si, it appears that although the Kiang Si rice tax is commuted, Kiang Si has to pay Chih Li for making 434 cargo-boats on Kiang Si's behalf.

Mortgages.—In connection with Chinese mortgages of real property, may be mentioned the saying 得產不爲虧, or 'the party in possession does not lose.' Also 房不起租銀不起利, or 'if the mortgagee occupies the tenement, he gets no interest.' The word 債主 vulgarly means 'creditor,' but its legal signification is said to be usually that of 欠主, or 'debtor.' The 'final transfer' or 絕賣 is necessary, whether the first transaction be that of a mortgage or a sale; and the term should always be used if an outright sale is intended. In mortgages the law only seems to recognize the right of the mortgagor to receive, through the intermediation of a middle man, one more advance; but local custom often seems to sanction several advances, each followed by a more or less final deed. The only safe term for a 'security' who is to pay up in default is 代還保人.

Officialdom.—Viceroys and Governors are authorised to fill in the 甚合火牌 issued by the Board when they have to send Memorials [本章] or other important

documents, but it is a punishable offence to call for stage horses on private business.

Chinese Bannermen, (according to a recent decree), must be prepared to reply in Manchu to the Emperor's questions.

Every New Year the Manchu and Mongol Princes at Peking have to give a Tatar feast [韃靼筵] to the Mongols visiting the capital. In 1887 over 300 of both sexes were thus entertained by Prince Suh, in groups of six, each person receiving in his lap a present of cakes and fruit.

The emperor's order that Prince 惠's funeral shall be 由官辦理 or 'a public funeral,' and that the *beitsz* 奕謨 must look after the arrangements [官中一切事務] seems a very special distinction. The word 官 kwan seems to have a very special meaning here. The expression 縣官 sometimes means 'the government,' as distinguished from 'private enterprise;' it has a history.

Chinese magistrates endeavour as much as possible to hear cases 'in chambers' [二堂] or 'in private' [三堂] with only their own secretaries and police as witnesses, endeavouring to evade 'open court' [大堂] hearings as far as possible, in order to escape the risk of public derision or adverse criticism. The 3rd, 13th, 23rd, 8th, 18th, and 28th are the usual days for receiving petitions [放告].

It seems that the formality of opening the seals of office [開印] after the New Year is done privately [暗開] or informally when the legal day for the ceremony falls on the anniversary [忌] of an Imperial death.

Duke Confucius.—Duke Confucius' peculiar position is indicated by the expressions 接准 and 咨稱 which the Governor of Shan Tung uses with reference to his Grace's communications. He alludes to him, however, as 該公, which re-asserts the superiority of office over hereditary rank. After all the ancient temples, with the imperial scrolls and presents, were not burnt in the late fire. The house just consumed was built by the Ming Emperor Kia-tsing, and repaired by the Manchu Emperor Tao-kwang. The Magistrate of K'üh-feu city has been ordered to rebuild it.

Greece.—It is a remarkable thing that the *Shên Pao* applies the name 烏遲 to Greece. Dr. Hirth is half inclined to identify | | 散 with Alexandria. With reference to the Western country 烏弋, Kanghi, or Yen Shih-ku's authority, tells us to pronounce it *Adja*. In another place he endeavours to explain that the sound imitated is *yanna*. Possibly the *Yaona* or rulers of the Greek kingdom of Bactria may be the same men as the *Yuji* or Greeks (Achaians). The *Shên Pao* says that *Wu-chi* is the western name for 希臘.

Gold diggings.—The *Shên Pao* says (quoting a French paper) there are 9,000 gold-diggers in Russian 黑龍江, of whom 6,000 Chinese and 150 Europeans are not Russian. A Jew was executed by the Russians the other day for swindling the miners.

Corean Marriage customs.—A curious Corean custom is mentioned in the *Shên Pao* which corresponds with Lubbock's and Morgan's stories. 'The bridegroom goes forth to bring the bride to his house, and, after remaining there a short time, they both return to the wife's parents' house, and lodge in the spare-room [館於貳室] for two nights [信宿], when they return [? both of them to his house 乃歸].' A story is then told of a betrothed youth who, being sick, forcibly slept one night at his betrothed's father's house. He died the same night, and law-suits resulted. The bride committed suicide. This story sounds like one of Dallet's. Dallet says the nobles only (that is the noble bridegroom) return home after sleeping three nights at the bride's, in order to shew that they are not in love.

A Corean Prophecy.—The Temple of