

# SHANGHAI ALMANAC

FOR 1852,

AND COMMERCIAL GUIDE.



PRINTED AT THE "HERALD" OFFICE,  
SHANGHAI.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

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IN preparing our first *Kalendar* for this locality, we have had to contend against many difficulties in ascertaining the Lunations, Eclipses, &c. We have in every instance applied ourselves to the best authorities and *savans* within our reach. Our Lists of Mercantile Establishments, &c., have been investigated and examined by the Residents at this Port, and we trust that the miscellaneous information and various papers appended, will increase the attraction and usefulness of the publication. The Index is given in the order the papers are inserted, as by reason of the late season at which we undertook the compilation, it would have retarded the issue of our work beyond the 1st of January, had we attempted to regulate it, and page it consecutively; another year we hope to be more in advance of our work, and present a more varied and useful publication to our Subscribers, and the public, than the present. We have this year done what we could, to show our sincere desire to cater for the public service, and trust it will be received in the same spirit.

We beg most sincerely to thank our numerous friends, for the able and willing assistance afforded us, and hope next year we shall be able to note a larger number of contributors among our ranks; it being our object to collect as varied and useful a series of papers as possible.

THE COMPILER.

*North-China Herald Office,*  
Shanghai, December, 1851.

## ERRATA.

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**Kalendar.**—October 28th, Juda for Jude.

**Notes on Shanghai.**—The Gas named Carbonic Acid at the Bubbling Well should be Carburetted Hydrogen.

**The Chinese Almanac.**—Second column of the first page, two last lines, for hours in right ascension, read spaces of  $15^{\circ}$  in longitude.

**Remarks on the Navigation of the Yang-tze-keang.\***—First page, for caught, read sought, seven lines from the bottom—page 2, after Woosung is seen, paragraph 3, read, There are shoal patches a mile off shore, Block-house island bearing North—same page, after as soon as possible, paragraph 7, add,—and courses and distances to be made good are given, where there are marks available, and the strength and direction of the tide are constantly varying—page 3, last line, first paragraph, after island read bearing, instead of before—same page, after fathoms, read, if near low water—page 4, paragraph 3, for a vessel of 120, read, 100 tons—same page, 4th paragraph, six lines from the bottom, instead of run in, read, run into the river.

**List of Residents at Shanghai.**—Mr. Trautmann should succeed Mr. Connolly in the list, it having been arranged alphabetically by mistake.—Mr. Major's name should be R. O. instead of R. F. V. O.—Senhor A. dos Santos, omitted—and family.

\* These are emendations of the author since publication.

# METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATE OF SHANGHAE.

*Deduced from Observations made during the Years*

1848, 1849, and 1850.

AN accurate observation of the various changes in the atmosphere, appreciable by the numerous delicate instruments which Science has placed within the reach of every moderately intelligent individual, continued through a long series of years, and brought into comparison with similar series of observations, more particularly in a tabular form, is the only means of arriving at something approaching to a true appreciation of any climate.

It has been the object of the writer to pursue a similar course in the following observations.

Unfortunately the Science of Meteorology has not yet attained that certainty which can be expressed in distinct laws, which shall enable us from a few isolated observations in any locality, to draw unerring conclusions as to its climate or sanitary condition; but as facts accumulate such a perfection of the Science may be anticipated. All data are therefore valuable prospectively, and not wholly without value in the present condition of Meteorology.

It is not our object to enter into any description of the Geography of Shanghae, suffice it to say that the Latitude is 31°. 15' N., and the Longitude 121°. 29' E.; that situated at nearly 70 miles from the island of Gutzlaff at the embouchure of the great river Yang-tsze-kiang, and on one of the principal branches of that river, the town of Shanghae rears its wretched native and noble foreign structures in the midst of a soil wholly alluvial and of vast extent, rescued by embankments, in many places of an almost stupendous workmanship, it is still liable to be overflowed at very high tides. Such a catastrophe occurred in July 1848, when serious

damage was done by the inundation attendant on the taifoon.

In spite of this unpromising position, the country is vastly fertile, and the climate highly salubrious throughout the greater part of the year, as we shall endeavour to point out in the sequel.

As to the fertility of the country it is probably sufficient to state, that in the autumn, about the month of October, beans, barley and wheat are sown; that these are gathered in about the end of May, and replaced by a crop of paddy or cotton, which in their turn arrive at maturity before the end of autumn; that further the Chinese husbandry is by no means of that perfect character which it has been too much the custom of travellers to assume, for the natives of this part of the country seem more inclined to depend upon their fluid manure, than upon any active agricultural operations; and that notwithstanding the crops are often full and heavy, although the same area does not prove quite so productive, more especially of the cerealia, at each harvest, as it would under the more scientific management of European farmers.

The point of the salubrity of the climate will not be so easily granted—nevertheless we spoke advisedly and believe that few will object to our claiming this character for eight months of the year. During that period, from October to June, the thermometer seldom rises above 75°, and after the winter has fairly set in, the weather is for the most part dry and bracing, until the changeable days of spring once more bring back heat and moisture.

During this period cases of Catarrh are exceedingly common, and many people

become subject to *Rheumatic pains*; but not to amount to a peculiarity of climate, as it is highly probable that from the construction of our houses, and other concomitant circumstances, little care is taken to guard against the exciting causes of these complaints.

In the Spring, and as Summer advances Europeans become liable to attacks of *Intermittent Fever*, and this, if not promptly treated, is apt to become intractable, and in some years has shewn a tendency to pass into the Typhoid or Bilious Remittent.

During the Summer, undue exposure to the sun, over fatigue, or inattention to the fundamental dietetical rules, will be followed in many cases by *Remittent Fever*, commonly of the Bilious type, but generally terminating, when fatal, as cases of Typhus. Such cases are therefore peculiarly common on Shipboard where men are necessarily much exposed to the sun's direct rays; and where during their short period of liberty they are so apt to partake to excess of the most pernicious description of intoxicating drinks.

But the Residents on shore have not been wholly exempt from attacks of this disease, which has been most prevalent in the years succeeding to those of the taifong and heavy rains.

Another disease peculiarly common among Europeans during the hot weather is *Chronic diarrhoea*, which may from neglect or other causes pass into *Dysentery*. This is an exceedingly dangerous and troublesome complaint on board of ship, from the difficulty of carrying out Hygienic regulations, and often paves the way for more rapidly fatal maladies. Among the Residents this disease is less dangerous and if not too long neglected may generally be brought to a safe termination.

During the past Summer some four cases, as nearly as we could ascertain, of *Asiatic Cholera* occurred in the Port. Of these two were seized on shore and two afloat. Three out of the four patients were sailors. In three the disease proved fatal, and in one recovery took place. This disease has of late years been an unusual visitor in Shanghai among Europeans, although during the war many men died from it.

The most satisfactory proof of the cor-

rectness of our views on the general Salubrity of Shanghai, which we shall now lay before our readers, consists in what statistical information, we have been able to collect. It is to be regretted that no accurate register is kept of the annual number of Residents of all nations. The numbers we have placed in the Table No. III, are only approximative, sufficiently so however to enable us to draw tolerably accurate conclusions. To arrive at the number of sailors who have visited this port, exclusive of those on board of men-of-war which are not included in any of the tables, we have taken the total number of vessels and allowed an average of twenty men to each, which is certainly a minimum number. Thus there have been in Port:—

British Vessels, . . 607  
American do., . . 187  
Foreign do., . . 40?

834 + 20 = 16,680.

To this number we must add 1,201\* Resident on shore, as in the Table, which will give us a total of 17,881 souls, but to make round numbers and allow for discrepancies we may call the total number 18,000, of which 79 died, as per Table No. II. The System of registration of Deaths is as defective as that of the registration of the Living; it would be unsafe therefore to attempt more than to draw the two following conclusions viz:—

1st, That the proportion of deaths that have occurred among the total number of Foreigners who have visited this Port or resided here since its opening has amounted to 0.43 or less than one half per cent.

2nd, To 2.08 per cent of those wholly Resident.

But more than one half of the cases recorded cannot be referred to climatic diseases.

Our limits not permitting us to enter more fully on this subject, we would briefly add, that during the Summer months this climate is scarcely to be selected for its exceeding healthfulness, although we believe that with proper care to avoid the exciting causes, and prompt attention to any premonitory symptoms,

\* We would not wish to be understood to say that 1,201 separate individuals have resided in Shanghai, but merely as giving the sum of the numbers residing in the various years since the opening of the Port.