"I know history isn’t true, Hinnissy, because it ain’t like what I see every day in Halsted Street. If any man comes along with a history in Greece or Rome that’ll show me th’ people fightin’, gettin’ drunk, makin’ love, gettin’ married, ownin’ th’ grocery man an’ bein’ without hard coal, I’ll believe they was a Greece or Rome, but not before.”

— Dunne, Finley Peter, *Observations by Mr. Dooley*, New York, 1902

A Western chart showed the west coast of the island that would become Hong Kong. In a few years a Captain George Hayter of the *York* would prepare a chart of Victoria Strait which would, amazingly, present Hong Kong as if it were made up of two separate islands! (The larger of these two hypothetical islands he would mark as being known locally as “An-chin-cheo” or as “He-ong-Kong.”)

In this year in which King George III was being recognized to be insane and in which, under pressure from Britain, the Portuguese were agreeing to the gradual abolition of their trade in slaves, a sea battle took place, Terry-and-the-Pirates style, between the allied forces of Chinese imperial, British naval, and Macanese warships, on the one side, and the famed pirate Cheung Po Tsai on the other, near an island Chek Lap Kok near an island now known as Victoria.

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The founding in Boston of the firm of Samuel Russell & Co., which for a period of 30 years or so would be one of the dominant hongs in Hong Kong.\(^1\)

**Samuel Wadsworth Russell of Middleton CT**

January 28, Thursday: Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, having come from India to set up a British trading station, put ashore at a tiny cluster of islands strategically located at the tip of the Malay Peninsula and began to negotiate with the local sultan for the creation of a “lion city,” Singapore. Catching a whiff of the memorable “carrion in custard” odor of the local delicious durian fruit, he held his nose and ran in the opposite direction (we can be certain that this is something which HDT never had a chance to sample: “Impact! Impact!”\(^2\)).

Friend Stephen Wanton Gould wrote in his journal:

1. In the Orient, Russell’s of Boston went under a Chinese name that translates out as “The Flag Prospers.” The name does not indicate of course which national flag it was that was intended to prosper. This hong had paddle-wheelers on the Chinese rivers. One of the six partners of this hong was Warren Delano, a grandfather of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. This hong was utterly racist and quite disapproved of some other hongs which were allowing their junior white officers to mingle over dinner with their yellow comprador assistants: “blustering away among the Chinamen ... [hobnobbing] with every unwashed devil in the place.” Russell’s eventually would be destroyed by a conspiracy among the other hongs in Hong Kong, led by the hong of a former Yorkshire businessman, John Samuel Swires. An interesting question is the relationship between this firm of Samuel Russell & Co. and the firm of Russell & Sturgis, since George R. Russell would be a founding member of the Boston Vigilante Committee.
5th day 28th of 1st M / Our first Meeting was silent. – In the last we had considerable business. – The case of overseers from Portsmouth reported in the 11th M last & The committee appointed reported that the objection of the individual was insufficient & they were all appointed, tho’ not without no small exercise, here is an instance which proves the necessity of Friends, keeping up their Authority in the Truth, & I am glad to be able to record the Truth gained the ascendency over a loose spirit this day. –Uncle Peter Lawton & wife & George Anthony Dined with us –

On the following screen is a map of China created in this year by J. Souter in London. (We note that the map includes the existing Canton and Macao, but of course lacks as-yet-nonexistent Hong Kong.)

2. Even today it is “the smell from hell with the taste from heaven,” to quote a popular idiom. Retailing at some $4.00 a pound and up, the fruit is nevertheless banned from transportation in any taxi, bus, ferry, or subway; on the flights of Singapore Airlines it is the forbidden fruit. Restaurants which want to be able to serve dishes containing durian must by law be equipped with a special “once-through” air conditioning system. Personally, I find the odor quite sweet and fragrant – but then I’m weird, and also experience the odor of manure on the fields in the spring in Vermont as quite sweet and fragrant.
It was in this year that Benjamin Disraeli coined the word “millionaire.” (At that time, with money worth much more than it is now, there were actually quite a few fewer millionaires than today there are billionaires, even in Hong Kong.)

Speaking of millionaires: William “Iron Head Rat” Jardine, a partner in a Chinese trade merchant house who had previously been an employee of a Parsi (Zoroastrian) firm that distributed opium grown in Malwa, and James “Ta-pi-tze” Matheson, who had been retailing opium by ship along the coast of China, entered into a partnership to create a fleet of the fastest “Clipper” ships and thus slip past the junks of the Mandarin customs authorities.

John Francis Davis (1795-1890)’s The Chinese: A General Description of the Empire of China and Its Inhabitants was issued in London by the firm of C. Knight for the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge of Great Britain. (Sir John would become governor of Hong Kong in 1844.) Eventually this treatise would be consulted by Waldo Emerson.
April: Here is an editorial which appeared in the Canton Register, the English-language newspaper of the outer barbarians who traded in furs, cottons, woolens, and opium coming from outside China, and in teas, silks, and silver coming from inside China, but traded most of all in opium which was legal in England (laudanum) but quite illegal in China:

If the lion’s paw is to be put down on any part of the south side of China, let it be Hong Kong: let the lion declare it to be under his guarantee a free port, and in ten years it will be the most considerable mart east of the Cape. The Portuguese made a mistake [Macau]: they adopted shallow water and exclusive rules. Hong Kong, deep water and a free port forever!
On the other side of the globe, the new viceroy in Canton, China was destroying the illegal opium imports of the British East India Company, a total of 2,640,000 pounds of suspicious vegetable substances, and in consequence Britain was going on the warpath, seizing Hong Kong, forcing trade concessions, and garnering much loot. Meanwhile, in Rhode Island, the governor was William Sprague II and Perry Davis was removing from Westport, Massachusetts to Pawtucket and then to Taunton, Massachusetts while engaged in the development of his invention, of a mill for grinding grain. In Taunton he would fall ill and would study the effects of certain drugs upon the human system, and he would experiment in the various uses of these drugs, mostly ethanol and opiates, until he became able to concoct a dose capable of curing his own maladies. This Mr. Davis would later vend the following story: “I told my wife that she could not expect to have me with her much longer. A cold settled on my lungs. A hard cough ensued, with pains in my side. My stomach soon became sore, my digestive organs became weak, consequently my appetite failed; my kidneys had become affected. The canker in my mouth became troublesome.... I searched the globe in my mind’s eye for a cure during my illness and selected the choicest gums and healing herbs. These were carefully compounded creating a medicine to soothe the nerves and a balm to heal the body. I commenced using my new discovered medicine with no hope other than handing me gently to the grave.”
The Reverend James Legge went as a missionary to China and would remain at Malacca, in charge of the Anglo-Chinese College there, for 3 years. When, subsequently, the college would remove to Hong Kong, the Reverend Legge would live there for nearly 3 decades. A Chinese Christian, Keuh Agong, would accompany Legge on his move to Hong Kong in 1844.

When Chinese “water-braves” laid claim to an ability to walk along the sea-bottom and remain hidden there all night were audited by government officials, it turned out not to be possible for them to validate their claims (although they were pretty good in their swimming skills, it remains a fact that although we know of people who could remain underwater for fully five minutes, we have never observed anyone reach their sixth minute, and it remains a fact that no-one can expect to swim underwater for more than about 70 yards, max, before being forced to surface for a breather).
March: By the decade of the 1830s, it has been estimated, opium had become not only the main event of the British-sponsored trade between India and China, but the single most lucrative item of all international commerce. Then in this year a new mandarin arrived in Guangzhou (Canton), Imperial Commissioner Lin Tse-hsü who had been governor of Hubei and Hunan provinces, and he had been the victor in an anti-opium purity campaign in government circles in Beijing and had won a mandate from the Court of Heaven to extirpate this unlawful wholesale recreational-drug traffic by foreigners which was proving to be so debilitating to the citizenry and to the economy of the Central Kingdom and thus correct the outflow of the Chinese supply of silver:

In this month Lin demanded that 20,291 chests of the controlled substance, on hand in the warehouses (godowns) of the British and their compradors, be surrendered. The Danish, German, American, and Spanish traders immediately accommodated themselves to this new regulation and Lin confiscated and destroyed 20,283 opium chests,^3^ but British traders were infuriated. The British Chief Superintendent of Trade, Captain Charles Elliot R.N., who had previously been the commander of a hospital ship and the Protector of Slaves in British Guiana, acceded to Imperial High Commissioner Lin and handed over the opium chests, which were promptly destroyed. The merchants withdrew to their “hell-ships” anchored in the harbor, where they would be safe, Lin refused to sell them food or water, Captain Elliot fired on three Chinese war-junks, and *hey presto*: both nations had ample reason to be at war.

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^3^ Each chest contained 40 balls of opium wrapped in poppy leaves. Each ball weighed three pounds. Each ball had to be completely dissolved in noxious chemicals and flushed away into the harbor in such manner as to ensure that it would not be salvageable, as such psychotropic materials could not merely be burned without toxicity and as there existed a established secondary market for merely sea-damaged opium balls. All in all we’re talking about a lot of hard work.
Implementing the “forward policy” recommended by the Scottish merchants William Jardine and James Matheson, Foreign Secretary Palmerston of Lord Melbourne’s whig government in London decided that the matter could be settled by putting gunboats on the major Chinese rivers. This would open up the Central Kingdom both to Free Trade and to Christianity. Gladstone warned that this policy was “at variance both with justice and religion” but succeeded only in isolating himself from other Members of Parliament in opposition. After a few skirmishes it became clear that the British military equipment and organization could handily defeat and destroy the Chinese war-junks, and so the Chinese agreed to cede to Britain a small, rocky island at the sea mouth of the Pearl River, for their use as a commercial base. This island of 26 square miles had been in use as a source of fresh water for ships, and was variously known at Incense Port, Fragrant Harbor, Aunty Heung, Herukong, Shiankang, and Hong Kong.

During this year Samuel Russell & Co. of Boston and Hong Kong was giving up its opium trade.

4. In 1939, Mao Zedong would list the “Opium Wars” as the first of “twelve historical landmarks” of the “struggle by the Chinese people against imperialism and its lackeys” (SELECTED WORKS, Beijing 1967, Volume II, page 314).
5. One was always able to trust Henry John Temple, Lord Palmerston (1784-1865), “Lord Pumice-Stone,” to always leave a situation worse rather than better.
August 23, Friday: The British took control of an isolated island hosting an assortment of fishing villages, near the sea outlet of the Pearl River passage toward the port of Canton, to be known as Victoria Island.6

Hot news flash: Information as to the chemical means that M. Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre was using in Paris to achieve such remarkable images appeared in London, in the evening edition of The Globe:

We now come to the great discovery in the process for which M. Daguerre has received a national reward. It is to the following effect:—A copper sheet, plated with silver, well cleaned with diluted nitric acid, is exposed to the vapour of iodine, which forms the first coating, which is very thin, as it does not exceed the millionth part of a metre in thickness. There are certain indispensable precautions necessary to render this coating uniform, the chief of which is the using of a rim of metal round the sheet. The sheet, thus prepared, is placed in the camera obscura, where it is allowed to remain from eight to ten minutes. It is then taken out, but the most experienced eye can detect no trace of the drawing. The sheet is now exposed to the vapour of mercury, and when it has been heated to a temperature of 60 degrees of Resnámur, or 167 Fahrenheit, the drawings come forth as if by enchantment; one singular and hitherto inexplicable fact in this process is, that the sheet, when exposed to the action of the vapour, must be inclined, for if it were placed in a direct position over the vapour the results would be far less satisfactory. The angle used is 48 degrees. The last part of the process is to place the sheet in the hyposulphate of soda, and then to wash it in a large quantity of distilled water. The description of the process appeared to excite great interest in the auditory, amongst whom we observed many distinguished persons connected with science and the fine arts.

Unfortunately the locality was not adjudged suitable for the performance of M. Daguerre's experiments, but we understand that arrangements will be made for a public exhibition of them. Three highly curious drawings obtained in this manner were exhibited; one at the Pont Marie; another at Mr. Daguerre's atelier; and a third in a room containing some rich carpeting, all the minutest threads of which were represented with the most mathematical accuracy, and with wonderful richness of effect.

After September: British men-of-war blockaded and shelled the port of Canton. The port of Tinghai at the mouth of the Yangtze River was occupied. What would be known as the 1st Opium War, which would lead to the initial humiliating “Unequal Treaty” of Europeans with China, had begun.

6. In 1841, after a flag-raising ceremony at Possession Point on Victoria Island, Queen Victoria would write to King Leopold of Belgium “Albert is so amused at my having got the island of Hong Kong” (Cantonese hèung-gáwng, fragrant harbor).
June: In the deep strait off Hong Kong, an expeditionary force of 16 British warships assembled. They sailed on up the Pei Ho river with 4,000 troops to express British contempt for Chinese local rule. The Qing court sent the mandarin Qishan, governor of Qili, to negotiate to prevent this foreign army from approaching the capital of the nation in Beijing.

It was during this year of deep international tension that the newly minted Reverend James Legge was becoming the representative of the London Missionary Society in Malacca and Hong Kong (until 1873).

The Reverend James Legge, the principal of the Anglo-Chinese College, published his *A Lexilogus of the English, Malay, and Chinese Languages; comprehending the vernacular idioms of the last in the Hok-keen and Canton dialects* in Malacca and began a project to translate, in many volumes, the Chinese classics. During his decades of residence in the Orient, he would translate classic literature into English with the help of Wang T’ao. (This was the year in which Captain Charles Eliot landed on an island then known as Heung Gong.)
January 20, Wednesday: Captain Charles Elliot and Commissioner Qishan of the Central Kingdom signed the Convention of Chuanbi (a village near Guangzhou), by which the Dynasty of Purity (Ch'ing 清) ceded the rocky island of Hong Kong to the outer barbarians in perpetuity.7

Documentation of the international slave trade, per W.E. Burghardt Du Bois: “Message from the President ... communicating ... copies of correspondence, imputing malpractices to the American consul at Havana, in regard to granting papers to vessels engaged in the slave-trade.” – SENATE DOCUMENT, 26 Cong. 2 sess. III. No. 125. (Contains much information.)

W.E. Burghardt Du Bois: A somewhat more sincere and determined effort to enforce the slave-trade laws now followed; and yet it is a significant fact that not until Lincoln's administration did a slave-trader suffer death for violating the laws of the United States. The participation of Americans in the trade continued, declining somewhat between 1825 and 1830, and then reviving, until it reached its highest activity between 1840 and 1860. The development of a vast internal slave-trade, and the consequent rise in the South of vested interests strongly opposed to slave smuggling, led to a falling off in the illicit introduction of Negroes after 1825, until the fifties; nevertheless, smuggling never entirely ceased, and large numbers were thus added to the plantations of the Gulf States. Monroe had various constitutional scruples as to the execution of the Act of 1819;8 but, as Congress took no action, he at last put a fair interpretation on his powers, and appointed Samuel Bacon as an agent in Africa to form a settlement for recaptured Africans. Gradually the agency thus formed became merged with that of the Colonization Society on Cape Mesurado; and from this union Liberia was finally evolved.9

Meantime, during the years 1818 to 1820, the activity of the slave-traders was prodigious. General James Tallmadge declared in the House, February 15, 1819: "Our laws are already highly penal against their introduction, and yet, it is a well known fact, that about fourteen thousand slaves have been brought into our country this last year."10 In the same year Middleton of South Carolina and Wright of Virginia estimated illicit introduction at 13,000 and 15,000 respectively.11 Judge Story, in charging a jury, took occasion to say: "We have but too many proofs from unquestionable sources, that it [the slave-trade] is still carried on with all the implacable rapacity of former times. Avarice has grown more subtle in its evasions, and watches and seizes its prey with an appetite quickened rather than suppressed by its guilty vigils. American citizens are steeped to their very mouths (I can hardly use too bold a figure) in this stream of iniquity."12 The following year, 1820, brought some significant statements from various members of Congress. Said Smith of South Carolina: "Pharaoh was, for his temerity,  

7. This document would later be repudiated both by the government of China and by the government of the barbarians, and both Elliot and Qishan would be dismissed.  
8. Attorney-General Wirt advised him, October, 1819, that no part of the appropriation could be used to purchase land in Africa or tools for the Negroes, or as salary for the agent: OPINIONS OF ATTORNEYS-GENERAL, I. 314-7. Monroe laid the case before Congress in a special message Dec. 20, 1819 (HOUSE JOURNAL, 16th Congress 1st session, page 57); but no action was taken there.  
9. Cf. Kendall’s Report, August, 1830: SENATE DOCUMENT, 21st Congress 2d session, I. No. 1, pages 211-8; also see below, Chapter X.  
drowned in the Red Sea, in pursuing them [the Israelites] contrary to God’s express will; but our Northern friends have not been afraid even of that, in their zeal to furnish the Southern States with Africans. They are better seamen than Pharaoh, and calculate by that means to elude the vigilance of Heaven; which they seem to disregard, if they can but elude the violated laws of their country.” As late as May he saw little hope of suppressing the traffic. Sergeant of Pennsylvania declared: “It is notorious that, in spite of the utmost vigilance that can be employed, African negroes are clandestinely brought in and sold as slaves.” Plumer of New Hampshire stated that “of the unhappy beings, thus in violation of all laws transported to our shores, and thrown by force into the mass of our black population, scarcely one in a hundred is ever detected by the officers of the General Government, in a part of the country, where, if we are to believe the statement of Governor Rabun, ‘an officer who would perform his duty, by attempting to enforce the law [against the slave trade] is, by many, considered as an officious meddler, and treated with derision and contempt;’ ... I have been told by a gentleman, who has attended particularly to this subject, that ten thousand slaves were in one year smuggled into the United States; and that, even for the last year, we must count the number not by hundreds, but by thousands.” In 1821 a committee of Congress characterized prevailing methods as those “of the grossest fraud that could be practised to deceive the officers of government.” Another committee, in 1822, after a careful examination of the subject, declare that they “find it impossible to measure with precision the effect produced upon the American branch of the slave trade by the laws above mentioned, and the seizures under them. They are unable to state, whether those American merchants, the American capital and seamen which heretofore aided in this traffic, have abandoned it altogether, or have sought shelter under the flags of other nations.” They then state the suspicious circumstance that, with the disappearance of the American flag from the traffic, “the trade, notwithstanding, increases annually, under the flags of other nations.” They complain of the spasmodic efforts of the executive. They say that the first United States cruiser arrived on the African coast in March, 1820, and remained a “few weeks;” that since then four others had in two years made five visits in all; but “since the middle of last November, the commencement of the healthy season on that coast, no vessel has been, nor, as your committee is informed, is, under orders for that service.” The United States African agent, Ayres, reported in 1823: “I was informed by an American officer who had been on the coast in 1820, that he had boarded 20 American vessels in one morning, lying in the port of Gallinas, and fitted for the

13. ANNALS OF CONGRESS, 16th Congress 1st session, pages 270-1.  
14. ANNALS OF CONGRESS, 16th Congress 1st session, page 698.  
15. ANNALS OF CONGRESS, 16th Congress 1st session, page 1207.  
16. ANNALS OF CONGRESS, 16th Congress 1st session, page 1433.  
18. HOUSE REPORTS, 17th Congress 1st session, II. No. 92, page 2. The President had in his message spoken in exhilarating tones of the success of the government in suppressing the trade. The House Committee appointed in pursuance of this passage made the above report. Their conclusions are confirmed by British reports: PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS, 1822, Vol. XXII., SLAVE TRADE, Further Papers, III. page 44. So, too, in 1823, Ashmun, the African agent, reports that thousands of slaves are being ab ducted.
reception of slaves. It is a lamentable fact, that most of the harbours, between the Senegal and the line, were visited by an equal number of American vessels, and for the sole purpose of carrying away slaves. Although for some years the coast had been occasionally visited by our cruisers, their short stay and seldom appearance had made but slight impression on those traders, rendered hardy by repetition of crime, and avaricious by excessive gain. They were enabled by a regular system to gain intelligence of any cruiser being on the coast.”

Even such spasmodic efforts bore abundant fruit, and indicated what vigorous measures might have accomplished. Between May, 1818, and November, 1821, nearly six hundred Africans were recaptured and eleven American slavers taken. Such measures gradually changed the character of the trade, and opened the international phase of the question. American slavers cleared for foreign ports, there took a foreign flag and papers, and then sailed boldly past American cruisers, although their real character was often well known. More stringent clearance laws and consular instructions might have greatly reduced this practice; but nothing was ever done, and gradually the laws became in large measure powerless to deal with the bulk of the illicit trade. In 1820, September 16, a British officer, in his official report, declares that, in spite of United States laws, “American vessels, American subjects, and American capital, are unquestionably engaged in the trade, though under other colours and in disguise.” The United States ship “Cyane” at one time reported ten captures within a few days, adding: “Although they are evidently owned by Americans, they are so completely covered by Spanish papers that it is impossible to condemn them.” The governor of Sierra Leone reported the rivers Nunez and Pongas full of renegade European and American slave-traders; the trade was said to be carried on “to an extent that almost staggers belief.”

Down to 1824 or 1825, reports from all quarters prove this activity in slave-trading. The execution of the laws within the country exhibits grave defects and even criminal negligence. Attorney-General Wirt finds it necessary to assure collectors, in 1819, that “it is against public policy to dispense with prosecutions for violation of the law to prohibit the Slave trade.” One district attorney writes: “It appears to be almost impossible to enforce the laws of the United States against offenders after the negroes have been landed in the state.” Again, it is asserted that “when vessels engaged in the slave trade have been detained by the American cruisers, and sent into the slave-holding

20. HOUSE REPORTS, 17th Congress 1st session, II. No. 92, pages 5-6. The slavers were the “Ramirez,” “Endymion,” “Esperanza,” “Plattsburg,” “Science,” “Alexander,” “Eugene,” “Mathilde,” “Daphne,” “Eliza,” and “La Pensée.” In these 573 Africans were taken. The naval officers were greatly handicapped by the size of the ships, etc. (cf. FRIENDS’ VIEW OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE (1824), pages 33-41). They nevertheless acted with great zeal.
22. HOUSE REPORTS, 17th Congress 1st session, II. No. 92, pages 15-20.
23. HOUSE DOCUMENT, 18th Congress 1st session, VI. No. 119, page 13.
25. OPINIONS OF ATTORNEYS-GENERAL, V. 717.
26. R.W. Habersham to the Secretary of the Navy, August, 1821; reprinted in FRIENDS’ VIEW OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE (1824), page 47.
states, there appears at once a difficulty in securing the freedom to these captives which the laws of the United States have decreed for them."27 In some cases, one man would smuggle in the Africans and hide them in the woods; then his partner would "rob" him, and so all trace be lost.28 Perhaps 350 Africans were officially reported as brought in contrary to law from 1818 to 1820: the absurdity of this figure is apparent.29 A circular letter to the marshals, in 1821, brought reports of only a few well-known cases, like that of the "General Ramirez;" the marshal of Louisiana had "no information."30 There appears to be little positive evidence of a large illicit importation into the country for a decade after 1825. It is hardly possible, however, considering the activity in the trade, that slaves were not largely imported. Indeed, when we note how the laws were continually broken in other respects, absence of evidence of petty smuggling becomes presumptive evidence that collusive or tacit understanding of officers and citizens allowed the trade to some extent.31 Finally, it must be noted that during all this time scarcely a man suffered for participating in the trade, beyond the loss of the Africans and, more rarely, of his ship. Red-handed slavers, caught in the act and convicted, were too often, like La Coste of South Carolina, the subjects of executive clemency.32 In certain cases there were those who even had the effrontery to ask Congress to cancel their own laws. For instance, in 1819 a Venezuelan privateer, secretly fitted out and manned by Americans in Baltimore, succeeded in capturing several American, Portuguese, and Spanish slavers, and appropriating the slaves; being finally wrecked herself, she transferred her crew and slaves to one of her prizes, the "Antelope," which was eventually captured by a United States cruiser and the 280 Africans sent to Georgia. After much litigation, the United States Supreme Court ordered those captured from Spaniards to be surrendered, and the others to be returned to Africa. By some mysterious process, only 139 Africans now remained, 100 of whom were sent to Africa. The Spanish claimants of the remaining thirty-nine sold them to a certain Mr. Wilde, who gave bond to transport them out of the country. Finally, in December, 1827, there came an innocent petition to Congress to cancel this bond.33 A bill to that effect passed and was approved, May 2, 1828,34 and in consequence these Africans remained as slaves in Georgia.

On the whole, it is plain that, although in the period from 1807 to 1820 Congress laid down broad lines of legislation sufficient, save in some details, to suppress the African slave trade to America, yet the execution of these laws was criminally lax. Moreover, by the facility with which slavers could disguise their identity, it was possible for them to escape even a vigorous enforcement of our laws. This situation could properly be met only by energetic and sincere international co-operation....35

27. FRIENDS’ VIEW OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE (1824), page 42.
28. FRIENDS’ VIEW OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE (1824), page 43.
30. FRIENDS’ VIEW OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE (1824), page 42.
31. A few accounts of captures here and there would make the matter less suspicious; these, however, do not occur. How large this suspected illicit traffic was, it is of course impossible to say; there is no reason why it may not have reached many hundreds per year.
January 26, Tuesday: Charles Eliot, a naval captain, landing on an island then known as Pirate Island or as Heung Gong, declared himself to be its governor. At 8:15AM, Captain Edward Belcher planted the Union Jack at a position on the north-west shore of the island of Hong Kong facing Victoria Strait, where it could be seen from the mainland of China. This location would first be known as “Possession Point” and later, after landfill around the shrinking harbor, as Holywood Road Park. This tiny piece of parkland acquired again a certain significance at the stroke of midnight on June 30, 1997, when Hong Kong for the 2d time was reduced to the status of a colonial possession of a foreign great power. However, it wasn’t large enough for an appropriate ceremony, so they built an immense building on landfill specially for this handover.

The first rule and regulation of the Brits was that no variety of torture would ever again be permitted on this island.

February: James Matheson began construction of a warehouse on the north shore of Hong Kong Island.

May: The fleet of British men-of-war shelled the walled city of Canton and obtained a ransom of $6,000,000. The Chinese then counterattacked, but the only weapons at their disposal were such items of desperation as rafts which they would set on fire and attempt to direct into the paths of the warships.

32. Cf. editorial in Niles's Register, XXII. 114. Cf. also the following instances of pardons: —
PRESIDENT JEFFERSON: March 1, 1808, Phillip M. Topham, convicted for “carrying on an illegal slave-trade” (pardoned twice).
PRESIDENT MADISON: July 29, 1809, fifteen vessels arrived at New Orleans from Cuba, with 666 white persons and 683 negroes. Every penalty incurred under the Act of 1807 was remitted. (Note: “Several other pardons of this nature were granted.”)
PARDONS AND REMISSIONS, I. 179.
Nov. 8, 1809, John Hopkins and Lewis Le Roy, convicted for importing a slave. PARDONS AND REMISSIONS, I. 184-5.
PRESIDENT MONROE: June 11, 1822, Thomas Shields, convicted for bringing slaves into New Orleans. PARDONS AND REMISSIONS, IV. 15.
Aug. 24, 1822, J.F. Smith, sentenced to five years’ imprisonment and $3000 fine; served twenty-five months and was then pardoned.
PARDONS AND REMISSIONS, IV. 22.
July 23, 1823, certain parties liable to penalties for introducing slaves into Alabama. PARDONS AND REMISSIONS, IV. 63.
PRESIDENT J.Q. ADAMS: March 4, 1826, Robert Perry; his ship was forfeited for slave-trading. PARDONS AND REMISSIONS, IV. 140.
Jan. 17, 1827, Jesse Perry; forfeited ship, and was convicted for introducing slaves. PARDONS AND REMISSIONS, IV. 158.
Feb. 13, 1827, Zenas Winston; incurred penalties for slave-trading. PARDONS AND REMISSIONS, IV. 161. The four following cases are similar to that of Winston: —
March 25, 1828, Joseph Badger. PARDONS AND REMISSIONS, IV. 192.
PRESIDENT JACKSON: Five cases. PARDONS AND REMISSIONS, IV. 225, 270, 301, 393, 440.
The above cases were taken from manuscript copies of the Washington records, made by Mr. W.C. Endicott, Jr., and kindly loaned me.
34. STATUTES AT LARGE, VI. 376.
The Reverend Issachar J. Roberts, who at this point was forced to acknowledge that his abilities in the Chinese language were “feeble,” helped open a Baptist mission in Hong Kong, then moved to Canton.

Steam shipping to China began. Naushon Island in the Elizabeth Islands was purchased in its entirety by John Murray Forbes and William W. Swain, largely with money from the China trade, opium money, for instance (Forbes would soon buy out Swain).

By this point England’s opium trade in China had reached 40,000 chests annually. The government of China, attempting to interdict opium traffic and thus prevent its citizens from debilitating themselves by “chasing the dragon” as so desired by foreign enemies, seized and destroyed bales of opium belonging to English merchants. Naughty naughty!

When the dust of the 1st Opium War had settled later on in this year, China had been re-opened to the English opium traffic by the initial one of the “Unequal Treaties” into which it was coerced by overwhelmingly powerful and insolent and paternalistic Westerners. Trade restrictions were removed. In a decade the trade

35. Among interesting minor proceedings in this period were two Senate bills to register slaves so as to prevent illegal importation. They were both dropped in the House; a House proposition to the same effect also came to nothing: SENATE JOURNAL, 15th Congress 1st session, pages 147, 152, 157, 165, 170, 188, 201, 203, 232, 237; 15th Congress 2d session, pages 63, 74, 77, 202, 207, 285, 291, 297; HOUSE JOURNAL, 15th Congress 1st session, page 332; 15th Congress 2d session, pages 303, 305, 316; 16th Congress 1st session, page 150. Another proposition was contained in the Meigs resolution presented to the House, Feb. 5, 1820, which proposed to devote the public lands to the suppression of the slave-trade. This was ruled out of order. It was presented again and laid on the table in 1821: HOUSE JOURNAL, 16th Congress 1st session, pages 196, 200, 227; 16th Congress 2d session, page 238.

36. Queen Victoria would write to King Leopold of Belgium “Albert is so amused at my having got the island of Hong Kong” (Cantonese hêung-gâwng, fragrant harbor).

37. Well, torture was banned anyway as a mode of inquiry, if not as a technique of motivation. The flogging of Chinese vagrants who were without visible means of support would obviously not, for instance, be considered to fall under the rubric “torture.”

38. Opinioned this factor Matheson, accurately enough: “We have every respect for persons entertaining strict religious principles, but we fear that very godly people are not suited to the drug trade.” The very godly need not apply.
volume would double. Having been chastened by the lion and unicorn of Great Britain, the Central Kingdom would be obliged for many years to “chase the dragon” for the greater profit of Englishmen (who would eventually be mailing postcards home to their loved ones from Hong Kong, postcards showing picturesque scenes of the indescribable debasement of Orientals, obtained from filthy opium dens).

Let us pause for a moment and savor this situation. Naushon is a remote bucolic island near Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket. —And, it was a significant part of the reward some New Englanders gave themselves for the creation of one of the driving forces of our contemporary world, the absolute fury with which the Chinese still contemplate the manner in which their nation had been humiliated during this period!
Well, but drugs aren’t all bad. For instance, in this year C.W. Long of Jefferson, Georgia first used nitrous oxide gas as an anesthetic during an operation. Some have attested this to be the first such use of any anesthetic during an operation. The effect of shock upon patients had been such a great killer that the rule of thumb of the time was, that if a surgeon took longer than 15 minutes to complete an operation the patient was gonna die. Therefore surgeons needed not only the eye of an eagle, the hand of a lady, and the heart of a lion (the saying in those days), but also the speed of a weasel: it had been said in praise of a particularly swift British sawbones, Dr. Astley Cooper, that:

For operating with alacrity, and well at the same time, I have never known his equal.
August 26, Friday: Britain and China signed a peace treaty.

August 29, Monday: Joseph Smith, Jr. returned to Nauvoo, Illinois from his hideout in Iowa and sent out 300 Mormon elders to travel nationwide, distributing a broadside (that’s a newspaper consisting of four pages, made from a sheet of folded paper) full of affidavits and certificates, and giving their own personal word that their leader was not practicing polygamy.

The agreement of January 20, 1841 having been repudiated by both sides but the 1st Opium War having been fought to a conclusion, Sir Henry Pottinger (as emissary of Lord Palmerston) and Commissioner Qiying, a Manchu mandarin of the Dynasty of Purity (Ch’ing) of the Central Kingdom signed the 1st of the “Unequal Treaties” between China and the Western colonialists, by which the city of Nanking was forced to capitulate and its indemnity was set at $21,000,000 (65 tons of silver to be delivered by ship to Portsmouth, England during this year and carted directly to the Royal Mint) in compensation for the opium supplies which Chinese authorities had torched. Victoria Island was again ceded in perpetuity to the British:39

According to the political principal known as “lose a few, win a few,” this treaty was signed in the captain’s cabin of the warship HMS Cornwallis (named of course in honor of that English general whose incompetence had caused their loss of the North American continent), while that ship was moored in the Yangtze River off Nanking.

Secretary of State Daniel Webster wrote to the ambassador to France, Lewis Cass:

Mr. Webster to General Cass.
Department of State, Washington, August 29, 1842.
Sir,— You will see by the enclosed the result of the negotiations lately had in this city between this department and Lord Ashburton. The treaty has been ratified by the President and Senate.
In communicating to you this treaty, I am directed by the President to draw your particular attention to those articles which relate to the suppression of the African slave-trade. After full and anxious consideration of this very delicate subject, the government of the United States has come to the conclusion which you will see expressed in the President’s message to the Senate accompanying the treaty. Without intending or desiring to influence the policy of other governments on this important subject, this government has reflected on what was due to its own character and position, as the leading maritime power on the American continent, left free to make choice of such means for the fulfilment of its duties as it should deem best suited to its dignity. The result of its reflections has been, that it does not concur in measures which, for whatever benevolent purpose they may be adopted, or with whatever care and moderation they may be exercised, have yet a

39. We are referring here to Victoria island, the land mass itself, not to Hong Kong. Hong Kong is not something which was created as of 1842 by an agreement between England and China. It is something that would be created later by English people whose energies were liberated from the control of England by great distance and by the presence of Chinese people, and by Chinese people whose energies were liberated from the control of China by the presence of English people.
tendency to place the police of the seas in the hands of a single power. It chooses rather to follow its own laws with its own sanction, and to carry them into execution by its own authority. Disposed to act in the spirit of the most cordial concurrence with other nations for the suppression of the African slave-trade, that great reproach of our times, it deems it to be right, nevertheless, that this action, though concurrent, should be independent, and it believes that from this independence it will derive a greater degree of efficiency.

You will perceive, however, that, in the opinion of this government, cruising against slave-dealers on the coast of Africa is not all which is necessary to be done in order to put an end to the traffic. There are markets for slaves, or the unhappy natives of Africa would not be seized, chained, and carried over the ocean into slavery. These markets ought to be shut. And, in the treaty now communicated to you, the high contracting parties have stipulated "that they will unite, in all becoming representations and remonstrances, with any and all powers within whose dominions such markets are allowed to exist; and that they will urge upon all such powers the propriety and duty of closing such markets effectually, at once and for ever."

You are furnished, then, with the American policy in regard to this interesting subject. First, independent but cordially concurrent efforts of maritime states to suppress, as far as possible, the trade on the coast, by means of competent and well-appointed squadrons, to watch the shores and scour the neighboring seas. Secondly, concurrent, becoming remonstrance with all governments who tolerate within their territories markets for the purchase of African negroes. There is much reason to believe that, if other states, professing equal hostility to this nefarious traffic, would give their own powerful concurrence and co-operation to these remonstrances, the general effect would be satisfactory, and that the cupidity and crimes of individuals would at length cease to find both their temptation and their reward in the bosom of Christian states, and in the permission of Christian governments.

It will still remain for each government to revise, execute, and make more effectual its own municipal laws against its subjects or citizens who shall be concerned in, or in any way give aid or countenance to others concerned in this traffic.

You are at liberty to make the contents of this despatch known to the French government.

I have, &c.

DANIEL WEBSTER.
LEWIS CASS, ESQ., &c., &c., &c.

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Henry Pottinger.
July: The British considered that Canton had been declared open to them — but Chinese locals still were obstinately resisting the gwailo’s entry inside that walled city’s wall.

November 7, Tuesday morning: A school was being taught by Joseph C. Cole in the hall above the Red Brick Store, a very warm and pleasant room, and Elders Willard Richards and William W. Phelps needed this room so that they might continue working on the Prophet’s history undisturbed. They moved the tables out of that room, but Mr. Cole moved them back in so they went to Joseph Smith, Jr.’s mansion to complain. The Prophet determined that their reasons were good and instructed them to take the room and advise this schoolteacher that he would need to look out for himself.

The Treaty of Nanking, by which the island of Hong Kong had been obtained by Great Britain on August 9, 1842 –which incidentally was the initial such treaty document to be photocopied– was made available to the public in English in the London Gazette (the document, in both English and Chinese, would be printed in Canton in the Chinese Repository for August 1844).40

November 7, Tuesday, 1843: When Ossian personifies the sun and addresses him, it is unnecessary to suppose, as his editor does, that he believed the sun to be an animated being, “like the deer or lion. Wherein are we more believers in a God than the heathen, with their mysterious magic rites? as if one name were not as good as another. It is time to have done with these follies. I confess to more sympathy with the Druidical and Scandinavian, as handed down to us, than with the actual creeds of any church in Christendom. They have been reproached for worshipping the ghosts of their fathers rather than any unsubstantial forms; but do we not worship the ghosts of our fathers? It is the characteristic of all religion and wisdom to substitute being for seeming, and to detect the anima or soul in everything. It is merely an evidence of inner faith when God is practically believed to be omnipresent. None of the heathen are too heathenish for me but those who hold no intercourse with their god. I love the vigorous faith of those heathen who sternly believed something. I say to these modern believers, “Don’t interrupt those men’s prayers.” How much more do the moderns know about God and human life than the ancients? the English than the Chaldeans, or than the Tartars? Does English theology contain the recent discoveries?

Ossian feels and asserts the dignity of the bard. His province is to record the deeds of heroes.

I straightway seize the unfutile tales
And send them down in faithful verse.

An heroic deed is his star in the night. The simple, impressive majesty of human life as seen through his mists, is that Ossian we know and remember. Who has discovered any higher morality than this? any truer philosophy? — a simple, brave, persevering life adorned with heroic deeds.

The reserved strength of Ossian, and moral superiority to most poets of what is styled a barbarous era, appears in the fact that he can afford to pass over the details of the battle, leaving the heroism to be imagined from what has already been described of the character of the hero, while he hastens to hint at the result. Most heroic poets of a rude period delight mainly in the mere sound of blows and the flowing of blood. But Ossian has already described the result of the battle when he has minted the character of the heroes.

See an example in Callon and Colvala:

When I heard who the damsel was
Frequent dropped the warrior’s tears.
I blessed the radiant barn of youth,
And bade the bard advance.
Dweller of the mountain cave,
Why should Ossian speak of the dead?

40. We are referring here to Victoria island, the land mass itself, not to Hong Kong. Hong Kong is not something which was created as of 1842 by an agreement between England and China. It is something that would be created later by English people whose energies were liberated from the control of England by great distance and by the presence of Chinese people, and by Chinese people whose energies were liberated from the control of China by the presence of English people.
The final page of the Chinese version of the treaty document
They are now forgot in their land,
And their tombs are seen no more, etc.;
or in Ca-lodin:
We engaged, and the enemy won;
Or in Croma:
We fought down the narrow vale;
The enemy fled; Romarr fell by my sword.
No poet has done such justice to the island of foggy fame.
What a contrast between the stern and desolate poetry of Ossian and that of Chaucer and the early English bards!
The bard indeed seems to have lost much of his dignity and the sacredness of his profession. He does not impose upon us. He has lost all his sternness and bardic fun, and but conceives the deed which the other has prepared to perform. It is a step from the forest and crag to the fireside, — from the hut of the Gael or Stonehenge with its circles of stones to the house of the Englishman. No hero — stands at the door, prepared to break forth into song or heroic actions, but a homely Englishman who has begun to cultivate the comforts of a roof; or a studious gentleman who practises the art of song. He possibly may not receive us. There is not room for all mankind about his hearth. He does not love all things, but a few.
I see there a yellow fireside blaze, and hear the crackling fuel, and expect such heroism as consists with a comfortable life.
In the oldest poems only the most simple and enduring features of humanity are seen; such essential parts of a man as Stonehenge exhibits of a temple. We see the circles of stone, and the upright shafts of the man; we cannot tell whether this was civilized or savage; truly it was neither. For these simple, necessary traits are before and after civilization and are superior to it. All the culture that had a beginning must in the world’s history have an end. It is like the fashions of France; like the tricks taught to a few tame bears and monkeys. How wise we are! how ignorant the savage! we with our penknife with a hundred blades, he with his gnarled club. Ask his senses if they are not well fed, if his life is not well earned.
When we come to the pleasant English verse it seems as if the storm had all cleared away, and it were never to thunder and lighten any more. These stern events are traditional.
We darkly behold (in the poetry of the obscurest eras) the forms of men, —such as can be seen afar through the mist, — no costume, no dialect, but for language you have a tongue itself. As for costume — we can dispense with that, —the skins of beasts or bark of trees are always to be had, — what if the man is naked?
The figurative parts of Ossian are like Isaiah and the Psalms, — the same use is made of gaunt Nature. He uses but few and simple images; but they are drawn from such objects as are familiar to men in all ages. To the poet who can use them greatly in his song, and make them convey his thoughts, the elements and stars seem to be nearer and more friendly. And other men involuntarily relinquish to him somewhat of their claim on Nature. The sun and the sea and the mists are his more than ours.
Let two stand on the highway, and — it shall be known that the sun belongs to one rather than to the other; the one will be found to claim, while the other simply retains, possession. The winds blow for one more than another; and on numerous occasions the uncertain or unworthy possessors silently relinquish their right in them. The most doubtful claimants have paid their money and taken a deed of their birthright, but the real owner is forever known to all men wherever he goes, and no one disputes his claim. For he cannot help using and deriving the profit, while to the dishonest possessor an estate is as idle as his parchment deed of it, and that is all he has purchased. Wherever the owner goes, inanimate things will fly to him and adhere.
What a fame was it that these Ossianic bards and heroes sought? To Fingal, Swaran says:
The hunter coming from the hills,
As he rests on a tomb, will say:
Here the mighties, Fingal and Swaran,
Joined battle, with their hundred bands.
Thus will the weary hunter speak,
And our fame will abide forever.

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir John Davis.
The college supervised by the Reverend James Legge at Malacca, the Anglo-Chinese College, was moved to Hong Kong. A Chinese Christian, Keuh Agong, accompanied the Reverend on this move. Legge would be residing in that coastal British protectorate for nearly 3 decades.
A ruffian named Ingood who specialized in rolling drunken sailors attained the distinction of being the 1st white man to be hanged in Hong Kong.

An American consulate was established in Hong Kong.

March 28: The *Frolic* arrived in Bombay to begin its work in the opium trade. She would be found capable of making three round trips per year between India and China. Under favorable conditions she would be able sail from Hong Kong to Bombay in but 35 days. However, at the moment, she was delinquent, she had arrived in Bombay after schedule, and the opium that had been reserved for her had already been released to another buyer.
May 8, Thursday: Isaac Hecker wrote to the Reverend Orestes Augustus Brownson.

Captain Edward H. Faucon (sketched below by a Chinese artist during this year) sailed the Frolic out of Bombay Harbor and headed for Macau anchorage.

To demonstrate her worthiness, he arranged to race against the Anodyne, a 275-ton brig formerly of the Royal Yacht Squadron but at that point in the possession of the merchant empire of Jardine, Matheson & Co. of Hong Kong.

The near-shipload of opium which had been rounded up for this new ship from various sources had cost the owners more than $400,000, although it was not monopoly opium produced in Patna and exported through Calcutta by the British East India Company, but opium of considerably lower grade produced independently in the Malwa uplands and exported through Bombay by Parsee (Indian Zoroastrian) and Hindu merchant trading houses. It was necessary to keep very close tabs on the quality of such bootleg drug, as it frequently had been “extended” by the addition of inert ingredients such as cowshit, fruit juices, clay, etc., a process which could be repeated a number of times by a number of different middlemen.
By this point the main Oriental office of Samuel Russell & Co. of Boston had been relocated from Hong Kong to Shanghai.
April: Hung Hsiu Ch’üan, the scholar-manque would study Christianity for a couple of months under the tutelage of a Reverend Issachar J. Roberts, a Tennessee Baptist who had been in China since 1837, and then (upon being belatedly informed that his new status in the Christian community would definitely not include his being the recipient of any pecuniary compensation whatever) joined the movement known as the Pai Shang-ti Hui or The God Worshipers’ Society which had been initiated among the peasantry of Kwangsi province by his friend Feng Yun-shan. He would become successful beyond the wildest dreams of any Tennessee Baptist, as the T’ien-wang—the Heavenly King—of a far-flung Chinese Christian movement. He would be able to plot an entire galaxy of stars in his heavenly crown right up to the point at which, at the unfortunate conclusion of the largest and bloodiest civil war our planet has ever known, he would need to off himself.

Andrew Twombly Foss became an agent of the Baptist Church North. He would later serve the American Anti-Slavery Society and the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society as an agent, lecturing widely in the North and West till the US Civil War. (There is an article by Guy S. Rix on his life, at The New England Historic Genealogical Society.)

51,887 tons of pond ice were shipped in this year out of Boston harbor bound for various coastal cities between Philadelphia and Galveston, Texas. In addition, 22,591 tons was shipped to foreign ports in Cuba, the West Indies, South America, England, Hong Kong, and Calcutta. Generally speaking, not much ice went to London, because Norway ice was so much cheaper, and, after 1831, almost no Boston ice was being delivered to New-York because its ice was brought down the Hudson River from Rockland Lake.
April 17, Saturday: More than 4½ months after setting out from Hong Kong, the Kee Ying, a pole junk built of ironwood, 148 feet long with a 93-foot mast, arrived at St. Helena. Due to the size of the rudder of this sort of ship, to make an alteration to its course sometimes a group of 20 needed to push and pull together on the rudder beam.

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir George Bonham.
The junk *Keying* arrived from Hong Kong via St. Helena and New-York to Gravesend on the Thames near London, and there at the East India Dock was visited by Charles Dickens and the Duke of Wellington. The purpose of the voyage was publicity, for the common impression in the British ruling caste was, that if “viewed as a place of trade,” this Hong Kong outpost of empire must be considered to be “small, barren, un-healthy and valueless.” There were too many Chinese present in the community, and compared to Sierra Leone it was “less healthy, less amusing and less near England.” Also, the English could not help but note that their proud contempt for all things Chinese was matched by the proud contempt that these superstitious and ignorant subjects of the Celestial Empire held for all things European.

**WALDEN:** I have always endeavored to acquire strict business habits; they are indispensable to every man. If your trade is with the Celestial Empire, then some small counting house on the coast, in some Salem harbor, will be fixture enough. You will export such articles as the country affords, purely native products, much ice and pine timber and a little granite, always in native bottoms. These will be good ventures. To oversee all the details yourself in person; to be at once pilot and captain, and owner and underwriter; to buy and sell and keep the accounts; to read every letter received, and write or read every letter sent; to superintend the discharge of imports night and day; to be upon many parts of the coast almost at the same time; -often the richest freight will be discharged upon a Jersey shore; - to be your own telegraph, unweariedly sweeping the horizon, speaking all passing vessels bound coastwise; to keep up a steady despatch of commodities, for the supply of such a distant and exorbitant market; to keep yourself informed of the state of the markets, prospects of war and peace every where, and anticipate the tendencies of trade and civilization, -taking advantage of the results of all exploring expeditions, using new passages and all improvements in navigation; - charts to be studied, the position of reefs and new lights and buoys to be ascertained, and ever, and ever, the logarithmic tables to be corrected, for by the error of some calculator the vessel often splits upon a rock that should have reached a friendly pier, -there is the untold fate of La Perouse; - universal science to be kept pace with, studying the lives of all great discoverers and navigators, great adventurers and merchants, from Hanno and the Phoenicians down to our day; in fine, account of stock to be taken from time to time, to know how you stand. It is a labor to task the faculties of a man, - such problems of profit and loss, of interest, of tare and tret, and gauging of all kinds in it, as demand a universal knowledge.
After its tourist potential was more or less exploited, the junk was sailed to Liverpool and torn apart, and its ironwood used to construct ferry-boats for the River Mersey. A mandarin tourist aboard this junk would remain in England for a period, would attend the opening of the Crystal Palace in 1851 by Queen Victoria, and—as he was taken to be an Ambassador of the Celestial Empire—for the official portrayal of the solemn event would be positioned in front of the British diplomatic corps.

The following rancid remarks have been extracted from OLD AND NEW LONDON by Thomas Walford (Cassells, 1898):

Not very far from where “The Folly” was moored a century and a half ago, there was seen anchored in our own day a wonderful vessel which had crossed the Indian Ocean and sailed round the Cape of Good Hope, and so up the whole length of the Atlantic—a veritable “Chinese junk.” It made the voyage, small as it was, without suffering wreck or disaster, and arrived in the Thames in 1848.

For a time it lay off Blackwall, where it was visited by thousands—among others, by Charles Dickens. Afterwards, when the London season began, it was brought up just above Waterloo Bridge, and moored off the Strand.

Dickens describes the impression of a visit to the junk as a total, entire change from England to the Celestial Empire. “Nothing,” he writes, “is left but China. How the flowery region ever came into this latitude and longitude is the first thing one admires” and it is certainly not the least of the marvel. As Aladdin’s palace was transported hither and thither by the rubbing of a lamp, so the crew of Chinamen aboard the keying devoutly believed that their “good ship would turn up quite safe at the desired port if they only tied red rags enough upon the mast, rudder, and cable.” Somehow they did not succeed. Perhaps they ran short of rag; at any rate they had not enough on board to keep them above water; and to the bottom they would have undoubtedly gone if it had not been for the skill and coolness of half-a-dozen English sailors, who brought them over the ocean in safety.

Well, if there be anyone thing in the world that this extraordinary craft is not at all like, that thing is a ship of
any kind. So narrow, so long, so grotesque, so low in the middle, so high at each end, like a china pen-tray; with no rigging, with nowhere to go aloft; with mats for sails, great warped cigars for masts, dragons and sea-monsters disporting themselves from stem to stern, and on the stern a gigantic cock of impossible aspect, defying the world (as well he may) to produce his equal – it would look more at home on the top of a public building, or at the top of a mountain, or in an avenue of trees, or down in a mine, than afloat on the water. As for the Chinese lounging on the deck, the most extravagant imagination would never dare to suppose them to be mariners. Imagine a ship’s crew without a profile amongst them, in gauze pinafores and plaited hair, wearing stiff clogs a quarter of a foot thick in the sole, and lying at night in little scented boxes, like backgammon or chess pieces, or mother-of-pearl counters!

But, by Jove! Even this is nothing to your surprise when you get down into the cabin.

There you get into a torture of perplexity; as, what became of all those lanterns hanging to the roof, when the junk was out at sea; whether they dangled there, banging and beating against each other, like so many jester’s baubles; whether the idol Chin Tee, of the eighteen arms, enshrined in a celestial Punch’s show, in the place of honour, ever tumbled about in heavy weather; whether the incense and the joss-stick still burnt before her, with a faint perfume found a little thread of smoke, while the mighty waves were roaring all around? Whether that preposterous tissue-paper umbrella in the corner was always spread, as being a convenient maritime instrument for walking about the decks with in a storm? Whether all the cool and shiny little chairs and tables were continually sliding about and bruising each other, and if not, why not? Whether I or anybody on the voyage ever read those two books printed in characters like bird-cages and fly-traps?

Whether the mandarin passenger, He Sing, who had never been ten miles from home in his life before, lying sick on a bamboo couch in a private china closet of his own (where he is now perpetually writing autographs for inquisitive barbarians), ever began to doubt the potency of the Goddess of the Sea, whose counterfeit presentiment, like a flowery monthly nurse, occupies the sailor’s joss-house in the second gallery?

Whether it is possible that the second mandarin, or the artist of the ship, Sam Sing, Esquire, RA. of Canton, can ever go ashore without a walking-staff in cinnamon, agreeably to the usage of their likenesses in British tea-shops? Above all, whether the hoarse old ocean could ever have been seriously in earnest with this floating toy-shop; or had merely played with it in lightness of spirit roughly, but meaning no harm – as the bull did with another kind of china-shop on St. Patrick’s-day in the morning.
The British finally yielded, in their insistence begun in 1843 that they be allowed to pass inside the city wall of Canton. This was something which the local Chinese authorities just were not going to allow to happen, not anytime soon, not ever.

Upon relocating from mainland China to the coastal island of Hong Kong, Wang Libin changed his name to Wang T’ao. Under that monicker he would be doing translations for the London Missionary Society Press for the following 13 years.

The Reverend Issachar J. Roberts, who had returned to the United States due to the opium-war disturbances between Britain and China, remarried with Virginia Young at East Hickman, Kentucky in a ceremony presided over by the Reverend William Buck. This marriage, and Mrs. Roberts’s sojourn in China, would prove unfortunate:

Among the other missionaries whom [the Baptist missionary couple Tarleton Perry Crawford and Martha Foster Crawford] met in Shanghai and with whom they were to work were I.J. and Virginia Roberts. Martha concluded that Mrs. Roberts was a mental case, for she refused to be left alone with Chinese people. Virginia constantly clung to Martha, becoming agitated when the latter left her by herself in a room. Loathing the sight of the Chinese, as Virginia did, she was a most unhappy person. She even threatened to commit suicide. On one occasion the Crawfords found her beating her head against a wall. The Robertses quarreled often, and Virginia made it clear that if she ever returned home, she would not come back to China, whether or not her husband did. Martha came to regard Roberts as a cruel man and blamed him for Virginia’s “advanced case of insanity.” The question remains: which of the Robertses was more insane?

August 14, Tuesday: Caught in a typhoon, Captain Edward H. Faucon had to chop off the masts of the Frolic in order to save it from being driven ashore by the winds. The rigging would need to all be replaced after towing the vessel to Hong Kong. During the repairs it would be found that her bottom also needed to be re-coppered, and a rotten portion of her keelson would be replaced.

Henry Root Colman had sailed again for England for his health, but died on this day in Islington, England soon after going ashore.

December 5, Wednesday: On its front page, Elizur Wright, Jr.’s Boston Daily Chronotype made a final mention of Henry Thoreau while remarking the “irrepressible good humor and wit” to be found in James Russell Lowell’s review in the Massachusetts Quarterly Review of a “pleasant book on the Concord and Merrimack.”

The Frolic sailed one last time from the port of Hong Kong on the coast of China to the port of Bombay on the coast of India to pick up a cargo of opium. The plan was that after this last trip she would be loaded with luxury items, taken to California, and, if the proper opportunity arose, sold there as no longer large enough or fast enough for the opium trade.
In Hong Kong, the population reached 33,000.

The Reverend James Legge’s *AN ARGUMENT FOR SHANG-TE AS THE PROPER RENDERING OF THE WORDS ELOHIM AND THEOS, IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE; WITH STRICTURES ON THE ESSAY OF BISHOP BOONE IN FAVOUR OF THE TERM SHIN, ETC. ETC.*

May 30, Thursday: The *Frolic* was moved from Canton to Hong Kong anchorage.

41. The plan to grant Captain Edward H. Faucon power of attorney to sell the *Frolic* once it had reached San Francisco and been unloaded did not take account, of course, of a fact not known either to the firm members in Asia or to the firm members in Boston, that the Golden Gate was clogged at this point with vessels which had been abandoned by their crews so the crews could participate in the frenzy of gold digging. (It seems clear that the coming wreck of the vessel was not a staged thing, intended for collection of insurance money.)
Papaver somniferum L.
June 7, Friday: The *Frolic*, under Captain Edward H. Faucon, in the service of Samuel Russell & Co. of Shanghai and Boston, left Hong Kong destined for San Francisco. This opium-running is a period in Richard Henry Dana, Jr.'s favorite captain's life upon which Dana has not considered it important to report in any great detail, choosing instead to report extensively on the putative disappearance of a “French John” character he had put in his “boys’ book” who definitely did not appear on any of the ship’s crew lists and who may very well have never existed outside the realm of the literary imagination.

**TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST:** Captain Faucon, who took out the *Alert*, and brought home the *Pilgrim*, spent many years in command of vessels in the Indian and Chinese seas, and was in our volunteer navy during the late war, commanding several large vessels in succession, on the blockade of the Carolinas, with the rank of lieutenant. He has now given up the sea, but still keeps it under his eye, from the piazza of his house on the most beautiful hill in the environs of Boston. I have the pleasure of meeting him often. Once, in speaking of the *Alert*’s crew, in a company of gentlemen, I heard him say that that crew was exceptional; that he had passed all his life at sea, but whether before the mast or abaft, whether officer or master, he had never met such a crew, and never should expect to; and that the two officers of the *Alert*, long ago shipmasters, agreed with him that, for intelligence, knowledge of duty and willingness to perform it, pride in the ship, her appearance and sailing, and in absolute reliableness, they never had seen their equal. Especially he spoke of his favorite seaman, French John. John, after a few more years at sea, became a boatman, and kept his neat boat at the end of Granite Wharf, and was ready to take all, but delighted to take any of us of the old *Alert*’s crew, to sail down the harbor. One day Captain Faucon went to the end of the wharf to board a vessel in the stream, and hailed for John. There was no response, and his boat was not there. He inquired of a boatman near, where John was. The time had come that comes to all! There was no loyal voice to respond to the familiar call, the hatches had closed over him, his boat was sold to another, and he had left not a trace behind. We could not find out even where he was buried.
Subsequent to the death of his first wife Mary Isabella Morison during this year, the Reverend James Legge would remarry with the widowed Hannah Mary Johnstone Willetts.


September: The periodic comet Biela, which had an orbital period of 6 years and 9 months but had appeared split apart into two pieces in January 1846, made another appearance. By this time the two halves had moved apart, one part slightly ahead of the other. (It would go quite to pieces during its whip around the sun in this month and this particular comet would not be again detected, upon its anticipated orbital periods in 1859 and 1866.)

While visiting the Reverend Theodore Hamberg in Hong Kong, Issachar J. Roberts came across some documents about the Taiping Rebellion that had broken out in Kwangsi and for the first time learned that its leader was a person he had met and instructed, Hung Hsiu Ch’üan. Well aware that, back home, his Baptist missionary board was ready to dismiss him with “his usefulness to the Christian cause ... seriously questioned,” this opportunistic missionary began to dream a grand redemption:

I have hitherto taken little or no interest in the matter, but henceforward it will be otherwise.... The chief, having been already taught by the missionary, will, I presume, be accessible and teachable, however high his position in the state, which has not been the case hitherto with other high functionaries in China. In this way ... he will learn the truth fully as it is in Jesus, and then co-operating with the missionary in
communicating the same to his people....

I will have millions of stars in my crown!
April 13, Thursday: On a clean and pleasant morning Henry Thoreau walked down as far as Moore’s at 8AM and returned along the hill. In the afternoon he sailed to Bittern Cliff.

Meanwhile a decision was reached to pack John Bowring off to Hong Kong as Governor Sir John Bowring. During his administration there would be a high-handed dispute with the mainland Chinese that would eventuate in the 2d Opium War (1856-1860). Under his administration Chinese citizens in Hong Kong would come to be able to serve as jurors and some would become registered solicitors before the bar of the law (this would not be to suggest, you understand, that he personally was in favor of such developments or did something to enable them). He would, however, help to establish Hong Kong’s 1st commercial public water supply system, and would institute safety regulation of construction projects. Several locales in Hong Kong commemorate his governorship, which developed eastern Wan Chai, a river mouth near Happy Valley and Victoria Harbour, by elongating that river as a canal. Bowrington, a development zone around the estuary of the Wong Nai Chung river, would become the site of “Bowrington Market.”
The Government House, on Upper Albert Road in Hong Kong, was completed.42

August 3, Friday: Castle Garden at the foot of Manhattan Island, with its D-shaped sandstone artillery fort Castle Clinton which had been in use as New-York’s concert hall, was, with the inauguration of the first immigration restrictions,43 leased to the State of New York and recycled into being the Emigrant Lading Depot which would by the year 1890 process some 8,000,000 incoming Americans (approximately two out of every three persons arriving). At this point it had just been surrounded by fill to make it into part of Manhattan Island, and separated off from the open wharves and the rest of Battery Park by a wooden fence.

US forces would, on this and the following two days, engage in battle with pirates near Hong Kong.

Henry Thoreau wrote a note of thanks to Dix & Edwards of Putnam’s Monthly Magazine of American Literature, Science and Art for payment of $35.00 for “The Beach.”

Concord Aug 3¹
1855
Messrs Dix & Edwards
Your check for thirty-five dollars in payment for my article in the August number of Putnam’s Monthly has come duly to hand — for which accept the acknowledgments of
Yrs respectfully
Henry D. Thoreau
PS. Will you please forward the following note to the Editor?

42. Tung Chee-hwa, the newly appointed leader of the Hong Kong autonomous region of China, would refuse to live there because of all the tall buildings which were put in surrounding it, for according to the rules of “wind-water,” these tall buildings block the place’s feng-shui, plus, the sharp side of the Bank of China skyscraper seems to be threatening to cut it like an ax.

43. Before this there had been no restriction upon immigration to the United States of America, other of course than the Constitutional compromise that subsequent to 1808 one would not be permitted to immigrate as a slave.
October 8, Wednesday: While searching for pirates, Chinese officials and soldiers boarded a ship moored in the Pearl River upriver from Hong Kong. The ship was an old Portuguese hull that had been re-rigged as a junk, and had been engaging in the illicit opium traffic. Although the ship’s crew was Chinese, its captain was an Irishman. Although it seems not to have been flying a flag, at an earlier point it had purchased the right to fly the flag of England, an entitlement which its skipper or owners had allowed to expire without renewal. The name of this vessel being the *Arrow*, the war which would ensue, further colonialist fun and games, would therefore be termed by some the “Arrow War,” although in the context of history it is now referred to as the 2d Opium War. This is because the local British officials determined that they would defend this vessel of curious legitimacy as if she were sacred soil: one of the local British officials reported that a local Chinese official had “laughed at me ... threatened me with violence, and I was actually struck one blow.” Clearly this “blow” was an insulting gesture rather than a harmful act, since the Brit did not report being injured in the encounter, but that was considered just as bad by the proud local British officials and so they demanded “an apology for what has taken place, and an assurance that the British flag shall, in future, be respected” and began to reinforce their demand by a six-day general bombardment of Canton harbor, pausing only out of respect for their Lord on the Sabbath. We just cannot allow heathens to get away with their crap like that! American vessels moored in the river, seeing such fun, began to assist with the bombardment, and thus one American
came to be killed by return fire from the shore.
Thomas De Quincey and James Hogg published a pamphlet on China.

Captain “Bully” Haynes took part in a raid by the authorities on a fleet of 30 armed pirate junks preying on Pearl River traffic between Guangzhou, Macau, and Hong Kong, and personally apprehended the pirate leader, Eli Boggs. (Both Haynes and Boggs were United States citizens.)

January: Two overly patriotic employees of Cheong Ah-lum’s bakery (the most heavily patronized bakery in Hong Kong) attempted to poison at one fell swoop all the Westerners in town. They used far too much arsenic, vomiting ensued, and the translator James Legge made a narrow escape. The governor of the colony would compose a hymn of thanksgiving and it would be sung in the local cathedral.

In related news, the British empire fell victim to a successful use of agitprop in India during their replacement of the old military musket by the Enfield rifle which had been used with effectiveness in the Crimea. If the manual of arms for this Enfield required the rifleman to tear off the end of a greased paper cartridge with his teeth. A rumor began to be circulated at the Dum Dum Arsenal outside Calcutta, that these cartridge papers were greased with a mixture of cow fat, cows being sacred to the Hindu soldiers, with pig fat, pigs being anathema to the Moslem soldiers. Well, that rumor might well have been the truth for all we know, but the substance of such a matter really has very little bearing upon the effectiveness of such agitprop. The native soldiers would need to attempt a narrow escape from this spiritual poisoning by appropriate purging.

December 12, Saturday: Aboard the foreign men-of-war moored in the Pearl River off the city of Canton, the Western panjandrums gathered and agreed upon an ultimatum to go to the Chinese, which they composed, they said, in “calm and dignified language.” They gave local officials ten days to capitulate to their list of nonnegotiable demands. Lord Elgin, son of the infamous thief of the statuary of the Parthenon, jotted in his diary “I never felt so ashamed of myself in my life.”
December 29, Tuesday: Canton surrendered to an Anglo-French force, “a scene of great desolation.”
Harry Parkes became the warlord in charge of this Chinese port city.

In Hong Kong, Wang T’ao and A. Wylie prepared Xiguo Tianxue Yuanliu (a translation into Chinese of A HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES).

The Reverend S. Wells Williams, experienced in the art of bringing Christianity to the heathen, had the following “Muscular Christianity” words to offer by way of warning: “We shall get nothing important out of the Chinese unless we stand in a menacing attitude before them. They would grant nothing unless fear stimulated their sense of justice, for they are among the most craven of people, cruel and selfish as heathenism can make men, so we must be backed by force if we wish them to listen to reason.”

Here were these craven cruel selfish heathens who understood only the language of force, in a Hong Kong street in this year with Victoria Peak in the background, per The Illustrated London News:

44. Lord Byron’s curse on the Elgin family had been:
First on the head of him who did this deed
My curse shall light — on him and all his seed;
Without one spark of intellectual fire,
Be all the sons as senseless as the sire!
In India, as a result of a dangerous rebellion, the British government finally dissolved the British East India company and the Moghul Empire and began to rule India directly. Subsequent to the mutiny, Monier Williams would no longer be able to teach Asian languages at the East India Company College.

The Reverend Charles Henry Appleton Dall’s A LECTURE ON TRUE PATRIOTISM IN BENGAL, OR, THE BENGALI AS HE IS, AND AS HE MAY BE.

Thomas De Quincey completed his articles on the Sepoy Mutiny for The Titan.

Having taken over the opium trade as of 1833, in order to increase revenues the British government of India inaugurated a period of “mad expansion” of opium cultivation. Except for land and salt, opium revenues would become its largest source of income. In Britain, meanwhile, proposals were increasingly being made to abolish the opium trade. The medical profession disagreed over the extent of damage caused by opium. Due to lower import duties, an opium high became cheaper than getting drunk on alcohol. The Pharmacy Act of 1868, one of the first laws restricting the sale of such substances, dictated that opiates could only be sold by registered chemists or druggists, but patent medicines are specifically excluded.

The Anglo-Chinese war or Opium War that began in 1856 wound toward an end, with the Treaties of Tientsin. Karl Marx, writing from London for the New-York Tribune, marveled at the opium war, that the “civilized nations of the world” were giving their de-facto blessing to the invasion of China, “a peaceful country, without
previous declaration of war, for an alleged infringement of the fanciful code of diplomatic etiquette.”

The infringements in question were that:

1.) the ambassadors of the outer barbarians had been denied permission to establish a foreign compound within the city limits of the Chinese capital, Beijing,

and

2.) in a Chinese port, a ship had been searched by Chinese authorities for the presence of opium, and that ship had at that time been flying the British “rice flag.”
It is estimated that by 1900 roughly 90,000,000 people in China would have become addicted to the substance in question.

The official translator for the French at negotiations in Tientsin, a father Delamarre, took it upon himself to insert a few words into the Chinese version of the Sino-American, Sino-Russian, Sino-British, and Sino-French treaty being signed on his own behalf, and granted to his Catholics the privilege of purchasing or leasing land in the interior of China. Evidently, nobody noticed that he had added this.

This was Hong Kong strait in this year, depicted from Kowloon side on the Chinese mainland with Victoria Island in the background, per The Illustrated London News:

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Hercules Robinson.

The Reverend James Legge’s The Land of Sinim: A Sermon Preached in the Tabernacle, Moorfields, at the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of the London Missionary Society was published in London by John Snow.

In Hong Kong, the population reached 94,000.

Sir John Bowring’s daughter Emily Aloysia Bowring, a Roman Catholic nun, became the 1st headmistress of the Italian Convent School in Hong Kong (now known as Sacred Heart Canossian College).
The Taiping rebellion or Chinese Civil War drove a number of Chinese to the refuge of the foreign settlement in Shanghai. The white expeditionary troops occupied Peking and looted and torched Yuan-ming-yuan, the Summer Palace. Sino-British, Sino-Russian, and Sino-French Peace Treaties were signed in Peking. “Wah” Frederick Townsend “Wah” Ward organized his little army which would in 1862 receive the name “the Ever Victorious Army,” and would in 1864 be disbanded. Young J. Allen came to China.

From Hong Kong, Wang T’ao was in contact with the leaders of the Taiping Kingdom.
October 18, Thursday: Beginning on October 7th, the foreign devils had been sacking the treasures of the modernistic Summer Palace complex and its associated Yuanmingyuan gardens outside Beijing, China. Among the objects stolen were the bronze heads of some nonfunctional garden fountain statuary, zodiac heads that had been created on commission by the artist Giuseppe Castiglione. Objects they did not consider it worthwhile to steal, they would slash with their bayonets. At this point, in part as punishment for some official having pulled the hair of Harry Parkes and in part to conceal evidence of the looting, at the direct order of Captain Charles George Gordon a series of charges of explosives were distributed through the various palaces and a general conflagration was begun.45 “Throughout the whole of that day and the day following a dense cloud of black and heavy smoke hung over those scenes of former magnificence.”

To get the barbarians to depart from the capitol of the nation, the Chinese government agreed to lease the coastal peninsula of Kowloon, where an army was at the time encamped, along with Stonecutters Island, to the British Crown, “with a view to the maintenance of law and order in and about the harbour of Hong Kong.”

45. Shades of Alexander the Great at Persepolis! Shades of the burning of the great library of Cairo! It had taken a team of 160 scribes eight years to produce seven sets of copies of the 38,304 scholarly volumes which comprised the core of Chinese classical learning — and one of these seven sets was in this Summer Palace, feeding the flames.
H.N. Lay was appointed the Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs.

Foundation of the Peking Language Institute.

The Reverend James Legge’s *The Chinese Classics: With A Translation, Critical And Exegetical Notes, Prolegomena, And Copious Indexes, In Five Volumes*, Volumes 1 and 2 (Hong Kong: Legge; London: Trubner (the series of volumes would continue until 1872).

January 19, Saturday: Its victory in the 2d opium war enabled Britain to take control over the peninsula of the Chinese mainland known as Kowloon, across Victoria Strait from its Hong Kong crown colony. A fence was erected along the width of the new frontier between the peninsula of Kowloon, under the control of outer-barbarians, and the nation of China. It wasn’t exactly any Great Wall, it was eight feet high and it was constructed of bamboo.

There was a controversy over the control and command of a flotilla of warships, known as the Osborn Flotilla, which the Chinese had purchased from England.

Wang T’ao wrote from Hong Kong, under the pseudonym Wang Wan, to a Taiping Christian leader, proposing tactics against the Qing military and suggesting that the westerners were not the enemy of the Taiping Kingdom. He proposed that their real enemy was the Buddhist government in Beijing; if the Taiping army could achieve victory over the Qing army led by Zeng Guofan, then the westerners might side with the Christian side in this ongoing Chinese Civil War (the largest and longest civil war ever fought).

May: Wang T’ao had written, under the pseudonym Wang Wan, to a Taiping Christian leader, proposing tactics against the Qing military and suggesting that the westerners were not the enemy of the Taiping Kingdom. He had proposed that the real enemy of the Chinese Christians was the Buddhist Qing government in Beijing. If the Christian army could achieve victory over the Buddhist army led by Zeng Guofan, then the westerners might side with the Taiping Kingdom. When the Qing army captured Shanghai, this letter fell into the hands of the Qing government and Emperor Tongzhi ordered his arrest. Wang took refuge in the British Consulate of Hong Kong, and would remain there for more than four months.
October: Dr. Samuel Kneeland, Jr. was commissioned surgeon of the 45th Massachusetts Regiment, and would serve in that capacity in New Bern, North Carolina until the regiment was discharged during July 1863.

Captain Edward H. Faucon took charge of a screw-powered steamer, the Montgomery, in a blockade of the harbor of Wilmington, North Carolina.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the globe, in the largest and longest civil war that the world had ever seen, Wang T’ao had written, under the pseudonym Wang Wan, to a Taiping Christian leader, proposing tactics against the Qing military and suggesting that the westerners were not the enemy of the Taiping Kingdom. He had proposed that the real enemy of the Chinese Christians was the Buddhist Qing government in Beijing. If the Christian army could achieve victory over the Buddhist army led by Zeng Guofan, then the westerners might side with the Taiping Kingdom. When the Qing army had captured Shanghai, this letter had fallen into the hands of the Qing government and Emperor Tongzhi had ordered his arrest. Wang had taken refuge in the British Consulate of Hong Kong. At this point four months later, in disguise, he was escorted from the British Consulate and secreted aboard a ship. The Buddhist forces centered on Beijing would be triumphant over the Christian Chinese forces centered on Nanking, and in consequence for the next 22 years he would be in exile from his homeland.
In this year the scholar Wang T’ao came to live in Hong Kong (he would assist the Reverend James Legge in many translations from the Chinese into English).

At the end of the journal entries for this year, Waldo Emerson listed his recent readings in Oriental materials: “Confucius, Book of Poetry, *apud* J. Legge, D’Herbelot, Bibliothèque Orientale; Saadi; Hafiz; Von Hammer Purgstall.” While reading in the James Legge translation, he had jotted into his journal an impression that in reading Confucius he was “reading a better Pascal,” and had declared that this ancient had “anticipated the speech of Socrates, and the Do as be done by, of Jesus.”

46. It seems clear that the source that Emerson consulted in this year for the Chinese “Book of Poetry, *apud* J. Legge,” could not have been any one of the three editions that the Reverend Legge published in book form, for these would not be published until 1871, 1876, and 1879. Emerson must, therefore, have been referring to some earlier effort along this line as published in some local journal such as the *North American Review*. 
The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank was founded.

By this point, the Reverend James Legge and Wang T’ao had completed the translation of Shang Shu and THE BAMBOO BOOK ANNALS. Publication of THE CHINESE CLASSICS: WITH A TRANSLATION, CRITICAL AND EXEGETICAL NOTES, PROLEGOMENA, AND COPIOUS INDEXES, IN FIVE VOLUMES, Volume 3 part 1, Mencius, part 2....

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Richard.

In Hong Kong, visit of Prince Alfred.

In Hong Kong, the population reached 124,000.

At the end of the journal entries for this year, Waldo Emerson listed his recent readings in Oriental materials: “Plotinus; Porphyry; Menu; Confucius; Averroës.”

The Reverend James Legge received his LLD from the University of Aberdeen. He would be the pastor at Union Church, Hong Kong for the following three years, visiting mission stations at Shanghai, Chefoo (Yantai) and Peking (Beijing), and returning to England via Japan and the USA in 1873.

Winter: Wang T’ao returned to Hong Kong.
In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Arthur Kennedy.


The Reverend James Legge left Hong Kong, returning to England via Japan and the USA.

In this year Japan was granting to its subjects religious freedom, and adopting the Gregorian calendar.

February 5: In Hong Kong, Wang T’ao founded *Tsun-wan yat-po* (the Universal Circulating Herald, absolutely the 1st Chinese daily newspaper, of which he would be Editor-in-Chief until 1884, and which would endure until 1947). 47

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir John Pope-Hennessy.

In Hong Kong, the population reached 160,000.

47. Hong Kong journalist Lin Yu-t’ang would refer to Wang T’ao as the “Father of the Chinese Newspaper.”
King Kalakaua of Hawaii visited **Hong Kong**.

In **Hong Kong**, the Governor was Sir George Bowen.

During his 10-year career as Editor-in-Chief of **Hong Kong**’s *Tsun-wan yat-po* or Universal Circulating Herald, Wang T’ao had penned nearly a thousand editorials calling for the reform of the Chinese political system through the adoption of a British-style parliamentary monarchy. He had also been agitating for reform of the educational system by introducing western science to the curriculum, and for the establishment of textile, mining, railway, machinery, and mining industries.

G.W. Hervey’s The Story of Baptist Missions (St. Louis, Missouri). Material pertaining to the Reverend Issachar J. Roberts is to be found on page 512.

In **Hong Kong**, the Governor was Sir William Des Voeux.

In **Hong Kong**, the Victoria Peak tramline opened.
In *Hong Kong*, the population reached 198,000.

In *Hong Kong*, the Governor was Sir William Robinson.

During an outbreak of the bubonic plague in *Hong Kong*, Doctors Shiba Saburo Kitasao and Alexander Yersin discovered the *Yersinia pestis* bacillus to be present both in dead rats and dead humans. A clue!

June: In *Hong Kong*, the Governor was Sir Henry Blake. Britain negotiated a 99-year lease over new territory, on the peninsula of the Chinese mainland across Victoria Strait from its *Hong Kong* crown colony. The terms of this interesting lease obligated Britain to pay nothing. Hmmm.

In *Hong Kong*, the population reached 263,000.
The tombs of Pharaohs Merneptah (1,213 BCE-1,203 BCE) and Thutmes IV (1,399 BCE-1,389 BCE) in the Valley of the Kings (#8 and #43 respectively) were re-excavated by Howard Carter (1874-1939). The mummy of Thutmes IV had been in ancient times relocated to #35, the tomb of Pharaoh Amenhetep II that had been discovered by Victor Loret (1859-1946).

During this year and the next, President Theodore Roosevelt would spend 3 days and nights camping alone with John Muir in Yosemite. Muir went off on a world tour, first visiting Boston and then visiting London, Paris, Berlin, Russia, Finland, Korea, Japan, China, India, Egypt, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, Malaya, Indonesia, Philippines, Hong Kong, and Hawaii.

It must have been interesting for John to visit all the peoples his house guest Teddy had regarded as inferiors! (You knew, of course, that TR was a white racist, right? Teddy had held out from his bully pulpit that African-Americans were “a perfectly stupid race.” “In the mass,” he held, they were “altogether inferior to the whites.” And what about war? Was was merely a way to advance “the clear instinct for race selfishness,” which was a force for the improvement of humanity: “The most ultimately righteous of all wars is a war with savages.”)

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Matthew Nathan.
A typhoon struck Hong Kong, killing 50,000.

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Frederick Lugard.

In Hong Kong, the population reached 436,000.

In this year Orientalist fantasy was under pressure not only from the island fantasies of the likes of Edmund James Banfield but also from reality, with the Nationalist revolution of Sun Yat-sen bringing to its end the Dynasty of Purity (Ch’ing) in China. The impact of this mass movement was being deeply felt in the British crown colony of Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Henry May. The Kowloon-Guangzhou railway was completed. The University of Hong Kong opened.

48. A major financial backer of this Revolution of 1911 in China that overthrew the 6-year-old Last Emperor Henry Pu-yi was General Julian Shakespeare Carr of Durham, North Carolina.
The first feature movie, *Zhuang Zi Tests His Wife*. –Yes, the first feature movie was made not in Hollywood but in Hong Kong.[49]

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Reginald Stubbs.

In Hong Kong, the population reached 600,000.

In Hong Kong, a Seamen’s strike.

In Hong Kong, a general strike.

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Cecil Clementi.

In Hong Kong, the population reached 840,000.

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir William Peel.

49. Please pardon me for molesting your sense of reality.
In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Andrew Caldecott.
Lin Yu-t’ang at this point became acquainted for the first time with the writings of Henry Thoreau, and created THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING (NY: Reynal & Hitchcock):50

50. Lin added a footnote of explanation to this: “Thoreau is the most Chinese of all American authors in his entire view of life, and being a Chinese, I feel much akin to him in spirit. I discovered him only a few months ago, and the delight of the discovery is still fresh in my mind. I could translate passages of Thoreau into my own language and pass them off as original writing by a Chinese poet, without raising any suspicion.” But see comments on the Taoist concept of tzu-jan.
“A richly, enjoyably wise and suggestive book.”
— The New York Times

The Importance of Living

The Classic Bestseller
That Introduced Millions
to the Noble Art of Leaving
Things Undone

Lin Yutang
In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Geffry Northcote.

In Hong Kong, the population reached 1,600,000.

July 18, Thursday: A Czechoslovakian government-in-exile was set up in London under President Edvard Benes and Prime Minister Jan Srámek.

Francis Poulenc was demobilized from the French army.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced the terms of a temporary agreement for the stoppage of the thread of war supplies going into China by way of Burma and by way of Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, the Governor (for most of the year at least) was Sir Mark Young.

December 8, Monday: Croatia declared war on the United States and the United Kingdom. Soviet forces retook Tikhvin, 180 kilometers southeast of Leningrad. Führer Adolf Hitler announced the suspension of military operations against the Soviet Union due to severe weather conditions.

A German policy of killing Jews by gas was put into effect. 700 Jews from Kulmhof (Chelmo), 60 kilometers northeast of Lodz, were taken by van (with the exhaust system hooked into the van) to a nearby wood. By the time they arrived, they were dead. From this day on, Jews from the surrounding district were daily transported to Kulmhof for the same purpose. This was the first death camp to begin operations. The region would be emptied of its 360,000 Jews.

This was the day on which the US Pacific fleet had been ordered to steam out of Pearl Harbor to seek battle engagement with the Japanese fleet, but the hulls of many capital vessels of this US fleet were resting on a bed of mud in the warm shallow waters of Pearl Harbor, awaiting recovery and salvage efforts, and oil slicks were glistening upon the surfaces of these waters.

After Japanese soldiers made a quick lunch of the defenses of the British crown colony of Hong Kong, Governor Mark Young was restricted to his quarters in the Peninsula Hotel. British civilians were rounded up and some 20,000 Chinese per month would be deported to the mainland.

US Marines and other Allied nationals were interned at Shanghai, Beijing, and Tientsin.
Striking Force, Asiatic Fleet (Rear Admiral W.A. Glassford) departed Iloilo, Philippine Islands for Makassar Strait, Netherlands East Indies.

The river gunboat *Wake* (PR-3) was surrendered to Japanese at Shanghai after an attempt to scuttle it failed (The *Wake* would be the sole United States ship to surrender during this war).

The Potomac River Naval Command, with its headquarters at Washington DC, and the Severn River Naval Command, with its headquarters at Annapolis, Maryland, were established.

The SS *President Harrison*, en route to evacuate Marines from Chingwangtao, China, ran aground at Sha Wai Shan, China, and was captured by the Japanese.

Japanese aircraft bombed Guam, Wake, Hong Kong, Singapore, and the Philippine Islands. Extensive damage was inflicted on United States Army aircraft at Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

Japan interned United States Marines and nationals at Shanghai and Tientsin, China.

A United States naval vessel was sunk by a horizontal bomber: the minesweeper *Penguin* (AM-33), near Guam in the Marianas Islands.

Japan invaded Thailand, which capitulated.

Japanese troops landed unopposed at Victoria Point, the southern tip of Burma.

Japanese landed on Bataan Island north of Luzon, Philippine Islands, and on the east coast of the Malay Peninsula. (At some point during their occupation of the Philippines, on Luzon, 14 Filipino resistance fighters would be forced to surrender because they ran out of ammunition. Other POWs were required to dig 14 foxholes for them and were then executed. These resistance fighters were forced into the foxholes and earth shovelled around them and stamped down, until only their heads and necks were above ground, so that the Japanese officer could use them for his sword practice. Some of the soldiers having defecated onto banana
leaves, shit was stuffed into their mouths with considerable hilarity before the officer drew his sword.

The Chelmno death camp near Lodz, Poland opened for business.

In a conversation with Rosenman, one of his speechwriters, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke of Führer Adolf Hitler as his first target, and “feared that a great many Americans would insist that we make the war in the Pacific at least equally important with the war against Hitler.” He was, however, saying nothing of the sort to the American people.

Instead we were receiving, on this day that will live in infamy, a lie that would send more than 16 million US citizens to war:

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:
Yesterday, December 7, 1941 -a date which will live in infamy-the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that Nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a form reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hit of war or armed attack.
It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government had deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace. The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.
Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night the Japanese attacked Midway Island. Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending through out the Pacific area.
facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our Nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again. Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounded determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

**DECLARATION OF WAR**
The British declared war upon Japan. Declarations of war upon Japan were issued by Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, the Free French, and Panama. Mexico, Colombia, Belgium, and Egypt did not declare war, but did sever diplomatic relations with Japan. (The USSR would neither declare war upon Japan nor sever diplomatic relations, until that nation lay prostrate and devastated in the very last moments of the hostilities.)
Pearl Harbor

I

Here are the fireworks. The men who conspired and labored
To embroil this republic in the wreck of Europe have got their bargain,—
And a bushel more. As for me, what can I do but fly the national flag from the top of the tower,—
America has neither race nor religion nor its own language: nation or nothing.

Stare, little tower,
Confidently across the Pacific, the flag on your head. I built you at the other war’s end,
And the sick peace; I based you on living rock, granite on granite; I said,
“Look, you gray stones:
Civilization is sick: stand awhile and be quiet and drink the sea-wind, you
will survive
Civilization.”

But now I am old, and O stones be modest. Look, little tower:
This dust blowing is only the British Empire; these torn leaves flying
Are only Europe; the wind is the plane-propellers; the smoke is Tokyo.
The child with the butchered throat
Was too young to be named. Look no farther ahead.

II

The war that we have carefully for years provoked
Catches us unprepared, amazed and indignant. Our warships are shot
Like sitting ducks and our planes like nest-birds, both our coasts ridiculously panicked,
And our leaders make orations. This is the people
That hopes to impose on the whole planetary world
An American peace.

(Oh, we’ll not lose our war: my money on amazed Gulliver
And his horse-pistols.)

Meanwhile our prudent officers
Have cleared the coast-long ocean of ships and fishing-craft, the sky of
planes, the windows of light; these clearings
Make a great beauty. Watch the wide sea; there is nothing human; its gulls
have it. Watch the wide sky
All day clean of machines; only at dawn and dusk one military hawk passes
High on patrol. Walk at night in the black-out,
The firefly lights that used to line the long shore
Are all struck dumb; shut are the shops, mouse-dark the houses. Here the
prehuman dignity of night
Stands, as it was before and will be again. Oh beautiful
Darkness and silence, the two eyes that see God; great staring eyes.

— Robinson Jeffers

At the home of Helen Clarke Grimes, in Spragueville near Smithfield northwest of Providence, Rhode Island, as in many homes in America, the radio was being kept constantly on, not for the soap operas that filled the daytime airwaves, but for the sporadic news flashes about the war situation. Helen made notes for her diary:

Dec. 8 — This Monday morning we face a turquoise and coral sunrise with the sick realization that we are at war, and that the radio bulletins are not something by Orson Welles.
We had turned the radio off at eleven o’clock last night, worn
dull by hours of incessant listening, and were about to go to
bed when Charlie and Harriett who had spent the day at his
mother’s, came home with two copies of the War Extra.
We talked until twelve, soberly with no fine frenzy to fire us.
Constance and Oliver phoned, but there was nothing to say.
It is 8AM and the news is pouring in over the radio.
Hongkong has been bombed, and there is a report of 200 casualties.
suffered at Singapore. Ford Wilkins in Manila says there has been no violence in that city as yet. He tells of Japanese landing on some parts of the Phillipines, of the round-up and internment of Japanese in Manila; of the evacuation of Manila, and of a naval battle reported in the Pacific.
A Washington commentator says our losses are far more serious (in Hawaii) than given out. Hangers have been flattened, planes destroyed, there has been torpedo damage - altogether a heavy naval defeat.
At night the lights burned in embassy windows along Massachusetts Avenue [in Washington DC].
In Providence, the State Guard has been mobilized, and roving guards placed at industrial plants, at the airport, and along the waterfront.
On the West Coast few went to bed last night, excitement running high the thoroughfares crowded.
Charles Collingwood in a report from London, speaks of grey parliament buildings, and of Churchill in his black Homburg hat. Arthur Crock, in writing of the American reaction in the "N.Y. Times," says one can almost hear national unity clicking into place.
This is a grim day. Here, in one of the smallest communities in the smallest state in the union, the stark branches of the apple trees are bleak and cold against a lowering sky.
Mother is having an asthma attack.

Twelve o'clock noon — The sun is out, the sky a thin wash of blue.
Japanese planes are only forty miles from Manila.

12:30 — President Roosevelt spoke to the joint session of House and Senate, a short address of five hundred words, at the end of which he asked "that Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday Dec. 7th, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire."
The “President Pierce” reported to have been torpedoed, was the first dollar liner on which Oliver sailed to the Orient.
A news flash breaks into a concert of chamber music to tell of an air raid now in progress over Manila.

2:30 — The Phillipines direct. At 1:30 a terrific air attack had begun over Manila. It is thought that twenty-five American bombers have been destroyed. As the announcer broadcasts there is the sound of Japanese planes overhead.
An N.B.C. announcer on the roof of an eight story building reports a great fire which is destroying the gasoline supply dump on Nichols Field, a base airfield in the heart of Manila.
He is panting from his run up eight flights of stairs, the elevator boy having deserted his post.
The stars were shining over the city and a bright moon rides directly over head. Galvanized iron rooftops stand out like mirrors, the black-out rendered futile by the moon.

3:30 PM — Prime Minister Churchill has delivered a solemn speech in a tired, husky voice.

4:30 PM — The tires of the news boy’s bicycle grit on the gravel
as he wheels up to the door. There is a thud as the “Providence Bulletin” hits the door. Its headlines have no power to shock those already benumbed by the radio.

9:35 PM — There is a report from the “San Francisco News Chronicle” that fifty unidentified planes have been sighted flying from the south west toward San Francisco. The city is blacked-out to a depth of ten miles.

10:00 PM — An air raid siren is blowing in San Francisco. All radio stations but one are off the air. Planes are said to have been seen off the Golden Gate. The man in the street is wondering if this is an air raid test of the real thing.

A copy of the November "Atlantic Monthly" lies on the table, the back page given over to a vacation ad: “Hawaii. Standing two thousand miles out in the gentle latitudes of the South Pacific ...”

San Francisco motorists are driving without headlights. The all-clear signal has been given. False alarm or practice work-out?

11:00 PM — A summary of to-day’s events — and so ends the first day of this war. We go to bed wondering why, when for months there has been a strong possibility of war with Japan, our forces were caught napping.

Will close this with two lines from Shakespeare. King John, I think.

“For when you should be told they do prepare
The tidings come that they are all arrived.”

It goes on: “O where hath our intelligence been drunk? Where hath it slept?” Oh, where indeed!

December 18, Thursday: The State Department announced that Rear Admiral F.J. Horne and French High Commissioner at Martinique, French West Indies, Admiral Robert, had reached an agreement neutralizing the French Caribbean possessions.

The British Parliament passed the National Service Act. Every adult male under 50 and every adult unmarried woman under 30 was liable for national service of some kind. The US federal Congress passed the First War Powers Act.

Finally some Japanese troops landed on Hong Kong Island — which meant that as soon as they had popped off a few seemly rounds, the British defenders would seize their opportunity to begin to wave the white flag they had ready and waiting (nobody was crazy enough to want to get killed in a lost cause). The invasion force was under the command of Lt. General Takashi Sakai (who would after the war be executed in Nanking for atrocities he had allowed these troops to perpetrate).

Japanese naval vessel sunk:
• Destroyer Shinonome, by mine, Miri, Borneo

World War II
December 25, Thursday: Admiral T.C. Hart turned over all remaining naval forces in the Philippine Islands to Rear Admiral F.W. Rockwell, and departed by submarine for Java to establish a new headquarters of the US Asiatic Fleet. Manila was announced to be an open city.

Japanese planes bombed Rangoon.

Japanese forces captured Kuching, capital of the British possession of Sarawak on Borneo.

The Japanese came ashore at Jolo, Philippine Islands.

Japanese forces captured the Philippine islands of Tawi Tawi and Jolo in the Sulu group.

Japanese forces attacked British installations at Kuching, Sarawak.

United States Submarine Sealion (SS-195), damaged on December 10th off Cavite in the Philippine Islands, was disposed of by our forces.

Allied troops reached Benghazi and Agedabia (Ajdabiya) in Libya.

Soviet troops were put ashore on the Kerch peninsula, Crimea.


The 32-square-mile island of Victoria which we know as Hong Kong had been formally ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Nanking in 1842. At this point the Japanese troops of General Tanaka were overriding the colonial garrison of British, Canadian, Indian, and other troops there, some 11,000 Allied soldiers. At Eucliff prisoners were shot or bayoneted, with some beheadings, and 53 bodies roped together were rolled down the cliff. On Christmas morning at St. Stephen’s College, where 96 wounded soldiers had taken shelter, the head medic met some 200 drunken Japanese at the door. “You can’t come in here” he advised. “This is a hospital.” Dr. George Black was shot in the head with a rifle, and as the soldiers passed his corpse and came into the ward, they repeatedly plunged their bayonets into his body. While the nurses stood helplessly, the Japanese began ripping bandages off the wounded soldiers and plunging their bayonets into the soldiers’ wounds. At the end of half an hour of these boy/boy games, 56 of these 96 wounded soldiers had been shot to death. The nurses were led away for some boy/girl fun, and then the surviving patients and staff were made to stack the bodies and bloodied mattresses outside, along with smashed-up college desks and cupboards, in preparation for a huge funeral pyre. Over at the Jockey Club in Happy Valley a similar scene was going down, and to a lesser extent this sort of thing was happening at various other locations throughout the colony.
January 22, Thursday: Incidental music to Pogodin’s play The Kremlin Chimes by Aram Khachaturian was performed for the initial time, in Saratov.

William Schuman’s Symphony no.4 was performed for the initial time, in Cleveland.

German forces took Agedabia (Ajdabiya) in Libya.


A company of 161 Australian and Indian POWs had been interned in a large wooden building at Parit Sulong in Malaysia. In the late afternoon they were ordered by the Japanese to assemble at the rear of a row of damaged shops nearby, the pretext being a promise of medical treatment and food, those who were able to do so carrying the wounded. When these POWs were sitting or lying at this assembly point, however, out of the back rooms of these wrecked shops three machine-guns opened fire on them. When the firing ceased, the Japanese bayoneted those bodies still showing signs of life. To dispose of the bodies, the row of shops was blown up and the debris bulldozed into a pile, on top of which the corpses were placed. After 60 gallons of gasoline had been splashed on the pile, a flaming torch was thrown on. By midnight the pile had reduced itself to two feet of gray ash. (The perpetrator, Lieutenant-General Takuma Nishimura, would be convicted by a British military tribunal of having commanded unrelated massacres in Singapore and would be sentenced on April 2, 1947 to life imprisonment. After serving four years in prison, he would be in process of being transferred to Tokyo to serve out the balance of this life sentence when the ship carrying him would stop briefly at Hong Kong and the Australian military police would use the opportunity to seize him there and return him to Manus Island for another trial, this one before an Australian military court. He would hang on June 11, 1951.)

The following headline appeared in The Los Angeles Times:

**REPRESENTATIVE FORD WANTS ALL COAST JAPS IN CAMPS.**
October 1, Wednesday: The Red Army brought the German advance in the Caucasus to a halt.

In the United States, fuel oil rationing began in 17 eastern states. A nationwide speed limit of 35 miles per hour went into effect for civilian vehicles.

Kurt Weill met Bertolt Brecht in California, for the initial time since 1935.

The Lisbon Maru, a Japanese transport vessel carrying 1,816 British and Canadian prisoners of war from Hong Kong, was torpedoed by mistake by the US submarine Grouper off the Chinese coast.

The prisoners were contained in three holds which soon became foul with the stench of sweat, excreta and vomit. Men lost consciousness through lack of fresh air and extreme heat. On top deck were some 2,000 Japanese military men on their way home to Japan. At 7 o’clock in the morning, the torpedo struck, severely damaging the ship but causing no casualties among the prisoners. Soon a Japanese ship came alongside and took on board all the Japanese soldiers but none of the prisoners. The Lisbon Maru was then taken in tow heading for Shanghai, but some hours later the ship, now low in the water, began to sink by the stern. Prisoners in Number 3 hold were unfortunately below the waterline and now beyond rescue. Some prisoners in the other two holds managed to break free but were shot down as they emerged. Another four Japanese ships appeared on the scene and some escaped prisoners, swimming in the water, managed to reach the dangling ropes and started to climb aboard only to be kicked back into the water when within a few inches from the deck. Eventually, most of the surviving prisoners were taken on board the four ships and taken to Shanghai. A few however, managed to swim away and were rescued by Chinese fishermen and taken to a group of small islands nearby. At Shanghai, a roll call accounted for 970 men, a total of 846 had perished. Of the 970 survivors, some 200 died during their first winter in the Japanese camps.51
51. At a first order of approximation there seems to be a remarkable similarity between fighting at sea and feeding fish.
April 20, Tuesday: La Capitaine Fracasse, a film with music by Arthur Honegger, was shown for the initial time, in Paris.

1,166 Jews were deported from the Netherlands to Auschwitz.

The *Sidi-Bel-Abbes*, a French steamship of 4,392 tons, was torpedoed near Oran about 10 miles north of the Habibas Islands.

On board were some 1,130 Senegalese soldiers being transported from Casablanca to Oran. 611 died while 520 managed to float long enough to be picked up by British naval escorts.

The submarine *Runner* (SS-275) laid mines near Hong Kong.
August 30, Thursday: The Royal Navy reached Hong Kong.

Byelorussia and Syria ratified the Charter of the United Nations.

General Douglas MacArthur arrived in Japan. Landings by the occupation forces began in the Tokyo Bay area, spearheaded by the 4th Marines, under cover of the guns of the 3rd Fleet plus Naval and Army aircraft. The surrender of the Yokosuka Naval Base was accepted by Rear Admiral R.B. Carney and Rear Admiral O.C. Badger and a headquarters for the Commander 3rd Fleet was established there.

John R. Kellam’s and Agnes Carol Zens Kellam’s first child, Susan Kellam, was born on the couple’s 1st wedding anniversary.

When Carol came back from Toledo, to Washington to live with her mother up on River Road NW, she returned to attend Friends Meeting in Washington. As soon as they knew she was back, they welcomed her very warmly and asked her what she needed and so on. The baby was imminent, due in August, which was almost eight months after I went into prison. She didn’t have a crib yet, and suddenly a crib appeared, having been shipped in for her by various younger and older Friends from Florida Avenue Meeting who chipped in. There were many other ways in which Friends helped Carol all the way through that period and beyond and until I got home. Even beyond that, they helped to get me settled. They found that another member, Frederick Libby, could use another employee in the National Council for Prevention of War. He was one of the most active members in the ministry to that meeting. In fact he spoke too often! He was just full of feelings and ideas and ways of trying further to get wars put into the background of history. His office had been right across Eighteenth Street from the State Department Office which is now the Executive Office Building of the President. So they had several big posters displayed in rotation in the windows and new ones coming out with lettering large enough to be read from the windows of the US Department of State. The staff realized that even with the war going on, here was this little pacifist agency continuing to work to get some improvements in the world that would let wars be less likely or obsolete. There were some hotheads who would take various means and occasionally destructive means, letting that organization know that they didn’t approve because everybody had to be for the war. While we were in the war it was only the people with adverse political ideas that would be so stubborn as to say that the war was bad. And such a “good war” was going on!
September 16, Sunday: As officers of the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong lined up in Government House (watched by three commandos with their fingers on the triggers of their Tommy guns) to hand over their swords, and as warships in Victoria Strait conducted a 21-gun salute—the 610,000 residents of the British colony all holding their breaths at the same time—a pipe band of the Royal Marines struck up the British national anthem: “Rotate the players, boys, continue this game....”

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Alexander Grantham.

October: The Chinese Kuomintang or Nationalists fled to Taiwan. While, in Tiananmen Square in central Beijing, Mao Tse-tung was declaring the foundation of a People’s Republic of China (the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics would aid in the formation), refugees from the mainland were voting with their feet by surging across the border and inundating the British crown colony of Hong Kong. Better the foreign oppressor, they reasoned, than one of their homegrown variety!

The Chinese Communists would seal the border (it is said that the collective sigh of relief breathed out by the colonial administrators in the Central district on Victoria Island blew the leaves and blossoms off an entire row of Bauhinia trees).

In Hong Kong, the population reached 2,000,000.

August 17, Thursday: Chinese shore batteries fired on a British destroyer as it approached Hong Kong. The destroyer returned fire. No damage was reported.

A papal decree, Humani generis, attacking existentialism and various scientific theories, was promulgated by the Vatican.

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were indicted by a federal grand jury in New York on charges of conspiracy to steal the nation’s atomic secrets.
In Hong Kong, a UN embargo on trade with China.

In Hong Kong, there were riots on Kowloon side.

The Chinese refugee Yip Man begins teaching wing chun in Hong Kong. Since many of Yip’s students were restaurant workers, his methods soon spread throughout the world. While Yip’s most famous student was the Chinese-American actor Bruce Lee, he was not Yip’s best. (When Lee visited Hong Kong in 1961 to show Yip Man how much his martial arts had improved while in the United States, he found, in the words of student James DeMile, that “his progress was zip.... He could hit the good Wing Chun men maybe once out of every three times they could hit him.”) Yip’s better students included his son Chun.

In Hong Kong, a public housing program (sorry, programme) was begun. “Live upstairs, not uphill!”

In Hong Kong, a wave of immigrants from mainland China.

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir Robert Black.
In Hong Kong, the Kai Tak airport extension opened.

In Hong Kong, the population reached 3,000,000.

In Hong Kong, another influx of Chinese immigrants as the “Great Leap Forward” agenda came to an end.

May 17, Thursday: In an effort to halt the influx of refugees as China’s “Great Leap Forward” came to its unfortunate end, Hong Kong authorities began constructing a new barrier along its land border (an estimated 50,000 refugees had entered the colony since May 1st).

Dutch forces shot down a plane carrying Indonesian paratroopers near Fakfak, Netherlands New Guinea.

Concert for Eight for flute, clarinet, mandolin, guitar, accordion, percussion, piano and double bass by Roberto Gerhard was performed for the initial time, in London.

Traversée op.393 for chorus by Darius Milhaud to words of Verlaine was performed for the initial time, in Cork.

The 3d Marine Expeditionary Unit landed to support Thailand during a threat of Communist pressure from outside (by July 30th these 5000 Marines would be withdrawn).

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir David Trench.
August 4, Tuesday: The bodies of James E. Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were uncovered by FBI agents nine kilometers west of Philadelphia, Mississippi (these three young civil rights workers had gone missing on the night of June 21st after being released by the local police).

The American press jumped on the reports that had become available, and although no actual journalists had been on board either of the destroyers, began to embellish the second “attack” off the coast of North Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin with spectacular eyewitness accounts. Although immediately in the government there were doubts concerning the validity of this second attack on our destroyers in “international waters,” at least among the levelheaded, the Joint Chiefs of Staff strongly recommended that the US conduct a retaliatory bombing raid against North Vietnam, and President Lyndon Baines Johnson, being after all merely yet another cowboy from Texas, assented.

The USS Constellation, visiting Hong Kong on a regularly scheduled R&R port visit, scrambled to sail immediately and began launching strikes against North Vietnamese vessels and bases. For the next eight years, the Connie would return to the South China Sea for a total of seven combat cruises, conducting air strikes against heavily fortified North Vietnamese positions, engaging naval targets and shooting down enemy aircraft. The first American aces of the war, Lieutenant Randall Cunningham and Lieutenant Junior Grade Willie Driscoll of Fighter Attack Squadron 96, flew off the Constellation’s decks. Their success came during the ship’s 7th WESTPAC, its 6th combat cruise. For its actions in Southeast Asia, the Constellation would be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Oil facilities and naval targets were attacked by 64 fighter bombers of the US Navy, two of which got shot down. In a midnight TV appearance an hour after the attack began, the President assured the American people that “Our response for the present will be limited and fitting.” Because what he was seeking was a spreading of the conflict, a wider war, he went “We Americans know, although others appear to forget, the risk of spreading conflict. We still seek no wider war.” The Vietnamese took their first American airman prisoner of war, Lieutenant Everett Alvarez of San Jose, California, to an internment center in Hanoi, later to be dubbed the “Hanoi Hilton” by the nearly 600 American airmen who would become long-term prisoners of war there.

Hey, hey, LBJ!

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Hong Kong functioned as a rest and recreation center (oh, all right, centre) for US troops.

The “fugitive from justice” Robert F. Williams and his wife relocated from Cuba to China, where they would (it goes without saying) be treated with great consideration.
In Hong Kong’s New Territories, the Lion Rock tunnel opened.

Bruce Lee appeared on a short-lived television series called The Green Hornet. Because some influential producers refused to believe that North American audiences would ever identify with an Asian hero, Lee could not get starring roles. He returned to Hong Kong, where he met Raymond Chow of Golden Harvest, who was starting to use hand-to-hand fights instead of swordplay in his action films. The result would be a series of low-budget “chop-socky” flicks including The Big Boss and Way of the Dragon. While the fighting techniques shown in these movies was more spectacular than practical, the anti-authoritarian themes appealed to working-class audiences everywhere and the result was incredible box-office success.

In Hong Kong, pro-Communist riots.

August 20, Sunday: The Chinese government gave Britain an ultimatum, to restore three pro-Communist newspapers in Hong Kong.

Heavy fighting began around Ore, east of Lagos, between Nigerian federal troops and Biafran rebels.

The UFO prophet George Van Tassel, who had been contacted by an alien named Ashtar, had passed along the information that on this day would begin the third woe of the Apocalypse. Basically, the southeastern US was going to be destroyed by a Soviet nuclear attack. (Alnor, William M. UFO CULTS AND THE NEW MILLENNIUM. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Books, 1998, page 145)

In Hong Kong, the population reached 4,000,000.
In **Hong Kong**, the Governor was Sir Murray MacLehose.

Spice trading with **China** was reopened as the US ended its 21-year embargo.

In **Hong Kong**, the first cross-harbour tunnel opened.

Warner Brothers introduced **Hong Kong**-style kung fu movies to Hollywood by creating a movie called *Return of the Dragon* and a TV series called *Kung Fu*. Bruce Lee starred in the movie, and auditioned for the starring role in the TV series. He was turned down for the TV role because the producer, Jerry Thorpe, didn’t think he spoke English well enough. Dancer David Carradine (whom Chuck Norris said could do martial arts about as well as Norris could act) would get the role.

In **Hong Kong**, the first New Town was completed.

In **Hong Kong**, the Anti-corruption commission began its operations.

March 26, Friday: **Lin Yu-t'ang** died in **Hong Kong**.
In **Hong Kong**, the Mass Transit railway opened.

January 19, Friday: John N. Mitchell (former Attorney General and Watergate figure) was released on parole from federal prison.

**Hong Kong** authorities temporarily accepted 3,383 boat people from **Vietnam**.

Israeli forces struck at Palestinian terrorist camps in Lebanon, killing 40.

A million people demonstrated in Teheran against the government of Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar and for the return of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

In a winter full of labor disputes, British truck drivers ended a strike after winning 17%-20% wage increases.

In **Hong Kong**, the population reached 5,200,000.

**Japan**’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of considerably more than one billion dollars for this year was about 40% of the USA’s GDP.

In **Hong Kong**, the Governor was Sir Edward Youde.

December 19, Wednesday: The British pledged that they would abandon the people of their crown colony of **Hong Kong** to the tender mercies of the People’s Republic of **China** under a “one country, two systems” principle as of July 1, 1997. In this Sino-British Joint Declaration the communists reciprocally pledged to try, for the succeeding 50 years, not to interfere with individual freedom of expression to the extent of killing an economic goose that was laying golden eggs.
In Hong Kong, the first elected members to the Legislative Council.

In Hong Kong, the Governor was Sir David Wilson.

June 3, Saturday: In the early morning, unarmed Chinese soldiers attempt to clear Tienanmen Square without using deadly force. They were blocked by civil disobedience demonstrators before they reached the square. They withdrew. This “victory” emboldened the protesters and hundreds of thousands of civilians poured into the square.

At 2PM, police and troops fired tear gas and begin attacking civilians in Tienanmen Square.

At 4PM, troops and civilians exchanged flying missiles, mostly bricks, near the Great Hall of the People.

At 10PM, Chinese army units advanced on Tienanmen Square, firing on anyone who attempted to detain them or who openly opposed them. Perhaps thousands were killed.

Two weeks of ethnic riots began in Uzbekistan.

Iran’s paramount ruler the Ayatollah Ruollah Khomeini died in a Teheran hospital.

France announced a ban on the importation of ivory.

Incidental music to Pushkin’s play A Feast in Time of Plague by Alfred Schnittke was performed for the initial time, in Taganka Theater, Moscow.
June 4, Sunday: The final day of a series of pro-democracy civil disobedience events around Tiananmen Square in central Beijing that had begun on April 14th. The Chinese government displayed the warmth it felt toward democracy. Most of the killing took place some three miles to the west of the square, out of which the student demonstrators had peaceably marched. Regarding this, perhaps mistakenly, as the clearest possible sort of warning of what was to come after the July 1, 1997 re-colonization of Hong Kong by the PRC, educated and well-to-do Chinese there began using all avenues at their disposal to emigrate to other safer locations (actually, the PRC doesn’t ever molest Hong Kongers because of how badly this would play in Taiwan).

At 1AM, clashes began between Chinese army units surrounding Tienanmen Square and protesters. Troops fired into crowds, killing hundreds. Civilians set police vehicles on fire and lynched soldiers they managed to capture.

At 5AM, as thousands of students began to exit Tienanmen Square peacefully, army units attacked with tanks.

At 7:40AM, the Chinese government declared it was in control of Tienanmen Square.

Soviet troops were dispatched to Uzbekistan to quell violence.

President Ali Khamenei replaced Ruollah Khomenei as Faghi of Iran.

The Arab League truce in Beirut broke down as fighting begins again.

In free elections in Poland, Solidarity-backed candidates won 99 of 100 seats in the new Senate. They won a majority of contested seats in the Sejm but 65% of the seats had been guaranteed to the Communist Party.

Monologue for viola and string orchestra by Alfred Schnittke was performed for the initial time, in Bonn.

“Osten” from the cycle Die Stücke der Windrose for small orchestra by Mauricio Kagel was performed for the initial time, in the Rathaus, Aachen.

June 30, Monday, midnight: After waiting while the ship carrying the last British governor of the crown colony of Hong Kong disappeared entirely over the Pacific horizon at approximately midnight, the People’s Republic of China displayed its colonialist identity with Great Britain and the fundamental antipathy for democracy and local rule and lust for prosperity and privilege in which it shares fully with its sister colonizer by launching an overwhelmingly immense display of fireworks in the Victoria Strait.
July 1, Tuesday, midnight: Hong Kong reverted to China after 156 years of British rule. It became the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. At dawn, 4,000 Chinese troops entered Hong Kong, on their best behavior.

Heaven Earth Mankind (Symphony 1997) for cello, Bianzhong Bells, children’s chorus, cd player and orchestra by Tan Dun was performed for the initial time, in Hong Kong, directed by the composer.

Concerto for clarinet and orchestra op.82 by Robin Holloway was performed for the initial time, in King’s School, Canterbury.

Diódia—String Quartet no.3 by John Tavener was performed for the initial time, in West Cork, Ireland.

May: Four pieces of inconsequential cultural bric-a-brac that had been looted by French and British troops before the torching or the Old Summer Palace on the outskirts of Beijing in 1860 were offered at auction in Hong Kong by their present possessors. A bronze monkey head and a bronze ox head were auctioned off for $16,000,000HK (roughly US$2M), and a bronze tiger head fetched $15,400,000HK. These figures had been spouts in an attractive and/or grandiloquent zodiac calendar fountain in the garden of the palace. The attitude of the government of the People’s Republic of China had been that such “cultural treasures” should be confiscated, rather than paid for, since they helped define what it is to be Chinese, so when these private parties who had bought the looted items allegedly in order to make them available to the nation turned out to be having difficulties in raising the requisite millions within the auction deadlines, the PRC expected the government of the Hong Kong Special Autonomous Region to pony up the cash. The activity was analogized to a hypothetical auctioning, in Tel Aviv, of Jewish art treasures looted by the Nazis during WWII, with the proceeds going to the current “possessors” of the loot. The newspapers speculated that this ponying up of cash would be considered to be “a suitable punishment” for the “one China two systems” officials who had been legitimating this fencing of stolen goods as an exercise in “free enterprise capitalism.” It “added insult to injury,” even if it did mean that these loose pieces of bric-a-brac would henceforward be dusted with great regularity. The auction house, Sotheby’s, issued a public statement, declaring that it was in fact “extremely sensitive to stolen property issues in China.” It characterized its auction as “legal.”
December 17, Tuesday: At the four-gate pagoda on the grounds of a monastery in Shandong province, facing in the four cardinal directions, had been four massive imperturbable seated statues of the Akshobhya Buddha, created during the year 611 CE.

In 1997 the Buddha facing east, the best preserved of the four, had been twice assaulted by a gang who swaddled the head in blankets and attempted to cut it free with a diamond saw. On their 2nd attempt they had succeeded in knocking the head from the torso with a sledgehammer, but by the time the Chinese police caught with these people, the imperturbable 159-pound head was nowhere to be found, presumably having been spirited out of the country via Hong Kong. Several local government officials had become suddenly unemployed and their ringleader had been packed off to prison for life, which in China, which has a plenty of people, actually does mean for-life-and-be-grateful-we-didn’t-just-shoot-you-in-the-back-of-your-neck-and-harvest-your-warm-kidneys. Earlier this year the head had turned up when it had been presented as a gift to a 73-year-old Buddhist master named Sheng-yen, the leader of the Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association on the island of Taiwan. The master, suspicious, asked Lin Bao Yao of the Taipei National University of Arts to check out the provenance of this gift, and caused it to be returned to the four-gate pagoda at Shandong monastery. On this day, with appropriate ceremony, the imperturbable head was reconnected with its torso by means of an iron rod down the neck.
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“It’s all now you see. Yesterday won’t be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago.”

- Remark by character “Garin Stevens” in William Faulkner’s INTRUDER IN THE DUST

Prepared: November 20, 2013
This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, upon someone’s request we have pulled it out of the hat of a pirate that has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot “Laura” (depicted above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of data modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture. This is data mining. To respond to such a request for information, we merely push a button.
Commonly, the first output of the program has obvious deficiencies and so we need to go back into the data modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and do a recompile of the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary "writerly" process which you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge. Place your requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.