Sir George Staunton of Leigh Park
His Life and Times

Portrait of Sir George Staunton at the age of 56 by Sir George Hayter, 1837

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1792 – The Embassy from this country to China has the advantage, as every public undertaking should, of much deliberate and laborious preparation.

Among other circumstances, the provision of interpreters should be noticed. Sir George Staunton had heard, that some Chinese, brought over by the French missionaries, were, last summer, in an Italian convent, to which they had gone from France. He went over to Italy himself; discovered their residence; and obtained leave of the Pope to bring them to England. Two of them are now in his house in Harley-street, and two more are daily expected. They are engaged, at present in learning English, and qualifying themselves otherwise for the office of Interpreters to the Embassy. Some little Chinese is also learned from them.

These men are deeply initiated and interested in the mysteries of the Church of Rome, and were, therefore the more readily parted with by the Pope, that they may serve his cause in China.

The number of persons accompanying this embassy will be much greater was expected. The troops and seamen alone will be seven hundred, so that purpose of protection, as well as dignity, will be sufficiently provided for. Among the gentlemen engaged for the occasion, are artists of every class, with such assistants as they require.

Their voyage from Portsmouth will not commence sooner than August.

20 June 1792, Hereford Journal

1792 – Lord Macartney has taken his parting dinner with a few select friends on Tuesday amongst whom were Mr Fox, and several other gentlemen of great celebrity in the political and literary world

His Lordship visits Ireland, and returns immediately, to proceed on his embassy to China; the preparations making for which are very particular.

Models of every modern invention in mathematics are making, and copious chemical apparatus provided. In short, whatever relates to our recent improvements in the arts and sciences is to be carried out, as well as specimens of all our excellent manufactures. Dr William Scot, of the London College, and a navy surgeon have the medical department; Dr Gillan, of Edinburgh, the Chemical, and Professor Dinwiddie is to perform the Philosophical experiments, and to explain the nature of the different apparatus.

The number of gentlemen of science, of artists, and of artificers, who are engaged or permitted to accompany this embassy, has, of late, increased so much, that Lord Macartney found it necessary to require another ship to attend the Lion, and the India Company have properly granted it. This is the Indostan, Captain William Mackintosh, which is to be afloat on the 4th July, to sail to Gravesend on the 19th, to stay there fourteen days, and to be at Portsmouth on the 8 August,

Sir George Staunton, yesterday, set off for Portsmouth, to inspect the ships now there.

Mr Staunton, son to Sir George Staunton is to accompany his father to Pekin. He is at present studying the Chinese language under the missionaries lately brought from Italy on purpose to serve as interpreters to the embassy. At his house arrived, on Monday evening, from Italy, the two other Chinese, who are to accompany this embassy as interpreters.

The terms upon which Lord Macartney has accepted his appointment, are such as become his honoured character, and promise the highest advantages to the nation. He conditioned with Mr Pitt, that nothing like ministerial patronage should be attempted, with respect to the gentlemen to be employed under the embassy, as he also would discard, upon this occasion, all the interests of private friendship. His assistants are accordingly only those, who as nearly as can be ascertained, are fit for their offices. To Sir Joseph Banks he has gone for the recommendation of gentlemen, to be employed as natural historians; to John Hunter for surgeons; and has, by such means, filled most of the other
departments. The struggle for appointments of any sort has been, in the meantime, not a little. Some Peers of the Realm, and several Peers sons have been upon the list of candidates for the expected admission into Peking.

22 June 1792, London Gazette

1794 – It is with pleasure that we now confirm that Lord Macartney’s safe arrival, and most honourable reception, at the Court of Pekin. His Lordship arrived on board the Lion man of war, accompanied by the Jackall brig, and Company’s ship, Hindostan, at Macao about the middle of June. His Lordship did not immediately land; but Sir George Staunton and his son, a remarkably accomplished young man, and eminently conversant in the Chinese language, went on shore; where they saw Mr Brown, Mr Irwine, and Mr Jackson. Lord Macartney afterwards proceeded on his embassy, and reached, without accident, Limpo, on the coast of China, a little to the southward of the Yellow River. Two Mandarins of the highest order went off, to pay him the first visit, and communicate the Imperial welcome. His Lordship returned their visit, on shore.

He then proceeded with his staff and suite, civil and military, in boats, up the Yellow River, on his way to Pekin. The forms of audience being adjusted in the most honourable manner for the British Embassy, his Lordship was received by the Emperor with the highest marks of distinction and respect; and had the honour of being seated on the left hand of his Majesty. The presents, which are superior in value and variety to any that have been known in similar occasions, were most graciously received; and the business of the Embassy was commenced, with the fairest appearance of the most favourable issue, and the establishment of solid and extensive advantages to Great Britain.

The Lion and Jackall had returned to Macao; and the Hindostan was daily expected from the island of Chusan. Lord Macartney was to come by land from Pekin to Canton, where a magnificent house was preparing for his reception. What an interesting journey, and such a traveller – 1,000 miles through China!

4 June 1794, Hereford Journal

1795 – There is to be another Embassy to China. Sir George Staunton to be Ambassador. The Embassy is expected to leave this country about the middle of May.

2 March 1795, Leeds Intelligencer

1795 – It is now fixed that a second Embassy shall be sent to China; Sir George Staunton is of course, the Ambassador.

31 October 1795, Staffordshire Advertiser

1801 – Died: On the 12th instant, at his house in Devonshire-street, Portland-Place, Sir George Leonard Staunton, Bart., whose services in China, as Secretary to the Embassy and Joint Minister Plenipotentiary with Earl Macartney, are too recent to need enumerating. He had previously been Secretary to the Noble Earl, when Governor of Fort St. George, and his spirited seizure of Gen. Stewart from the midst of his own troops has seldom been exceeded by any other act of cool bravery. It prevented the overthrow of the Government, and the train of misery that must have followed. Sir George is succeeded by his only son, at present in China.

26 January 1801, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1801 – Died: A few days ago Sir George Leonard Staunton, who accompanied Lord McCartney in his embassy to China. He had long been suffering under a paralytic affection, which materially injured one side, and so much impaired his organs of speech, that he was of late hardly intelligible. He had a pension of £5,000 per annum from the East India Company.

31 January 1801, Hull Advertiser

1801 – Sir George Staunton, the son of the late worthy and learned Baronet of that name, is on his return upon leave from Canton, to take possession of his estate. He is not yet of age, but he adds to his many acquirements a more perfect understanding of the Chines language than has hitherto been possessed by any European.

29 August, 1801, Ipswich Journal

1812 – Sir George Staunton relates the following curious anecdote of old Kien Long, Emperor of China. He was inquiring of Sir George the manner in which physicians were paid in England; when after some difficulty his Majesty was made to comprehend the system, he exclaimed: Is any man well in England, that can afford to be ill? Now I will inform you, said he, how I manage my physicians. I have four, to whom the care of my health is committed; a certain weekly salary is allowed them; but the moment that I am ill, the salary stops, till I am well again. I need not inform you that my illnesses are usually short.

22 June 1812, Sussex Advertiser
1816 – The Lyra brig of war, Captain Basil Hall, is expected at Portsmouth from Deptford, to proceed with the Alceste, Captain M. Maxwell, to China. Lord Amherst takes about 60 persons in his suite. Sir George Staunton will join the Embassy at Macoa. The superb and costly presents for the Emperor of China, are shipping in the River, in an East Indiaman, which will likewise sail in company with the Alceste. 24 January 1816, Evening Mail

1816 – Embassy to China: Friday morning, sailed with a fair wind from Portsmouth, his Majesty’s ships, Alceste, Captain Murray Maxwell; Lyra, Captain Basil Hall; and the Honourable Company’s ship General Hewett, Captain Campbell, for China. The ships will proceed to Canton, and from thence immediately to the Yellow Sea, and there land the Embassy. The persons gone in the suite of his Excellency Lord Amherst are: The Hon. Mr Amherst; Mr Ellis, Public Secretary; Mr Haynes, Private Secretary; Revd Griffiths, Chaplain; Mr Abell, Naturalist; Dr Lynn, Physician; Mr Murriage, Mineralologist and Assistant Naturalist; Mr Pole, Draftsman. Sir George Staunton will join the Embassy at Canton.

It is expected they will be absent from England about two years. The Embassy hopes to obtain permission to return from Peking to Canton through the Chinese territory, which will give them an opportunity of passing the great wall of China and Tartary, and of viewing the internal appearance of 1,500 miles of that vast, and almost unknown country. This route will appear the more necessary, as the ships which wait for their return cannot for fear of the typhoons, remain in the Yellow Sea, whilst the Embassy is at Pekin. It is expected the ships will reach Canton in July. 13 February 1816, Morning Post

1816 – Sir George Staunton has been appointed by the Court of the East-India Directors, chief of the Supercargoes at Canton; in the place of Mr Elphinstone, who returned to England by the last fleet from China. 23 May 1816, Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette

1817 – China: The history of the late Embassy to China, whenever it may appear, will be interesting on many accounts. The private letters from Canton mention a number of curious circumstances, and, from some particulars that have reached us, we think it by no means impossible that the dismissal of the Embassy may eventually be productive of real more benefit than if it had been received with all the unmeaning formalities of Chinese etiquette. Certain it is that the Emperor has issued several edicts, which can only be considered as apologies and palliations of the rudeness of the dismissal; as excuses for an act originating in misrepresentations imposed on the Emperor by some of his Ministers. Where this is the feeling, the natural bias, in attempting to obliterate the bad impression supposed to have been made by ill breeding, will be to confer greater kindness than where there was no consciousness of previous failure; and the ultimate benefits may be more solid than if the Emperor had at first conducted himself with all the benignity due from the head of the celestial empire.

One curious circumstance occurred at Canton. On the first arrival of the Embassy a Legate was sent from the Emperor to deliver a letter to Lord Amherst, inviting or permitting the Embassy to proceed to Peking. A house had been prepared for the Embassy at Canton, and of course it was proposed that the Legate (an office higher it seems than that of Viceroy) should then deliver the letter; but this was declared to be inconsistent with the decorum due to the reception of an Imperial letter. A tent, properly decorated, was prepared for this ceremony, and a procession to the tent was necessary. It was arranged that that they should walk two and two – the Legate and Lord Amherst first – the highest Mandarin and Sir George Staunton second, etc, etc. The Legate, for the purpose of stealing a little importance in the eyes of his countrymen, began to take long steps. And at last almost to run, that he might appear to take precedence of his Lordship – who however disappointed him, and kept his station in the race for dignity.

When arrived in the tent, and formally seated, a curious dialogue followed. The Legate expatiated on the benignity and condescension of the sublime head of the celestial empire, in not only permitting the present visit, but having so long permitted the English, who live wholly by trade, to carry on commerce with the Chinese, who are not traders – who have no need of commerce – and all this, that of his Imperial grace and compassion, he might contribute to the happiness of a poor and helpless people! Lord Amherst begged to put the Legate right as to some of his notions, which he informed him could only have stated, either from ignorance or from a wish to disguise the truth. He proceeded to develop the principles of commercial intercourse, and to demonstrate the reciprocal benefits resulting therefrom to the nations concerned in it, and proceeded to prove that the Chinese in particular were under many
obligations to the British for benefits which they could never have enjoyed, had not the King of England, in his love to his own people, and from a strong desire to benefit other nations, encouraged them to visit distant countries, and to confer on them, in return for products which they could not wholly consume themselves, the surplus of the industry of a great, a happy, a free, and powerful people.

The Legate, perceiving the turn which the conversation was taking, and that in the ears of the audience some truths were divulged which could not fail to lessen the self-importance of the celestial empire, made haste to terminate the ceremony.

It is impossible for a person who had never been in China to form any adequate idea of the ludicrous appearance which would be presented by the circumstance stated above of a Great Man in China attempting a pace beyond that of a snail. A grandee in China is disgraced by anything like even a capability of action. He must not be able even to do anything for himself – and to prove that his claims to this dignity is not affected, his finger nails are allowed to grow to the length of two or three inches – like bird claws!

The Legate’s activity naturally excited much surprise – but it has been satisfactorily explained to the Chinese; their learned Mandarines – their savans have since proved, by searching the ancient records that the Legate, on this occasion shewed himself well acquainted with the most approved method of rendering respect to the Imperial letter, and in future no other is to be followed. 16 June 1817, Caledonian Mercury

1817 – Lord Amherst Voyage to China: Lord Amherst sailed from Portsmouth on the 9th of February, 1816, on an Embassy to the Court of Pekin, on board his Majesty’s frigate Alceste, Capt. Maxwell; accompanied by the Lyra brig, Captain Hall, and the General Hewitt Indiaman, Capt. Campbell.

His Lordship touched at Madeira, Rio Janeiro, the Cape of Good Hope, and Batavia; and the voyage was extraordinary for its rapidity, the ships having traversed fourteen thousand miles in ninety two days under sail. In the beginning of July the Embassy arrived on the coast of China, and proceeded up the Yellow Sea, it having been joined by Sir George Staunton, at the Great Lemma, Sir George having been sent down to say the Embassy would be received with every attention. On the 9th of August the Embassy disembarked safely in the Gulf Pe Cheli, which is not far distant from the capital. Whilst on the journey every effort was made by the Mandarins to induce his Excellency to comply with the Tartar ceremony of the Kou-tou – which was resisted on the ground of the precedent of Lord Macartney; but every demonstration of respect, consistent with the dignity of his Sovereign, and the honour of his nation, was freely offered by his Excellency. The degrading ceremony of kneeling and knocking the head (the literal expression in Chinese) nine times against the ground, is not only demanded from the Ambassador of all tributary Kings (as every Sovereign of the world is indiscriminately called), when in the Imperial presence, but likewise, on receiving any message from the Emperor, and on broken victuals being sent to them from his table; and this was actually submitted to by the Dutch in 1795. The Chinese, for obvious reasons, were extremely anxious for the performance of this ceremony by a British Ambassador; and threats, flatteries, and lies in abundance, were used, in order to interfere compliance – but all in vain. A most extraordinary scene took place at the Palace of Yeuen-Min-Yuen, which with many other singular circumstances attending the departure from Pekin, and the journey of four months through the celestial Empire, will very soon be laid before the public. The Emperor, a man of impetuous and capricious disposition, increased by a habit of constant inebriation, seemed, in his cooler moments, afraid of the consequences of his abrupt dismissal of the Embassy, as appeared by his sending after all, to request some exchange of presents, and expressing himself satisfied of the respectful feelings of the King of England, who had sent so far to pay him homage, attributing the whole blame of the affair to the unmannerly conduct of the Ambassador, who refused to knock head, as in duty bound, and according to the common rules of politeness. The Embassy, on the tour through China, experienced the most perfect respect. The Alceste and Lyra, after landing the Embassy, were employed in surveys; the former taking the Gulf of Leatory and coast of Corea, the latter in the south-western coast of that Gulf. The Alceste went as far as the junction of the great wall of China with the sea, which was seen from the ship. Both ships joined company at Che-a-Ton, or Ze-u-Tou Islands. The true positions of the coasts and islands of Chinese Tartary, and such useful hydrographical knowledge were obtained, whereby former errors were corrected. Steering afterwards for the Corean shore, they found former geographical descriptions of its miserably defective, and an archipelago of Islands, hitherto unknown in exist, were discovered. Many were christened with particular names, and
correct charts made of the true position of the whole. The ships then proceeded to the southward of Japan, and arrived at the Lieon Kieun Islands. – More hydrographical knowledge was obtained, and an intimate acquaintance formed with the natives, of whom, hitherto, little was known, and themselves scarce knowing anything about the rest of the world. At Grand Leuchen, the chief of this kingdom of Islands, the ships refitted, among a race of people as extraordinary for their diminutive size as for their general character. They are of great antiquity and considerable civilisation – possess much of the rigid, natural jealousy and reserve of their neighbours, the Japanese and Chinese. On further acquaintance, they were found an interesting people; in the highest degree kind and hospitable; and after a stay of six weeks, both parties separated with evident proofs of mutual regret.

The Alceste and Lyra arrived at the mouth of the Tigris in November, and were treated with every indignity by the Viceroy of Canton, who refused a pass for the ships to enter the river, as had been granted to the Lion, on a former occasion; this attempting to cut off the supply of fresh water and provisions, which could only be brought on board by stealth after dark; and various other insults were offered. Captain Maxwell, justly considering that the honour of the flag must suffer by a tame submission, proceed up without a pass. The Mandarins strongly manned the forts (containing 110 pieces of cannon) at the Bocco Tigris, and sent out a message, as the ship advanced, that they would sink her (the Alceste), if she attempted to pass through. She nevertheless pushed on, and a warm firing commenced from the forts, and their war junks, which was immediately returned by the Alceste, which getting within pistol shot of their largest fort, a well-aimed broadside was poured in, which laid a number sprawling, and fairly drove the rest heels over head out of the battery; the ship now proceeded up to her safe and proper anchorage, followed, but unmolested, by the war junks. Next day the Viceroy (having been now treated the right way), sent down a high Mandarin to congratulate the Captain on his arrival in the river; this Mandarin having passed Captain Maxwell in his way down, who, in the mean-time, had gone up to Canton, to demand further reparation for the insult offered to the King’s ship.

On Tuesday the 28th January, the Alceste and Lyra sailed from Macau Roads, the former having on board his Excellency and suite, returning from his mission from the Court of Pekin. On the 3rd February the Alceste arrived at Manilla, and the Lyra on the 5th, when she was sent with his Excellency’s dispatches to Bengal.

The Alceste was proceeding into the Straits of Sunda, though the Straits of Gaspar when she unfortunately struck on a coral reef, on the morning of the 18th February, and shortly filled. No lives were lost on this occasion. The Ambassador and his suite, with some of the crew, were immediately put on shore on the island of Pulo Leat, a short distance from the wreck.

It was decided after Lord Amherst’s remaining one night on the island, that his Lordship and suite should attempt to make Batavia (distance 200 miles) in two boats, attended by Lieut. Hoppner, and Messrs Mayne, Cook, and Blaire, and they arrived after four days of much fatigue and hardship, from want of water, at Batavia. His Lordship, without a moment’s delay dispatched the Company's cruiser Ternale, with Mr Ellis, the Secretary of Embassy, volunteer, to the assistance of those left behind. She beat against wind and current for a considerable time, and at last got sight of the Island. The party left obtained some provisions, which had floated up, and by careful management, they made shift to live there (having obtained by digging, some fresh water) from the 18th of February to the 7th of March. During this period they were beset by the savages of the neighbouring islands, who, after plundering and burning the ship, blockaded the party on shore; they with a very few regular arms, kept them at bay. In an attempt to seize the remaining boats, ten of them, one morning, were variously disposed of by Lieut. Hay, some were shot, and others were drowned. Their adventures in the Island were rather of a romantic and unusual cast.

Concerning the interior of China we have been able to obtain but little information. The people appear to manifest the same determined mind to suffer no innovations in their accustomed habits; but on the contrary, they boast of not having gone out of the beaten tracks of their forefathers; they are grossly ignorant and sensual. The country in general appeared well cultivated. They have no caravans, road waggons, or any establishment similar to our post; consequently, in the interior, the people had not heard of the Nepaul War, nor, indeed, did they appear even to know where that country was situate. It appears impossible to estimate the population, as the people are not enrolled, nor has a census ever been taken. But few soldiers were seen, the greatest number of any one body did not exceed 600. They are composed of four descriptions of men, viz. Matchlocks (usually in a bad state), Archers (who occasionally act as Cavalry). Spearmen, and Tigers of War, who are the Emperor’s body guard; they are armed with a short sword.
and a target, and enveloped in a yellow mantle, gorgeously decorated with tigers’ heads, to render their appearance formidable. The King’s internal revenue is collected in kind, after the manner of our tithes; the collecting junks, which are said to amount to 20,000, set off for the further parts of the Empire, and with the change of the Monsoon from the westward, they all return and unload their cargoes of all species of grain into the public granaries, from whence it is sold to the public; this and the customs from the export of their main factories at Canton, comprise the entire source of their revenue – excepting only the sale of the Governorships, which emolument goes into the private purse of the Emperor.

29 August 1817, *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal*

1818 – April 23rd 1818, Sir George Staunton elected as Member of the Council of the Society of Antiquities of London.

25 April 1818, *Morning Post*


24 March 1820, *Morning Post*

1822 – Snakes Exhibition at Bullock’s Museum, London: Boa Constrictor – Two of these formidable serpents, 12 feet each in length, are seen in this exhibition; and though small of their kind (one of thirty feet, having been brought over by Sir George Staunton), yet they afford a good idea of what the larger boa is capable of performing, when it reaches to forty, fifty, or more feet. Those are about the size of a man’s wrist; wide jaws and many teeth; tongue forked and dark coloured.

9 September 1822, *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*

1824 – The Asiatic Society of London will be future bear the title of “Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland.” Sir George Staunton, vice-president, has presented to the Society about 2,600 Chinese volumes, which he collected during his residence in China; they include all the branches of literature cultivated in that country. This Society has been new modelled; the plan enlarged, so as to encourage all studies tending to illustrate the sciences, literature, and arts, as cultivated in India, and other countries east of the Cape of Good Hope. The British possessions, however, are to be more especially attended to.

5 January 1824, *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*

1824 – Rev. Dr. Morrison: On the 13th of April Sir George Staunton communicated the following gracious message from his Majesty, conveyed by the Home Secretary of State, Mr. Peel:-

My Dear Sir, - In laying before his Majesty the Chinese Bible, I have not failed to mention to his Majesty the very singular and meritorious exertions which have been made by Dr. Morrison to promote the religion and literature of the East.

His Majesty has commanded me to convey through you to Dr. Morrison the expressions of his marked approbation of that gentleman’s distinguished and useful labours – I have the honour to be, my dear Sir, your most obedient and faithful servant, Robert Peel.

Sir George Staunton, Bart. (copy of a letter to Dr. Morrison)

8 May 1824, *Durham Chronicle*

1824 – The First Translation of the Sacred Scriptures into the Chinese Language: On Wednesday, the 7th April, Dr. Morrison, the Missionary at China, and the first Protestant Missionary who ever entered that populous empire, was introduced at Court by Sir George Staunton, Bart, and presented to the King, by the President of the Board of Control, the Right Honourable Charles Wynn. Dr. Morrison was permitted to lay before His Majesty a copy of the Version of the Sacred Scriptures in Chinese, made by himself and the late Dr. Milne, both Missionaries from the London Missionary Society; and also to present to the King an account of the Anglo-Chinese College and Singapore Institution.

10 May 1824, *Hampshire Telegraph*

1824 – Linton: Amongst the numerous visitors at the Valley of Rocks, we find the names of the Duke of Buccleugh, and Sir George Staunton, who expressed themselves highly delighted with the romantic scenery of Linton and its environs, the latter comparing it to the Island of St. Helena, of which, he said, it very much reminded him.

9 July 1824, *North Devon Journal*
1824 – Opening of Hayling Bridge and Causeway: On Wednesday last, the 8th instant, the Hayling Bridge and Causeway, an undertaking of much local advantage, was opened for public accommodation in a manner which displays the universal estimation which it is held, and with a degree of eclat never before exhibited or witnessed in that part of the country. At an early hour of the morning, notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, the inhabitants of Havant and its neighbourhood began to prepare for the approaching event with an hilarity and unanimity seldom before manifested; all party distinction was forgotten, and unalloyed satisfaction seemed to pervade the minds of all classes upon the occasion. Soon after eleven o’clock, carriages began to pour in from all quarters, amidst a merry peal from the bells, and by twelve near a hundred vehicles of all descriptions, but principally consisting of Gentlemen’s carriages, filled with all the fashion and beauty of the neighbourhood, had assembled at the East end of the town. Soon afterwards his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, who had landed at Portsmouth from his beautiful yacht, in which he had been taking aquatic excursions, drove through the town, and having received the hearty and respectful greetings of the multitude assembled, immediately proceeded to Warblington House, the residence of William Padwick junior, Esq, where his Grace was received by that Gentleman, Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., Sir Charles Hamilton, Bart., and other individuals of distinction. After the part had partaken of refreshment, they prepared to carry into effect the object for which they had assembled; and all things being arranged, they formed themselves into line, and proceeded in the following order:- Sir George Staunton and Mr Padwick on horseback, his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, in his carriage and four, the carriages of Sir George Staunton, Mr Padwick, jnr., Mr Raper, Mr Padwick, sen., Mr Brenton, and other Gentlemen. On arriving at Havant, the procession was joined by the carriages of Admiral Halkett, Mr Dashwood, Mrs Leeke, Mrs Short, the Rev. Dr Norris, Rev. Dr Davis, etc., a number of post chaises, gigs, etc., and a long line of waggons, which were decorated with evergreens and ribbon, and filled with rustics in their holiday suits. Here the party was preceded by a pair of the King’s colours, borne by two Waterloo men, the band belonging to the Portsmouth Division of Royal Marines, and another pair of colours. The band struck up a lively tune, and the cavalcade in this order proceeded down the East and South streets to Langstone, and from thence over the Bridge and Causeway, into Hayling Island. On arriving here, his Grace alighted, and accompanied by Sir George Staunton, Mr Padwick, and other Gentlemen, took a survey of the works, when he was pleased to express his high approbation of their construction. At this time the scene was particularly animating and interesting: the Bridge, Causeway, and approaches, which are near a mile in length, were completely covered in their whole extent by a line of carriages, flanked on each side by the numerous assemblage on horseback and on foot. Langstone Harbour, over which the works extend, was also covered, in the vicinity of the Bridge, by a number of vessels gallantly dressed out in their colours, headed by the steam-vessel belonging to the Portsmouth and Arundel Navigation Company, having on board a band of music, and the principal barge belonging to the Portsmouth and Arundel Barge Company in tow, containing the Company’s Committee of Management. The whole combined to give a deep interest as a splendour to the festive scene. After remaining a short time in the Island, the company began to return; and the Duke of Norfolk, Sir George Staunton, etc., again proceeded to Warblington House, where they remained until dinner was announced, which was a public one, provided by Holdaway, of the Bear Inn, Havant, and certainly did him much credit for the taste and liberality he displayed on the occasion. Soon after four the Chair was taken by William Padwick, jnr., Esq. supported by his Grace, the Duke of Norfolk, on his right, and Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P. on his left; E.B. Brenton, Esq. performed the duties of Vice-president, supported by Colonel Evett and John Snook, Esq.

After the cloth had been removed, and “The King,” “The Duke of York and the Army,” “The Duke of Clarence and the Navy,” “Prosperity to the Hayling Bridge and Causeway,” had been done justice to by the company, the Chairman rose and proposed, with a neat and appropriate speech, the health of the distinguished nobleman who had that day honoured them with his presence. The toast was received with enthusiasm, and drunk amidst thunders of applause. His Grace, after thanking the company for the very flattering testimony of their regard just exhibited, took occasion to advert to the object which had drawn them together: he observed that had it not been for the energy and public spirit of their worthy chairman, the works, in all human probability would never have been constructed: the public and the inhabitants of the neighbourhood in particular, were highly indebted to him for his exertions, and he should beg to propose his health in a bumper. The proposition was received by a unanimous burst of applause and long and continued cheers testified the company’s participation in the sentiments his Grace had so flatteringly expressed.

The next toast given from the Chair, “Sir George Thomas Staunton, Baronet, the Lord of the Manor, and a warm promoter of the undertaking,” was received in a similar manner, and called forth the thanks of that Gentleman, in a
lucid and effective speech. In alluding to the events of the day, he also gave his applause to the Chairman, for his public spirited exertions, and expressed his full concurrence in the sentiments delivered to him, with reference to the distinguished honour conferred upon them, by the countenance of the head of the illustrious House of Howard, hereditary Earl Marshall of England, and next in rank to the blood royal, on the occasion of that day’s proceedings. In conclusion (on reference to the applause and general manifestation of satisfaction with which the company received the proposition for his health) he observed, with much feeling, that the kindness and attention he had received from the inhabitants of Havant, whilst he had resided amongst them, had made a deep and lasting impression upon his mind, that nothing could have been more flattering to him than this testimony of their good opinions, which it would ever be his anxious study to preserve; and that he had always considered it one of the most fortunate circumstances in a life spent in various quarters, in the service of his country, and it had been his lot finally to settle among a society so amiable and respectable, and distinguished by everything that does honour to the English character, as that of the town and neighbourhood of Havant. – The Earl of Surrey – The Lord Lieutenant of the County – The Duke of Richmond – The Earl of Egremont – Sir Charles Hamilton, Bart. – E.B. Brenton, Esq. – John Butler, Esq. – and many other toasts were drank, and uninterrupted harmony prevailed amongst the company until near eleven o’clock, when they separated highly gratified with the proceedings of the day. Amongst the dinner party we observed, besides the individuals before mentioned: Sir Charles Hamilton, Bart., Colonel Burke, Colonel Evett, Rev. St. John Alder. Mr Raper, Mr Maxwell, Mr Baume, Mr Lynch, Mr Barrow, Mr Mecham, Rev. J. Stopford, Mr Abraham, Mr Butler, Mr Stedman, etc.. Sixty sat down to dinner, and the company was occasionally enlivened by the Marine Band, and a company of Glee Singers, who attended and performed many pieces of music, and sung a variety of glees appropriate to the occasion. Not the slightest accident happened, and a sentiment of universal satisfaction diffused itself amongst the company throughout the day.

13 September 1824, Morning Post

1828 – Royal Asiatic Society: On Saturday the first meeting of this institution for the present session was held at the society’s house in Galton-street. Colonel Lushington was called to the Chair. The gallant Colonel stated that the present was made a special meeting for the purpose of taking into consideration the terms of a proposed union between the Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland and the Literary Society of Bombay. Mr Huttmann, the secretary, read the resolutions of the council on the subject. They held out the prospect of great advantage to both societies by the union. Sir George Staunton, Bart., was perfectly aware that the happiest results might be anticipated from the union of the two societies, but thought time had not been allowed for due consideration and moved that the dissension of the question be postponed till the next meeting. D. Pollock, Esq., urged a immediate union, and was followed by several others. Ultimately Sir George Staunton’s motion was carried, though not by a large majority.

13 December 1828, Windsor and Eton Express

1829 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park, in this county, has presented to the poor of Havant, his annual donation of coals (£20 worth) which must prove particularly acceptable at this season.

19 January 1829, Hampshire Telegraph

1829 – Royal Asiatic Society: At a meeting on the 2nd instant, Sir Gore Ousley, Bart. in the chair, Mr Davis read the first part of his essay on the poetry of the Chinese. It treated of versification, or the rules which prevail in the construction of lines, couplets, etc. and the sources whence these derive their melody and rhythm. Mr Davis divided this part of his subject into the following heads, viz. the sound of the spoken language, the variation of tones as prescribed by rule, the use of poetical numbers, the observance of a regular casural pause, the use of terminal rhymes, and the rhythmical effect of the parallelism of couplets. The paper was illustrated by specimens of Chinese poetry, and comparisons of it with Greek, Latin, Hebrew, etc. A great variety of very valuable donations were enumerated; amongst them were several volumes of works in Chinese, including a MS. Poem descriptive of London; Notices of Mongolia in Russia, by the Monk Yakinf, presented by the imperial ministry of foreign affairs at St. Petersburgh, through Prince Lieven; Sir George Staunton presented a large volume of drawings of scarce plants, executed in Paris for the Emperor of China; Mr Davis presented a candle made entirely from vegetable wax by the Japanese. Mr Davis has brought to England specimens of the plants from which the wax is obtained, for the purpose of trying to raise them in England. The Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature, and some of the learned and scientific bodies, were also on the table.

15 May 1829, Cambridge Chronicle and Journal
1829 – Roses: Sir George Staunton’s rose, brought over from China in 1795, is admirably adapted for covering arbours and trellis-work, decorating arches and alcoves, climbing palisades, covering the dead wall, or wildly luxuriating among the shrubs of the wilderness walk. Its flowers are not only white, but redolent of perfume, and it blossoms in autumn. It is of very elevated growth, and thick in branches, whose shining foliage is of intensely deep green.

1 September 1829, Bristol Mercury

1830 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park, has given £20 worth of coals to the parish of Wymering and Widley.

4 January 1830, Hampshire Telegraph

1830 – Amsterdam: Sir George Staunton and suite have arrived here from England.

10 June, Freeman’s Journal

1830 – General Election, 2 August: Sir George Staunton returned member for Heytesbury with E.H. A’Court, esq.

5 August 1830, Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette

1830 – The learned and scientific proprietor of the Leigh Estate, Sir George Staunton, Bart., has been returned (a new Member) for Heytesbury, Wilts. That tastefully elegant estate has lately received an increased attraction, by an erection of a unique handsome tower, on which the union-jack is hoisted, and seen from all parts of the extensive country around.

9 August 1830, Hampshire Telegraph

1830 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P., left Leigh Park yesterday, for his town residence, preparatory to the assembling of Parliament.

25 October 1830, Hampshire Telegraph

1830 – The pencil of Mr Gilbert, the Artist of Chichester, has been lately employed on Painting several Views in Sir George Staunton’s pleasing Park, at Leigh, which are intended to be placed in his town residence. The Hon. Baronet, we hear, is much pleased with the talent the artist has displayed in them.

8 November 1830, Hampshire Telegraph

1831 – East India Committee: On Friday the following Members of the House of Commons were appointed a Select Committee “on the present state of the affairs of the East India Company; to inquire into the state of trade between Great Britain, the East Indies, and China, and to report their observations thereupon” : Mr Charles Grant, Marquis Graham, Mr Baring, Mr Astell, Marquis of Chandos, Lord Viscount Althrop, Mr Arbuthnot, Sir Richard Vyvyan, Mr Hart Davies, Robert Grant, Sir James Mackinstosh, Mr William Wynn, Mr Cutler Ferguson, Lord Ashley, Mr Littleton, Mr Alderman Thompson, Mr Hume, Mr William Cavendish, Mr Moore, Mr Baillie, Mr George Bankes, Mr Irving, Mr Courtenay, Mr Wolryche Whitmore, Mr William O’Brien, Mr Poulet Thompson, General Gascoyne, Lord Viscount Morpeth, Sir Henry Parnell, Lord Viscount Acheson, Mr Wrightson, Mr Labouchere, Mr John Wood, Lord Viscount Sandon, Mr Callaghan, Mr Goulburn, Sir Charles Forbes, Sir George Staunton, Sir James Macdonald, Mr Fazakerly, and Mr Marshall.

7 February 1831, Aris’s Birmingham Gazette

1831 – The Reform Bill: Sir George Staunton next rose, but owing to the noise which prevailed both in the House and the Gallery, he was but imperfectly heard. His purpose in soliciting the attention of the House was to correct a misrepresentation, which he was sure was not wilful, of what fell from him on a former occasion. He bore full testimony to the accuracy and care with which the proceedings of the House were generally reported in the newspapers, it was therefore the more necessary that he should avail himself to the earliest opportunity that presented itself of correcting a mistake that had arisen with respect to himself, and he hoped the House would then indulgently permit him to explain and correct what had been imputed to him; for the question of Reform was one, of all others, respecting which it was important that the sentiments of Honourable Members should not be mistaken. In presenting a petition on a former night, he had been reported not only to have said that he concurred in the views of the Petitioners, but that he gave to the plan of Parliamentary Reform his entire and unqualified support. What he did say was, that in the first prayer of the Petition he agreed; but not with the second; and that looking forward to great modifications of the Bill being effected in the Committee, he should vote for the second reading. He was willing to admit that it contained some admirable provisions, but there were others from which he could not help dissenting. He, therefore, voted for the second reading, being at the same time fully resolved to promote modifications in the Committee.

26 March 1831, Morning Chronicle
1831 – Sir George Staunton, Lord Portchester, Sir James Macdonald, and Mr. C. Shaw Lefevre, are all spoken of as candidates for the county of Hants at the next general election. 31 March, London Evening Standard

1831 – Sir George Staunton to the Freeholders of Hampshire: ‘GENTLEMEN, My name having been mentioned among those of persons likely to solicit the honour of representing you in Parliament, I beg respectfully to state to you that I do not intend to come forward on the present occasion, but that it is my full determination to do so whenever the proposed addition to the number of your Representatives shall take effect.

To that, as well as many other parts of the Reform Bill, I give my cordial support and concurrence; but I could by no means give my consent to another part of that Bill which was calculated to reduce the Representation of England, while that of Ireland and of Scotland was augmented, and was thus a direct violation of the terms of those most solemn compacts by which the Legislative Union of the three Kingdoms had been effected, which, moreover, left all our great Colonies and vast possessions in the East and West Indies, as well as our various important Commercial and Funded Interests, without the protection of either a virtual or a direct representation in Parliament.

For these and other reasons, too long to trouble you with in this address, I never can give to such a Reform Bill as that which was lately introduced by his Majesty’s Ministers my unqualified support. I should be utterly unworthy of your future confidence if any hope of gaining a temporary popularity were to induce me to do so against my deliberate and conscientious conviction, that as a whole, it is a measure fraught with danger to the best and highest interests of the people of this country.

It would be premature for me to add more at present, except to assure you, that in the event of my having, at any future period, the good fortune to obtain your favour and support as a Candidate for the distinguished honour of representing you in Parliament, you will find, no doubt, many more able, but none more independent of party and influence, or more honesty, zealously, and sincerely devoted to your service and your interests.’

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen

Your most faithful humble servant

George Thos. Staunton

Leigh Park, April 24th 1831

2 May 1831, Hampshire Advertiser

1831 – Court Levee at St. James’s Palace: Sir George Staunton presented Captain Henry Cormick Lynch on his return from India. 23 June 1831, Morning Chronicle

1831 – Reform Bill: In the list of the division on the second reading of the Reform Bill, two errors have taken place:- Sir M.W. Ridley is put down as absent, whilst he was present, and voted for the second reading. Sir George Staunton is put down as voting against the second reading, when he was absent, and did not vote. 9 July 1831, London Courier and Evening Gazette

1831 – Reform Bill (Colonial Representation): Sir George Staunton addressed the House, but from the tone and position of the Hon. Member only a few of his remarks were audible in the gallery. It had been stated as an objection to giving direct representatives to India that the country was so far off as to render the plan impracticable. He was certainly surprised to hear such an argument from a supporter of the Reform Bill, for, if he remembered rightly, it had been asserted by other supporters of the Bill that the Nabob of Arcot had once seven members in the House. Surely then, if one person against law and distance could send seven Members into the House, an immense population, with law and right in their favour, might so far overcome distance as to send one Member there in safety. – (Hear). – America had been much alluded to, but America did not withhold from States the privilege of sending Members to the Congress on account of the distance of those States from the seat of Congress. By the Reform Bill, many interests would be totally deprived of representation, and it ought to be borne in mind what were among the first questions that would come before a reformed Parliament. The East India Charter and the Bank Charter would be to be reviewed, and how could that be well effected if all authority upon those subjects were to be excluded from the House? The country
ought to know that it was not only by the House at large that such questions were discussed, but by Committee upstairs that the most important business was transacted. He sought not the protection or the preservation of the East India Company as a corporate body, but the maintenance of our Empire in India, when he contended that that country should not be left destitute Representatives in the House. One objection to the plan was, that the Colonial Members would combine and think only of their Colonial interests; but he would ask why did it follow that there would be any such combination? The interests of the different Colonies were not the same, and therefore he thought the objection entitled to but little weight. Again, it had been said that it would be monstrous for Colonial Members to tax England; but it should be remembered that every Member of the House must be possessed of £300 a year in landed property.

17 August 1831, Morning Post

1831 – Fatigue of the Reform Bill: Members are now obtaining leave of absence in considerable numbers – wearied out, no doubt, by the fatiguing attendance of the last three months on the Reform Bill. Friday night the following Members obtained leave of absence:- Mr E. Stuart, three weeks; Sir C. Paget, one month; Lord Mexborough, three weeks; Mr M. Phillips, three weeks; Lord Milton, three weeks; Mr Lott, six weeks; and Sir George Staunton, five weeks.

26 September, Morning Post

1832 – Sir George Staunton intends offering himself for the Southern Division.

17 July 1832, Morning Post

1832 – Sir George Staunton appears to be at present the only candidate in the field for South Hants. He declares that he has a sincere desire to inquire into, and effectually remove or correct, every existing abuse in Church and State.

23 July 1832, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1832 – (Winchester, 18 August); The Courier throws out a hint that several gentlemen are likely to become candidates for the southern division of Hampshire: Mr Sturges Bourne, Sir William Heathcote, and Mr Fleming; but adds, that the only avowed name is that of Sir George Staunton. Of the last-mentioned gentleman we feel we know of no person who has fairer pretentions to the suffrages of the County Constituents. We have been acquainted with him almost from his infancy. His honour, integrity, and firmness in trying situations, are well known to us, and so many gentlemen with whom he has been associated in the performance of his duties of deep interest and importance to his country. He is a Gentleman who, we are assured will join no party. He will vote agreeably to the dictates of his conscience; and we know him to be a decided enemy to the improper use of the public money in undeserved pensions and useless sinecures. Moreover, in all matters connected with India, no man, we believe, possesses a greater share of information, or a sounder judgement to direct him in the use of that information.

20 August 1832, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1832 – Election: Romsey, Oct 5. A district committee of the friends Of Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton having been appointed for this town, in anticipation of the approaching election, the electors have been generally waited on this week, and the following is nearly the result: in the two parishes of Romsey, Infra and Extra, 186 electors have registered, 71 have signed the requisition to Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton; more than 30 have pledged themselves to vote for no one who is not a reformer, and on no account for Mr Fleming.

8 October 1832, London Courier and Evening Gazette

1832 – South Hants Election: The Central Committee in favour of Lord Palmerston, and Sir George Staunton, met at Southampton, on Wednesday last, the 3rd inst., and by their direction the Chairman, W.E. Nightingale, Esq., communicated to Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton the following Requisition, signed by 800 Electors, accompanied by a return of 250 promises from other voters:-

To the Right Hon. Lord Palmerston, his Majesty’s Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Sir George Thomas Staunton, of Leigh Park, Bart., M.P. – We the undersigned, Electors of the Southern Division of the County of Hants, request that you will consent to be put in nomination, as Candidates for the Representation of this Division of the County at the ensuing Election; and we pledge ourselves to use our best exertions to secure your return to Parliament. To which the following answers were received:-
Leigh Park, October 4, 1832

“Sir, - I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter. Of yesterday’s date, enclosing to me a Copy of the Resolutions passed at a meeting of the Electors of South Hants, on Friday last; and also a Copy of the Requisition addressed to Lord Palmerston and myself in pursuance of those Resolutions.

“I cannot sufficiently express the gratification I feel on receiving such a distinguished testimony of the confidence which so large and so highly respectable a portion of the Electors are pleased to place in me, founded expressly on their approval of my strictly independent principles, my political views, and the conscientious manner in which I have hitherto performed my Parliamentary duties.

“It is impossible that I should not gratefully accept of the offers of support which, have, on the above grounds, and in so handsome a manner, been now conveyed to me. I have only to add, that in the event of it being the pleasure of the Electors to place me in the distinguished station of one of their Representatives, my most strenuous exertions will never be wanting to discharge to the best of my ability, and with a faithful adherence to my declared principles, all the various and arduous duties which will thereby devolved upon me at this great national crisis.

“I have the honour to be, Sir

“Your most faithful Servant

“George Thomas Staunton.”

15 October 1832, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1832 – South Hants Election: ‘We are happy to state from good authority that there is every prospect of Sir George Staunton being elected for the southern division of Hampshire. We can also state from authority that there neither is, nor will be, any coalition between Sir George Staunton and any other candidate; and that he stands alone upon the basis of independence, totally unconnected with any party.

17 October 1832, Globe

1832 – South Hants Election: The following are the sentiments of Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., one of the Candidates for the Southern Division of the County of Hants, addressed to the Electors of Fordingbridge, in reply to a letter from them, requesting a declaration of his views on the subject of Slavery :-

To The Electors Residing at Fordingbridge.

Gentlemen,

I have had the honour to receive your letter, and beg to assure you, that the cause of the abolition of Negro Slavery is one, which few members of the present Parliament have more sincerely at heart than myself; and I conceive that the strong and general feeling that now prevails on the subject, does infinite honour to the British character. The friends of the abolition are fully sensible of the difficulties which have stood, and still stand in their way; but I shall certainly feel it my duty, in the event of me being chosen a member of the ensuing Parliament, to lose no opportunity of urging the adoption of such measures at shall at once release the slaves from the degrading condition which you so feelingly describe of ‘Goods and Chattels,’ and provide for their entire emancipation, at the earliest possible period, and of course their immediate emancipation if possible. I beg to return you my grateful thanks for your support, and subscribe myself,

Your very faithful and obedient servant,

George Thomas Staunton

Leigh Park, November 23 1832

3 December 1832, Hampshire Telegraph

1832 – South Hants Election, Southampton, December 15: The nomination of Members to represent the southern division of this county having been fixed by the High Sheriff to take place this morning, unusual bustle and
excitement was soon to be observed in the town by the influx of strangers from all quarters, the congregation of the partisans and supporters of each of the candidates, and the muster of the Committees at the different houses appointed. The meeting was intended to have been held at the Town Hall and then adjoined to the hustings at the Fairfield, but in consequence of the boisterous state of the weather, the descending in torrents, and the hustings not being covered, it was finally arranged to take place at the Audit House. About ten o’clock Mr Fleming was met at the entrance of the town by a large concourse of people, who took the horses out of the carriage and drew him into the town. Lord Palmerston arrived from London at Romsey about two o’clock this morning, and came into Southampton between nine and ten. Sir George Staunton also arrived at about the same time. The candidates, between ten and eleven, proceeded to the Audit House, where after the requisite preliminaries had been gone through, the speakers addressed themselves from the balcony. Mr Ralfe, of Winchester, in consequence of the indisposition of the High Sheriff, officiated as Deputy Sheriff.

Colonel Hewitt, of Freemantle, then rose and proposed Lord Palmerston as a fit and proper person to represent the southern division of the county of Hants in the ensuing Parliament. W. Nightingale, Esq., of Embly, seconded the nomination. Both of these gentlemen spoke with much ability upon the occasion, but rain descended in such torrents that it was impossible to take a report.

Lord Palmerston then came forward. He said he appeared there for the purpose of explain the reasons which induced him to offer himself to their notice. He was in obedience to the express wish of a numerous, respectable, and intelligent body of constituents. He appeared before them not upon private grounds, but upon public principle; and disconnected himself with every influence with which that connection might be supposed to invest him.

Admiral Ommaney then rose and proposed Sir George Staunton, Bart., as a fit person to represent them in Parliament, which proposition was seconded by Mr Shawe, of Havant.

Sir George Staunton then come forward, and commenced by saying that in offering his humble services to them he relied as much on his public principles as on his private character; did he rest solely on the latter he should do so by referring them to the poor of his neighbourhood, they could tell whether he ever oppressed them in any shape. Neither he or any of his family ever received a farthing of the public money. He then went on at some length to explain the part he took in the introduction and progress of the Reform Bill.

A show of hats was then called for by the Deputy Sheriff, which he having declared to be in favour of Mr Fleming and Lord Palmerston, Sir George Staunton immediately demanded a poll, which will commence on Tuesday and Wednesday next at the Hall in the Market-place.

1832 – South Hants Election, Southampton, December 18: The election for the Southern division commenced this morning with great spirit in this town. Mr Fleming’s party gained a trifling advantage in this town, where he has the power to use undue influence, but at all the other polling places it is not regarded; therefore the Noble Foreign Secretary and Sir George Staunton are considered as safe of their election. The anxiety manifested by all classes for the returns from each of the polling places has been most intense during the whole of the evening, and when they were made up at the George Inn, the manifestation of joy throughout the room was immense. The numbers were as under, which leave no doubt of success to the Reformers, in despite of the Tory faction, who have left no means untired to force up their bought and intimidated voters. Many of Fleming’s voters have been threatened to a most shameful extent:-

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<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Votes</th>
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<td>Lord Palmerston</td>
<td>1302</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir George Staunton</td>
<td>1251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fleming</td>
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The greatest enthusiasm was manifested on the arrival of Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton at the George Inn (Miller’s) by the multitude assembled. The day is won.

20 December 1832, Morning Advertiser
1832 – South Hants Election, Southampton: The election has been carried on with unabated vigour throughout the day by both parties. The Tories are exasperated beyond conception; they have left no means untried to bring in their candidate, Fleming. The numerous acts of bribery and undue influence at Fareham and other places are equal to, if not beyond, Hoy’s party conduct at the late election for the town. The Flemingites, feeling themselves defeated, determined on the following plan: - to pull down the hustings, which they did about half past two, no doubt in order, if possible, to buy more votes; but the plan did not succeed, for at four o’clock, when the poll for the town closed Fleming was eight behind on the day’s poll, thus shewing the superiority the reformers had in even Fleming’s stronghold. The place of polling, after the hustings were destroyed, was adjourned to the Town Hall, where the declaration is to be made on Friday by the Sheriff.”

The town is in a complete state of exultation at the success of Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton, who are returned by an overwhelming majority against the Tory candidate, Fleming; the people can hardly be kept within bounds so great is their joy. The several expresses from the district polling-places were received with loud huzzas by the persons assembled at Miller’s George Inn.

Lord Palmerston………………1625
Sir George Staunton………………1536
Fleming…………………………1276

21 December 1832, Morning Chronicle

1832 – South Hants Election: To the honour of the constituency of South Hants be it stated, that the electors of Hayling Island and Havant, in the interest of Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton started from Havant with Sir George Staunton at their head, in the procession of 66 carriages, and numbers on horseback, all at their own expense, to the polling place at Fareham.

31 December 1832, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1833 – Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton each presented the sum of ten pounds on the day of their election for the Division of the County, towards the funds of the Infant School at Fareham.

7 January 1833, Morning Advertiser

1833 – The reception given to Sir George Staunton, Bart., at Bedhampton, Havant, and Emsworth, on his return from Southampton, at the close of the election was enthusiastic. The bells rang, and the places were filled with a joyous multitude anxious to greet his arrival. At Bedhampton, the horses were taken from his carriage, and he was drawn in triumph to Emsworth, and back again to Havant, the houses on the route being profusely decorated with laurel, and the windows thronged with spectators. – Among the magnificent donations of Sir George, since his election, are the following: - £100 to the County Hospital; £100 to benevolent purposes at Southampton; £100 to the parish of Warblington; £100 to the parish of Havant, etc.

14 January, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1833 – The Democracy: It is a sign of the times, not unworthy of notice, that at a public dinner given to Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton, by their constituents of the southern district of Hampshire, on Friday, the toast of “The People, the legitimate source of all power, and object of all government,” was given after that of the King, and received with enthusiastic applause. Alas! For the days of Toryism and Pitt dinners!

31 January 1833, Dublin Morning Register

1833 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton, we find, has postponed his motion upon the China trade from the 26th instant to the 16th April, in compliance of the wishes of government, but with an express understanding that on the latter day he will receive every facility for bringing it forward. From the manner in which his motion is worded, it does not appear to the hon. baronet’s object to either oppose the opening of the trade, or indeed, in any manner to prejudge the general question which will afterwards be submitted to the House by the government; but solely to draw the attention of the House to the measures which are become necessary, in any event, to place that most valuable branch of our commerce upon a secure and honourable basis as respects the Chinese authorities. This is certainly an important national question, and well worthy of a distinct discussion.

30 March 1833, Globe
1833 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton presented Petitions on Friday from Fordingbridge and Walton, for the abolition of Negro Slavery. 24 April, Brighton Guardian

1833 – Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton, the Members for the Southern Division of Hants. have each literally contributed the sum of five guineas to the Gosport and Alverstoke Benevolent Society, having for its object the relief poor married women during their confinement, the funds of which have been reduced by many pressing claims on the institution. 6 May 1833, Hampshire Chronicle

1833 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton presented a Petition from the Owners and Occupiers of Land in Burslem, in the county of Southampton, for the repeal of the Malt-Tax. The Honourable Member thought that those taxes ought to be taken off which pressed most heavily on the people. The Honourable Member also presented a Petition from Wickham, in the county of Southampton, for the better Observance of the Sabbath. The Honourable Baronet thought the House ought to have allowed the Bill on the subject to have gone into Committee, as many of its most objectionable provisions might have been expunged. The Honourable Baronet complained that a subject of such importance had not, in the decision the House had come to the preceding night, had the justice which it deserved done to it. 18 May 1833, Morning Chronicle

1833 – House of Commons - China Trade: Sir George Staunton rose to move certain resolutions relative to the China Trade, but before he had an opportunity of reading them, Mr Humphrey moved that the House be counted, and therefore not being forty Members present, the House was adjourned, at seven o’clock. 7 June 1833, Liverpool Mercury

1833 – House of Commons – East India Question: On the motion of Mr C. Grant, the order of the day for the House going into a Committee on the renewal of the East India Company’s Charter was then read. On the question that the Speaker do leave the Chair, Sir George Staunton rose to propose a series of resolutions regarding the trade, such as he proposed on a former evening.

The resolutions were then put and negative without a division, and the House resolved itself into Committee.

Mr C. Grant rose, pursuant to the notice he had given, to bring before the House the subject of the East India Charter. The Right Hon. Gentleman stated that though it was the intention of Government to continue the administration of India in the East India Company, it was also their intention to open the trade to that Country.

“That it is expedient that in case the East India Company should be induced be induced to surrender all the assets and claims of the Company to the Crown, that the Crown should take upon itself all liabilities and obligations whatsoever, to which the Company might be subject, under such regulations as Parliament might decide upon.

“That it is expedient that the Government of India should remain in the hands of the Company, under such regulations as Parliament might prescribe”

After some observations from Mr Wynne, Mr Majoribanks, Mr C. Ferguson, and Mr Buckingham, the resolutions were agreed to and the report was ordered to be brought up tomorrow. 22 June 1833, Worcester Herald

1833 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton – In Committee on East India Company Charter Bill, to call the attention of the Committee to the Anglo-Chinese College at Malacca, originally founded by the Rev. Robert Morrison, D.D., in 1815, and at present maintained by voluntary contributions and a small annual aid from the local Government, and to point out the important political and commercial advantages that might be derived from that valuable Institution if more effectually supported. 15 July 1833, Morning Post

1833 – A number of gentlemen who, at the last election for the Southern Division of this county, supported Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton, have announced an intention to celebrate their return to Parliament, by a public dinner at the King’s Head Inn, Wickham, early next. Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton are expected to be present on this occasion. 21 October 1833, Hampshire Chronicle
1833 – Election Dinner at Wickham: The friends and supports of Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton, Bart. at the late election for South Hants, dined together on Tuesday at the King’s Head, Wickham. One of the chief objects of the dinner was to acknowledge the liberal conduct of Mr Sandles, on several public occasions. John Guitton, Esq. of Little Park, was president, supported on his right by Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., M.P., and Admiral Ommaney, C.B. and on his left by William Grant, Esq. and Major H. Dundas Campbell. The Rev. James Henville officiated as vice-president with his usual urbanity, and inexhaustible fund of wit and eloquence. The dinner comprised everything in season and the dessert would have done credit to the first tavern in London.

The King, the Queen, the Duke of Sussex, and the rest of the Royal Family, the army and navy, were given in succession from the chair.

Admiral Ommaney returned thanks in a firm and manly speech, observing on the pride of both services, on all occasions, to do their duty, and he had no doubt, should their services be again required to support the honour of their country, they would be found as ready and as efficient as they had before proved themselves.

Major Campbell acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the service to which he had the honour to belong.

The next toast, Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton, the Members for South Hants, was received with enthusiastic cheers, which lasted many minutes.

Sir George Staunton apologised for the absence of his noble colleague, who was busily engaged at his post, watching over and protecting the honour and interests of the country, in her relations with foreign powers. It was impossible his Lordship could leave London just now, when dispatches from foreign courts were constantly requiring his immediate attention. Sir George then went into a history of the first session of the Reformed Parliament, and ably explained the three principal causes of the long protraction of the Session. With respect to the Irish Coercion Bill, he said the question was whether the law of the land should be temporarily suspended in that unhappy country, and the Bill be passed for the protection of life and property, or all law was to cease there, and Ireland be exposed to the utmost horror. The Bill had passed, and without being put into active operation, Ireland had happily become comparatively tranquil. The discussion of this Bill had occupied much time, from the determined opposition of some of the Irish Members, many of whom, he had no doubt, opposed it from conscientious motives. Another cause of delay was the many new Members sent by new constituencies, and it was a considerable period before they found their political places. The Bank Charter and the East India Questions also required the deepest consideration, and necessarily consumed a considerable portion of the Session. Sir George then alluded to the reception given to himself and his Noble colleague, at a dinner at Fareham, shortly after their election; that day could never be effaced from his memory while he had life, yet there was a still higher gratification in their present expressions towards him. On the former occasion the character given by his excellent friend, Mr Henville, and others, obtained for him their countenance and support, but now he met them after his attendance as their representative, and was induced to believe that their flattering and kind support arose from a general sentiment that he had done his duty in Parliament. He had never yet made any pledges, but to this he would pledge himself – The electors of South Hants had sent him to Parliament by their honest and independent votes, and in no other way would he ever accept a seat in the House of Commons. Sir George concluded by proposing as a toast – The Friends of Reform all over the world. 28 October 1833 Chronicle.

1834 – Sir George Staunton, Bart. has given the sum of £20 to be distributed to the poor of the parish of Bedhampton. 27 January 1834, Salisbury and Winchester Journal.

1834 – House of Commons: The Bill for the establishment of the Railway, from London to Southampton, is ordered to be brought to the House of Commons by Mr Shaw Lefevre, Mr Scott, and Sir George Staunton. 24 February 1834, Hampshire Telegraph.

1834 – House of Commons Evening Sitting (the Speaker took the Chair at ten minutes past five o’clock): Sir George Staunton brought up the report on the committee on the Stoke Bridge petition, and obtained leave to bring in a Bill. 26 February 1834, Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser.
1834 – House of Commons, 13 March: Sir George Staunton presented a petition from the Dissenters of two places in Southampton, praying for relief. The Hon. Baronet objected to that part of the Bill introduced by the Noble Lord the Paymaster to the Forces, which related to the marriages of Dissenters.

1834 – House of Commons, 18 March – Tea Duties: Mr Robinson urged that a fixed rate of tea duties would be a manifest injustice in the poorer classes of society; for the Boheas, and of those there was the greatest consumption, would pay tax of two hundred per cent, while the finer sorts of green teas would not pay more than seventy-five per cent.

Sir George Staunton, Mr Strickland, Mr Lyall, Mr Hoare, Mr Hawes, etc. took part in the debate. It was stated in the course of the proceedings, that the consumption of tea in this country is 11,000,000 lbs. annually, which is about one and a half pound to every man, woman, and child.

Sir George Staunton said that the names congou, bohea and souchong, were not given to the teas by the Chinese, who merely described their teas as inferior, middling, and superior. All the black teas imported into this country, with a very small exception, were produced from the same plant, and in the same part of China, in what was called the Bohea district. The literal meaning of the term congou in the Chinese is “prepared or manufactured,” and the meaning of souchong is “selected.” Therefore, in fact, there was no possibility of a separation of these kinds of teas into three distinct classes. There was no article of consumption more liable to adulteration than tea, and he need not point out to the House that the people of China were perfect adept at practising frauds of this description.

25 March 1834, Cumberland Pacquet & Ware’s Whitehaven Advertiser

1834 – House of Commons, Evening Sitting, 25 March: Sir George Staunton presented a petition from a place in Hampshire, for the abolition of chimney sweeping by climbing boys.

1834 – House of Commons, 17 April – Dramatic Copyright: Sir George Staunton presented a Petition, which he said, was respectfully worded, from Adelaide O’Keefe, daughter of the late John O’Keefe, the Dramatist, referring to the ten years retrospective clause in the Dramatic Copyright Bill recently passed, and praying that should any future measure of the same kind come before the House, that the clause might be extended to fifty years, in order to include the various productions written by her deceased father.

18 April 1834, Morning Chronicle

1834 – House of Commons, 17 April: Sir George Staunton presented petitions from the Wesleyan Methodists of Fareham and Gosport, praying for an enactment to insure a better observance of the Sabbath day.

21 April 1834, Hampshire Chronicle

1834 – House of Commons, 4 June: Sir George Staunton presented Petitions from Harborough, and other places, for the adoption of more efficient measures for the protection of oyster fisheries at these stations. He strongly supported the prayer.

7 June 1834, Hampshire Advertiser

1834 – China: Letters dated October 23rd 1833, have reached Canton, stating that Sir George Staunton is appointed chief superintendent of the British trade in China, with a salary of £10,000 per year, the Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, second, with £5,000 per annum, and Mr. Labouherece, third, with £4,000 per annum.

26 September 1834, Coventry Herald

1834 – Southampton: The friends of Sir George Staunton held a meeting on Monday at the George Inn, in this town, for the purpose of adopting such measures as might appear expedient for securing the return of the Hon. Baronet, in the event of a dissolution.

29 November 1834, Oxford Journal

1834 – With Respect to the Southern Division of the County: Mr Fleming’s friends have commenced an active canvas in Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport. There can be little doubt of the return of Sir George Staunton, as he has shown himself to be a most upright and independent gentleman, and his votes in the House have given general satisfaction.

1 December 1834, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1834 – The Hampshire Whigs and Radicals have agreed to vote again for Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton.

5 December 1834, Nottingham Review & General Advertiser
1834 – The Conservative Cause - Portsmouth: It will recollected that at the last contest Mr Fleming only numbered in the district 232 votes, while Sir George Staunton had 413, and Lord Palmerston 445. The canvas up to this time shows a majority, even in this hot-bed of Radicalism, as much in his favour as the former poll did against him; and not only so, but Mr Compton stands second on the list, topping both the Whig members considerably.

6 December 1834, Hampshire Advertiser

1834 – (4 December): Lord Viscount Palmerston, and Sir George T. Staunton, Bart., the Members for the Southern Division of this County, met their Constituents, and numerous friends in these towns, on Thursday, to offer a renewal of their services, in the event of a Dissolution of Parliament and to explain (if deemed necessary) till, 1, any part of the Legislative proceedings, since they were elected, and to give to the Meeting such an exposition of their views of the prospective state of the country, as recent events have rendered necessary. The speeches of the two Members, in the preceding page, which appeared to be quite satisfactory, and in accordance with the sentiments and feelings of their numerous Constituents, supply this information.

Last evening a public meeting of the Freeholders and Electors was held at the Star Inn, Gosport, at which Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton attended (Admiral Ommanney, C.B. in the Chair), when the Members gave a similar statement, to the great satisfaction of at least five hundred persons, as was testified by their repeated cheers and braves. The Members offered to answer any question which might be put to them, but the satisfaction was so complete, that no one deemed it needful to raise an objection, or ask an explanation. James Hoskins Esq. addressed the meeting in an excellent speech explanatory of the services already rendered by the worthy Reform Candidates, deducing therefrom, that the fullest reliance may be placed in them for the future votes. He warmly deprecated the conduct of Mr. Fleming's friends, whom he stated were holding out the terror of Government anger, and the sweets of Government favour, to terrify and induce voters to come to that Gentleman's aid, and contrasted such conduct with the noble declaration by Lord Palmerston, in his speech at Southampton, on the occasion of the last nomination in December, 1832, quoting his Lordship's words: “That every Elector who held a situation or employment under Government should be free to vote as he pleased at that election” to which he added “that declared this is an unhesitating and unqualified manner;” and his Lordship added “that he trusted that none of those who did him the honour to wish well to his cause, would exert that power which they might possess, either as landlords, or as customers, to control the free conduct of any elector in his favour in the then contest.” Mr H. then animadverted on the assertions made by the supporters of the Ducal Government, that it meant to carry out the principles of Reform, emphatically expressing his disbelief of such pretences, and which he was assured was likewise the feeling of the electors.

Lord Palmerston and Sir George Thomas Staunton have been actively canvassing the Electors of Gosport, Portsea, and Portsmouth, during the last three days of this week. We are informed that they intend to persevere to the utmost of their power during the short days of the present season, to pay their personal respects and solicit the suffrages of every voter in South Hants, if possible before the present Parliament is dissolved.

John Fleming, Esq., of Stoneham Park, and Henry Combe Compton, Esq., of Manor House, the Candidates upon Conservative principles, have this week canvassed these towns.

Admiral Napier, and his numerous supporters and friends, had a meeting at the Society's Hall, on Wednesday evening; and no Candidate could have met with a more enthusiastic reception. The speech of the gallant Admiral, was heard under the most excited feelings of ardent approbation.

John Bonham Carter, Esq., and Francis Thornhill Baring, Esq., the Members for the Borough, have nearly completed their canvass.

The addresses of the Members, and of the Candidates, and the various statements put forth by their respective advocates, appear in our advertising columns.

The following statement is extracted from The Canvassing Books, this evening. Portsmouth :- Lord Palmerston (in positive pledge), 97; Sir George Staunton, Bart, 100; John Fleming, Esq. 35. Within the walls of Portsea:- Palmerston, 90; Staunton, 103; Fleming. 53; Compton, 32.

We are informed that Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton will meet their Committee for Southsea, on Monday morning at nine o'clock, at the Yorke-Rooms, and will then proceed to canvass that district; after which they will take the Kingston district, and finish at Landport. On Tuesday, they will canvass Portsmouth, which will complete their canvass for this Division; and on Tuesday evening they will be at Fareham, to meet their Friends there.

8 December 1834, Hampshire Telegraph
Sir GEORGE STAUNTON then rose, amidst loud cheering, to address the meeting. After some preliminary remarks, he stated that he had given his support to the late Government because it came into office under a pledge of carrying into effect the principles of the Reform Bill, but that his support was not indiscriminate or unqualified. Before he proceeded further he begged, in reference to a placard which had been exhibited with regard to him, to state that he was not only a friend to the Church, but to civil and religious liberty, and these two characters, however some people might think otherwise, were not inconsistent. At the same time, he felt desirous to remove the disabilities under which the Dissenters laboured [hear, hear]. If the Dissenters' Bill had proceeded, however he might have differed in the details, he should have taken care that the grants should have been made in such a manner as not to interfere with the rights and liberties of the Church. The Honourable Member then went at considerable length into a review of his political conduct, and concluded by saying, that it was his determination to carry on safe constitutional reforms, and on that he was ready to stand or fall. If he had belied any of the professions made in his addresses, and had not acted honestly and independently, he was content to be declared no longer worthy of being their representative: but if he had done well, he trusted for a renewal of their favours [cheers]. After some further remarks the Hon. Member sat down amidst loud and enthusiastic cheering.

Mr. T. V. WILLIAMS then moved a resolution, pledging the meeting to support Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton, which was seconded by Mr. Samuel New, of Fareham, and was passed with only three excepting voices.

Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton having returned thanks for the reception which they had received, and thanks being voted to the Chairman, the meeting dissolved.

1834 – South Hants County Election (4 December): On Thursday last a numerous meeting of the electors of the Southern Division of Hants assembled at Portsea, with a view to secure the re-election of Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton, Bart., the present representatives, who had been invited to attend the meeting. Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton, on entering the room, were greeted with loud cheers. Edward Carter, Esq., was unanimously called to the Chair. The Chairman having opened the meeting, Lord Palmerston rose amidst loud cheering.

Sir GEORGE STAUNTON then rose, amidst loud cheering, to address the meeting. After some preliminary remarks, he stated that he had given his support to the late Government because it came into office under a pledge of carrying into effect the principles of the Reform Bill, but that his support was not indiscriminate or unqualified. Before he proceeded further he begged, in reference to a placard which had been exhibited with regard to him, to state that he was not only a friend to the Church, but to civil and religious liberty, and these two characters, however some people might think otherwise, were not inconsistent. At the same time, he felt desirous to remove the disabilities under which the Dissenters laboured [hear, hear]. If the Dissenters' Bill had proceeded, however he might have differed in the details, he should have taken care that the grants should have been made in such a manner as not to interfere with the rights and liberties of the Church. The Honourable Member then went at considerable length into a review of his political conduct, and concluded by saying, that it was his determination to carry on safe constitutional reforms, and on that he was ready to stand or fall. If he had belied any of the professions made in his addresses, and had not acted honestly and independently, he was content to be declared no longer worthy of being their representative: but if he had done well, he trusted for a renewal of their favours [cheers]. After some further remarks the Hon. Member sat down amidst loud and enthusiastic cheering.

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8 December 1834, Morning Chronicle

1834 – South Hants County Election (17 December), Ringwood: Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton visited this town on Wednesday, and immediately commenced an active canvass and were speedily followed by Mr Fleming and Compton. A respectable meeting of the electors took place in the afternoon at the Crown Inn Assembly Room where Lord Palmerston, in a masterly and eloquent speech, took a comprehensive and argumentative review of the Important measures that had engaged attention of the Reform Government for the last two years, ably vindicating himself and colleagues in their general line of policy while in office. His Lordship was most enthusiastically cheered at the conclusion, and frequently during the delivery of his speech. Sir George Staunton also addressed the meeting and was listened to with great attention and evident satisfaction. Both appeared much gratified with the result of their canvas, and proceeded in the evening to Fordingbridge.

22 December 1834, Hampshire Chronicle

1834 – South Hants County Election (22 December), Romsey: A numerous and respectable body of the Electors of the Division of South Hants met their Representatives on Monday last, at the Town Hall. W. E. Nightingale, Esq., of Embley Park, was unanimously called to the chair. Mr. George, of Romsey, moved the first resolution, expressive of the confidence of the Electors in their honourable and efficient Representatives, and he prefaced it by many most appropriate observations. The Resolution was very ably seconded by Mr. Alderman Sharp, and carried unanimously and by acclamation. Viscount Palmerston then rose, and delivered an address at great length, which commanded the attention and excited the admiration of his auditory.

Sir George Staunton followed the Noble Lord in a speech which bespoke the excellent good sense and frankness of the Honourable Baronet. He declared that the independence of the County would depend on the issue of the approaching contest. He was particularly happy in his observation, that Sir Robert Peel had asked for new trial, but had not shown good cause for it. After noticing the attempts which were made by some to interrupt the free exercise of the elective franchise, and which had been alluded to his colleague, the Hon. Baronet affirmed, that he would rather live under honest despotism at once, than under a Government, calling itself free and constitutional, but in which the rights of freemen were frittered away annulled by bribery or intimidation, and nothing but the mere mockery of Representation remained.

29 December 1834, Salisbury and Winchester Journal
1835 – South Hants County Election, Portsmouth: The County Election will take place about a week after the borough election. William Minchin, Esq., solicitor, of Portsea, is appointed Deputy Sheriff for this district. The candidates are, Lord Palmerston, Sir George Staunton, and Messrs. Fleming and Compton.

5 January 1835, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1835 – South Hants Election- From Our Own Correspondent: I am happy in being able to inform you at last, that Lord Palmerston is sure of his return for this division of the county. The Tories are bouncing very much, and loudly declaring that his Lordship will be sent to the right-about. Let them talk-it is their only remaining consolation. They have tried every means that men can think of - every nerve has been strained, but his Lordship has met them at every point, explained candidly the true position of affairs, and the tremendous difficulties the late Ministers had to contend with - difficulties, indeed, too apparent now, and has everywhere received the strongest assurances of satisfaction and support. His brother Reformer, Sir George Staunton, will have a hard run with Mr. Fleming ; but it is shrewdly suspected by men who are judges in these matters, that that the Tory will be kept in tire only place he is qualified to adorn - his own fire-side.

7 January 1835, Morning Chronicle

1835 – Southampton Has Done its Duty! The Call of the King has been ably Responded to in the Return of the two Conservative Members by a Triumphant Majority! Men of Hampshire!! Follow the Noble Example!!:

Some of the Reform papers have stated that Sir George Staunton has retired from the contest! We, his political opponents will use more candour and liberality towards him than his friends. He has not retired; but our firm opinion is, that no poll will be demanded:- if it should, the majority for Fleming and Compton will be very considerable.

10 January 1835, Hampshire Chronicle

1835 – TO THE EDITORS OF THE TIMES, HANTS (SOUTH) ELECTION

Sir, I am extremely surprised to find that a statement found its way into your paper, that I had retired from the contest for South Hampshire, and I now hasten to request of you to give it, without delay, the most unqualified contradiction. There never was for one moment the slightest foundation for such a report, and I therefore consider it as one of those “weak inventions of the enemy” that always ultimately recoil upon their authors.

I shall go to the poll with the most confident assurances of success, and I shall conceive it to be my imperative duty to those who have so generously and so zealously undertaken to support me upon the present occasion, to keep the poll open in every possible case to the last hour.

I trust that your sense of justice will induce to publish this letter, and I am Sir, your obedient servant.

George Thomas Staunton,
Leigh Park, Havant, Jan. 8, 1835

10 January 1835 The Times

1835 – South Hants Election: Lord Palmerston is considered to be quite safe. Sir George Staunton is also expected to win. Compton has no chance.

11 January 1835, Bell’s Weekly Messenger

1835 – South Hants Election Nominations, 13 January: The nomination of candidates for the Southern Division of the county of Hants took place yesterday at Southampton, when the old members, Lord Palmerston and Sir George Staunton. Bart., were proposed by the Whig interest, and Messrs. Fleming and Compton by the Tory party. We have received a very long report of the speeches made by the proposers and seconds of the various candidates, and those of the Honourable Gentlemen themselves; but the press of other important matters, and the late hour at which our Express arrived (the business not being over until five), compel us to omit everything save the annexed report (also very much condensed) of the clear and manly address of Lord Palmerston. We should state that, on the show of hands, the Sheriff declared the election to have fallen on Messrs. Fleming and Compton, on which a poll was demanded for the other candidates.

14 January 1835, Morning Chronicle
1835 – South Hants Election, 13 January: On Tuesday, the election for the southern division, Hampshire, commenced with the nomination of the respective candidates at Southampton. At half-past 10 o'clock, the High Sheriff, Sir Samuel Raymond Jarvis, opened the proceedings at the Guildhall by reading the writ, and going through the other formalities usual upon such occasion. The Court was then adjourned to the hustings, which had been erected in an open field at the top of the street Above Bar. There was a considerable assemblage present, and the different candidates were received by their supporters with most vociferous demonstrations of applause. The High Sheriff, having stated the object of the meeting, recommended them to give all parties a fair and impartial hearing. Colonel Huet proposed Lord Viscount Palmerston as a fit and proper person to represent them in Parliament. He was a firm and staunch Reformer, and it was such men that the people, if true to themselves, would select in the present eventful crisis. Mr. Nightingale seconded the nomination of the Noble Lord. Lord Ommaney proposed, and Mr. Guiston, of Little Park, seconded the nomination of Sir George Staunton.

19 January 1835, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1835 – South Hants Election, 19 January: Notwithstanding the heavy rain which fell without intermission till near eleven o'clock, on Monday morning, our town presented a scene of the utmost interest and activity, it having been announced that the newly-elected members, John Fleming, Esq. and Henry Coombe Compton, Esq., would enter the town at the head of their procession, the windows of the houses in the High-street were crowded with ladies, wearing the ribbons of the new members in their dresses. Most of the gentlemen and tradesmen of the town left on horseback, or in carriages to join the procession. Great numbers of people waited, despite the rain, to welcome the Members, and the weather fortunately clearing up about eleven o'clock, the streets became densely crowded. The Dolphin and Star Inns were profusely decorated with flags, ivy, and mistletoe; and the bells at Holyhood church rang many a merry peal. The procession having formed into order at the Military Asylum, entered the town in the following order: —


On the arrival of the procession at the Bar Gate, the band played "See the Conquering Hero comes," and at that moment the coup d’oeil was most splendid. The extent of the line of procession was immense, the huzzas of the crowd were enthusiastic, the ladies from the windows waved their scarfs and handkerchiefs, and the multiplicity of banners waving in the procession, and from the houses, completed a more superb show than has ever been witnessed in the town. The new members having alighted, entered the Hall, amidst the most tumultuous cheering. The High Sheriff having requested silence, for his officers to proceed with the counting of the poll, they proceeded to their duty. It, of necessity occupied so long a time, that the Sheriff was repeatedly obliged to call the impatient crowd to order, who strove to beguile the tedium of the delay, by practising various practical jokes upon each other. The poll clerks having completed their task, the Sheriff declared the state of the poll to be—

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Being a majority for Mr. Fleming of 242 over Lord Palmerston, and of 296 over Sir George Staunton; and a majority for Mr. Compton of 185 over Lord Palmerston, and of 239 over Sir George Staunton. The High Sheriff then declared that John Fleming, Esq. and Henry Coombe Compton, esq. were returned as Knights of the Shire for the Southern Division of Hants. The announcement was received with six rounds of cheers; the crowd in the street below, judging the cause, instantly responded by the most tremendous cheering, which was again taken up by the dense crowd in the hall, and hurrahs, “Fleming for ever,” and " Compton for ever," resounded through the hall. The High Sheriff then proceeded to gird the new Knights of the Shire with the sword and spurs, the ceremony being followed by long acclamations; the indenture of election was then signed, and the High sheriff congratulated the two representatives on the result of the contest, and suggested that the electors should then greet them as their representatives with three times three.

24 January, Hampshire Advertiser

1835 – To The Editor of the Hampshire Telegraph:

Sir, The Chairman of the Gosport Conservative Dinner, is reported to have charged Sir George Staunton with being a false Prophet for having foretold that Mr Fleming would never represent the County again, I have endeavoured to find when and where the false prophecy was made, and the only trace of it which I can discover, is a remark which Sir George made at a dinner given to him and Lord Palmerston, by the Election of the Fareham District, at which he is certainly reported to have said “you (meaning of course the Fareham Electors) will never choose Mr Fleming.”

This prophecy has been literally fulfilled – the numbers at the final close of the poll in the Fareham Division (as admitted by the High Sheriff since the Election) having been as follows:- Staunton 442; Palmerston 407; Fleming 311; Compton 289.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

A Fareham Voter

Fareham, Feb 17, 1835

2 March, 1835, Hampshire Telegraph

1835 – At the last quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Hunterian Museum (established by Act of Parliament in 1800, for the inspection and superintendence of the Museum) Sir George Staunton was chosen a Trustee, upon the vacancy occasioned by the decease, last year, of the Earl Spencer.

23 November 1835, Hampshire Telegraph

1837 – Sir George Staunton, though absent from Leigh Park, is not unmindful of the wants of the poor in his neighbourhood: he has this week directed that £20 shall be distributed among the poor of Havant, in coals as usual, and £10 to the poor of each of the adjoining parishes of Warblington, Bedhampton, and Hayling.

5 January 136, Dorset County Chronicle

1837 - The Reformers of the southern division of this county will rejoice to learn that their late highly-respected, liberal, and independent representative, Sir George Staunton, has announced “his firm determination again strenuously to contend for the honour of representing them in Parliament, whenever the opportunity shall arrive, and he should be duly apprised of the wishes of the electors that he should so.”

31 January 1837, London Courier and Evening Gazette

1837 – Sir George Staunton has given the Rev. R. Walsh, P.P. of Headford, Galway, £20 for his new chapel.

4 February 1837, Waterford Chronicle

1837 – More Defection: Sir George Staunton, the former colleague of Lord Palmerston, and the present Whig candidate for South Hants, in a letter addressed to the electors states that “although he cordially concurs with His Majesty’s present Government upon most points, he cannot support them on the Irish Church approbation clause, or any other question which involves in it an alienation of Church property to secular purposes.”

23 March 1837, Morning Post
1837 – (27 March) – Havant: On Tuesday, Mr John Locke of the National School, delivered a lecture on the Atmosphere before Sir George Staunton and several distinguished inhabitants of the neighbourhood; although the subject and the lecturer deserved a more numerous attendance of auditors.

1 April 1837, Hampshire Telegraph

1837 – Correspondence – Representation of South Hants. To Honoris Defensor:

Sir,— You misquote and misrepresent me. What I said was, that Sir George Staunton, during the last session, had told a Conservative friend, that if he were then in parliament he should vote against the Appropriation Clause; and what I asked was, whether, if he were now one of our representatives, and the same clause were again under consideration, he would take the same course? And yet you assert that my question did not refer to any change of opinion. I was entirely unconscious of any irritation when I wrote last, nor am I offended now; and I sincerely regret that the general commendation I am bound to bestow on your letters should be necessarily qualified by their injustice to mine. We will, however, part friends, and that no unprofitable discussion may be added to a correspondence that has produced the result I desired, I shall refrain from any observation on certain debateable points in your last, and content myself with saying that I cannot be satisfied on any anonymous authority that the worthy Baronet did not vote in one session for the second reading of the Reform Bill, and against it in the next, but that whether he did or not will become a matter of little moment, if he is prepared to pursue the very manly and laudable course, of which his letter in the Telegraph is an example. The remarkable political courage and strict independence of popular outcry exhibited in the worst of times by our estimable member, Mr. Fleming, have always had much greater weight with me than any of his other recommendations, great as they are, and it is with the utmost satisfaction that I am enabled to observe an indication of such qualities in Sir George. There is no comparison between the importance of his present declaration and that which he made before the Whigs were O'Connellised. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, Fidei Defensor, March 23, 1837.

1 April 1837, Hampshire Advertiser

1837 – Sir George Staunton has declined standing for the County. He is too unstable for a Conservative, and too honest for a Radical, and finding neither party willing to take him up, he very wisely retires. We have it on undoubted authority.

1 April 1837, Hampshire Advertiser

1837 – Sir George Staunton has announced to his constituents in South Hants that he means to decline being a candidate for that division of the county at the next election. Sir George states his reason for retiring to be that he finds some of his supporters do not coincide with him in opinion as to the expediency of the Irish Church appropriation clause, and he is unwilling that any act of his should lead to disunion among the reformers of the county.

4 April 1837, Morning Advertiser

1837 – Election News: In the county Messrs. Fleming and Compton are as yet unopposed. Many reports have, however, been floating about, the most amusing of which is a requisition from "The Reformers" of Havant and its neighbourhood, to Sir George Staunton. If the requisition is the offering of neighbours to an unblemished character, we can easily understand it, but in a political point of view, it is totally inexplicable. To bring Sir George forward as a ministerial candidate would be the height of insanity, seeing that he is too honest to bind himself to such a ministry, and avows his determination to oppose them on a question – on which of all others they need support – their crusade against the Church. We shall ever honour such a man for his integrity, and we have yet to learn in what important particulars Sir George differs from many of the Stanley party – now avowed Conservatives.

1 July 1837, Hampshire Advertiser

1837 – Election News, 4 July: At a meeting of the Reformers of Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport, held Totterdell's Rooms, the 4th day of July, George John Scale, Esq., in the chair, it was unanimously resolved, "that Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., having declared his determination to give his general support to her Majesty's Liberal and reforming Ministry, is entitled to the support of the Reformers of the Southern Division of the county of Hants; and we pledge ourselves to use our utmost exertions to procure his return to Parliament as one of the representatives for this division of the county, so soon as Sir George Staunton has declared himself candidate."

10 July, 1837, Salisbury and Winchester Journal
1837 – Hampshire South: Messrs. Fleming and Compton are to be opposed by Sir George Staunton, in conjunction with Admiral Sir J. A. Ommaney. The Reformers have been active on the subject, and two meetings have been held at Southampton, when Sir John Barker Mill, Bart., was chosen chairman of the Reform meeting, for conducting their election, and through him the Liberals of South Hants will feel an assurance that the gentlemen now soliciting their suffrages are such as are worthy their confidence. The intimation reaches us only at a late hour but we point to the joint address of the Liberal candidates, and the resolutions signed by Messrs. Holmes and Spain, with infinite gratification.

10 July 1837, Morning Chronicle

1837 – Election News: Sir George Staunton has been bullied and persuaded into contesting South Hants against the present worthy members; and by way of a colleague in his certain defeat, he takes under his wing Admiral Ommaney, whom not one voter out of ten in the county knows anything about, and who, besides has neither land, money nor services to recommend him in the eyes of the electors. Admiral Napier, who contested the borough of Portsmouth on Radical principles, now stands for Greenwich.

13 July 1837, Brighton Gazette

1837 – South Hants Election: A meeting of the friends and supporters of Sir George Staunton, Bart., and Admiral Sir John Ommaney, the ministerial candidates for South Hants, took place on Friday evening at the Society’s Hall, Portsea. We had prepared a short report of the proceedings but the pressure of other matter, or more immediate importance in our readers compels us to defer it till our next number: in the meantime we subjoin a brief notice.

Sir George Staunton, in his address, said – Nothing could give him greater gratification than to meet them again in the glorious cause of Constitutional Reform – the cause of the political independence of South Hampshire. The Tories had thrown among them the apple of discord, but he was glad to say they had regarded it with indignation and scorn and had united in closer bonds than ever, in the same good cause. They now have upon the throne their gracious Queen, who from the cradle had been educated by her wise and excellent mother in those patriotic principles which made the feelings of a monarch in unison with those of a great, free and enlightened people. She had placed her entire confidence in the ministry who carried the Reform Bill, by which all other fruits could be produced. The period was much critical – the question was whether reform should be carried on, or at once arrested – whether this reign should be signalled by the gradual already progress of reform throughout the British empire, or whether they should go back to the old state of Toryism in which every reform had been prevented.

After this monstrous bouncer, Sir George proceeded to ask the meeting whether Municipal Reform should not be given in Ireland (cries of yes, yes). He then said the government had taken off six millions of taxes. He said there were difficulties in the former Irish Tithe Bill, but with the present one he was satisfied. He thought upon most questions the government were deserving of support. His own principles were the same he professed in 1832 and 1835, and such they would always be.

Sir John Ommaney, in a short speech, said he would support the principles he had put forward in his address. There was nothing remarkable in the squeaking of the smaller fry, excepting that Mr Spain came out with an awful bouncer saying that they had a majority in Southampton of 1023. With a denial of this monstrous and stupid falsehood we conclude.

15 July 1836, Hampshire Advertiser

1837 – South Hants: Sir George Staunton and Admiral Sir John Ommaney in their canvass this week, in the west and centre of the county, have been successful beyond their anticipations; in the Southampton district they have been eminently well received, and, though late in the field, they are not likely to be losers of the prize they seek for. We speak now with confidence when we say that the Liberal cause most triumph.

18 July 1837, London Courier and Evening Gazette

1837 – To the Editor of the Hampshire Advertiser and Portsmouth Herald. Havant, July 11, 1837.

Sir,— In your article of Saturday's Herald, headed "Sir George Staunton's Retraction," you inform your readers that the only resident of Emsworth who has at all interested himself in getting up a requisition to Sir George Staunton is a respectable surgeon, and that he has likewise an establishment at Havant. At the same time you forgot to inform the public that should they require his professional aid they would be sure never to find him at the latter place. I make no doubt that in canvassing the constituency to obtain signatures to the requisition, he was eminently successful in
obtaining those of his very old and respected friends, the retail brewers, publicans, and keepers of Tom and Jerry shops; in fact, I should be very much astonished had he met with a single refusal. You say, likewise, that he is a Catholic— if you speak to the fact from your own personal knowledge, I give you the credit of being an extraordinary clever fellow, and I positively assure you that you are the only person that ever correctly ascertained his religious creed. Had you called him a Nulli Fidian or an Anythinggarian you would have arrived at a more accurate conclusion. If his political opinions are not more accurately defined than his religious ones, I think, should he be called on to propose or second Sir George Staunton, and at the same time to develop his own opinions, he will prove a very sorry supporter of the cause. I remain, Sir, A SUBSCRIBER. 

22 July 1837, Hampshire Advertiser

1837 – Romsey: Sir George Staunton and Admiral Ommanney arrived here on Thursday afternoon, and soon afterwards proceeded to the Town Hall, followed by a large party of electors and others. Sir John B. Mill, Bart., having been called to the chair, ably explained the object of the meeting, and proposed a resolution to the effect, that the two candidates were, in the opinion of the meeting, fit and proper persons to represent the Southern Division of the County in Parliament at the ensuing election—which was unanimously carried. The candidates then severally addressed the meeting at considerable length, explanatory of the course they meant to pursue should they be so fortunate as be elected, Sir George pledging himself, in the course of his address, to vote again for the repeal of the Malt Duty, and any other measure calculated to afford relief to the Agricultural Interest. The gallant Admiral professed himself an advocate for the Vote by Ballot, stating, that in his opinion, such a measure had now become of more consequence, from the numerous acts of intimidation and coercion, which had been practised in some places to such an extent, that many persons were prevented from voting as they wished, for fear of giving offence, and others could not vote at all. Mr. George and Mr. Holmes also addressed the meeting. Thanks were voted to the Chairman for his great exertions in the cause; three cheers were given for the candidates, and three for the chairman—after which, the meeting separated. The candidates soon after left the town for Mottisfont House, the seat of the worthy Baronet, Sir J. B. Mill. 

31 July 1837, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1837 - Havant, July 29: The canvass of Sir G. T. Staunton and Admiral Ommanney has been more successful than their most sanguine friends could have anticipated. the returns made to the central Committee at Southampton, the success of these gentlemen is considered to be placed beyond a doubt. 

31 July 1837, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1837 – South Hampshire, Southampton, 1 August): The nomination of candidates for the representation of the southern division of Hampshire took place here this day. There was a large concourse of people present. The usual formalities having been gone through, Sir H. B. Neale proposed Mr. Flemming. Mr. S. Stanley seconded the nomination. Sir H. Heathcote, M. D. proposed Mr. Compton, and the nomination of the Hon. Gentleman was seconded by Mr. Drummond. _

Sir J. B. Mill then proposed Sir George Staunton as a fit and proper person to represent the county in Parliament. The nomination was seconded by Captain Samuel. Mr. Guitton proposed Admiral Ommaney, and Mr. Attwell, M.P., seconded the nomination.

The two former gentlemen, the late Tory Members, were proposed amidst great uproar; the two latter, who are Liberals, were proposed amidst deafening cheers. From the uproar which prevailed, we could not hear more than an occasional sentence from either of the candidates. The show of hands having been declared in favour of the Liberal candidates, poll was demanded on behalf of the former. The polling days are Friday and Saturday; the contest will be severe.

2 August 1837, Morning Chronicle

1837 – South Hants Election: On Tuesday morning Southampton was all bustle and animation, notwithstanding a continuous drizzly rain, as the nomination for the Southern Division of Hants was appointed to take place that day. At near ten o clock, the procession of the late members entered the town, consisting of a long train of electors on horseback, and of company in carriages. Messrs. Fleming and Compton headed the procession, and acknowledged the gratulations of their friends on both sides of the High-street, as they proceeded to the Audit House. Lines of streamers
were stretched across the road, the flags of the Conservative Candidates floated from the Dolphin and Star Hotels, and from many private houses, and the supporters of the Conservative cause displayed the colours and emblems of their candidates—purple and orange ribbon and the ivy. Here and there a supporter of Sir George Staunton and Admiral Ommaney was to be seen with a laurel leaf gilded, but the great force of the party was on its way from Portsmouth by steamers hired for the occasion.

The usual preliminaries having been gone through at the Audit House, the sheriff and his officers, and the Candidates and their friends proceeded to the Hustings, erected in the usual place, in the Above Bar Fair Field. The rain at this time fortunately subsided, and the crowd in front of the hustings were subject to no other inconvenience than what was created by themselves. Sir George Staunton and Admiral Ommaney first arrived with their friends, and were received with slight cheering. A gang of fellows came with them and ranged themselves in front of the hustings, and as soon as Messrs. Fleming and Compton arrived, threatened to pull down the building; after sundry attempts to move the supports under the hustings had failed, they came in front of the division where Messrs. Fleming and Compton stood, and told them they should not obtain a hearing. The crowd now became very dense, a great number of carriages were arranged in the road, and the customary huzzas, and driving went on.

The High Sheriff endeavoured to obtain a hearing for a long time in vain. When at length a pause ensued, he begged an impartial hearing for each candidate and their respective friends.

Sir Harry Neale, Bart., then proposed John Fleming, their true late representative, as a gentleman peculiarly entitled to their suffrages, he was no stranger to them, his past public conduct was the best guarantee for his future acts; in his private life, Mr. Fleming was a man of most extensive benevolence, he was a good landlord and a sincere friend to the poor. — (The noise was so great, and our situation so bad, that we could scarcely make out half a sentence, and can only give a general outline of the speeches of the movers and seconders. The kindness of gentlemen on both sides afterwards enabled us to get close to the candidates, so as to report their speeches. The Sheriff frequently interposed to obtain a hearing for the speakers, but these requests were seldom effectual). Sir Harry concluded by stating then the canvass had satisfied him of the return of his honourable friends, and that they would go to parliament prepared to advocate every real improvement, but at the same time to oppose the designs of the enemies of the constitution.

Sloane Stanley, esq. seconded the nomination with as high pleasure as he had felt on performing the same duty on a previous occasion. Sir William Heathcote, Bart., proposed Henry Combe Compton, esq. the late representative. It gave him the highest gratification to perform so agreeable a task; there was not a better gentleman in England; he was a good landlord and a benefactor to the poor. His principles were well known to them, he had proved in the last parliament his determination to support the institutions and best interests of the country; the Northern Division of the county had honoured him (Sir W. H.) by electing him as one of its representatives, and he did not doubt he should have the pleasure of seeing the Conservative cause served by both the members of the Southern Division, through the election of Mr. Fleming and Mr. Compton.

R. Drummond, esq., of Cadland, seconded the nomination of Mr. Compton with feelings of pride as well as of pleasure, being confident that a more fit and proper person could not be proposed to any constituency in England. Well acquainted as they were with Mr. Compton's private as well as political character, there could be no occasion for him (Mr. Drummond) to intrude himself upon their attention, further than by stating generally that as the head of a family, a friend, a landlord, and a country gentleman, no man stands higher; born and residing in the county, upon no mean property, which has been handed down to him by his forefathers, his pleasure consists in improving it to the benefit and happiness of all around him. He had no wish to fortify Mr. Compton's already strong position by comparing his claims upon them, with those of his opponents, who had thought fit to set themselves up against him; his cause required no such assistance. But he wished to recommend him to them exclusively upon his own qualifications, not merely as a man of the highest character, but as a most loyal subject, firmly attached to the revered institutions of our country, and though ever ready to repair them, yet at the same time determined to maintain and support them, and to which no member of the House of Commons had proved himself more devoted by the unwearied zeal, assiduity, and attention, with which he had watched over their interests in it, and consequently made himself deserving of that support by which he (Mr. Drummond) felt sure they would return him as their representative by a large majority — (great cheering.)
Sir J. Mill proposed, and Captain Samuel of the grove seconded, the nomination of Sir George Staunton, Bart. Mr. Guitton proposed Admiral Ommanney, and said that had the gallant Admiral consulted his own wishes, he would not have come forward, but the cause was too important for him to let it suffer for want of a second candidate. Seconded by Mr. Atwell. The noise and disturbance had now become immense. Sounds of music were heard, and shortly after there arrived a body of men in Staunton and Ommanney's interest, decorated with the insignia of the party, and carrying flags in which the Queen's name was of course assumed. This body amounted to five hundred and eighty; brought from Portsmouth in steamers that morning to hold up their hands as electors forsooth! We are assured by our Portsmouth friends present, that they could not recognise more than five or six at the outside as electors, and this dirty trick was had recourse to, to cheat the Sheriff into a declaration of the show of hands being in favour of Sir George Staunton and Admiral Ommanney. Their flags were handed up into the hustings amidst the uproar of the pretended electors. A band of bonafide electors for Fleming and Compton then advanced and handed their flags into the hustings, after some severe struggles to prevent the other party from obtaining them.

When order bad been in some degree restored, J. Fleming, Esq. addressed the electors, followed by H. C. Compton, esq.

Sir George Staunton then addressed the crowd in a voice scarcely audible from intense excitement. Gentlemen, — I have not hesitated to come forward at your invitation to represent you in parliament. Three months ago I little expected to witness the glorious scene now before me, I little expected that I should have to present myself to the Reformers of South Hants as a candidate in your glorious cause. I laid before you my reasons why you should look for some other candidate more able than myself to conciliate all opinions and lead you to victory, but the Reformers of South Hants have refused to accept my resignation, and they have generously restored me to the independent position I claimed. They ask for no stipulation, for no pledge or promise whatsoever — (cheers). They rely on my attachment to reform, and they have spontaneously confided in me, and called on me to unite with my gallant friend Admiral Ommaney, to come forward as the champions of our country, our Queen and Constitution — (cheers). I am most proud and happy to respond to that call. In 1833 I came forward as a reformer to solicit your suffrages, and no change has taken place in me since, my zeal for reform has not diminished, and I am determined to give a liberal and independent support to the present Reform Government; as I thought then, so I think still, and mainly from the great crisis which has now arrived. The great question is whether the Reform Bill shall be carried out, or abandoned, I had almost said for ever. It is not a question merely between us and our opponents, it is a question of principle; it is a question whether you will support our gracious Queen and a liberal ministry, or whether you will by your votes, resign the power of government into the hands of the Tories, the friends and supporters of the King of Hanover. I see the emblem of Hanover still on the flags of our opponents (pointing to a Royal standard floating from the hustings) but they dare not attempt in this country what has been accomplished in Hanover, they are here controlled by the British people, and must proceed by the sap and the mine. It has been said that I should be disgraced by receiving the support of those, upon whom I rely for being returned to parliament, but I declare it was the most painful moment of my life, when I was separated from them, and it will be the most delightful when united to them again. They are the supporters of the constitution, of the rights of property, of a gracious Queen, and therefore I shall be proud of being united to them. We are told that the ministry support measures endangering the Altar and the Throne, and that they are themselves supported by those leagued together for the destruction of both. Gentlemen, the way to support the Altar and the Throne is to remove the abuses and corruption that disgrace and dishonour them. Neither the Church nor the Throne can stand when they have forfeited the attachment, and are opposed to the wishes of the people—(cheers and hisses). We have heard a great deal, gentlemen, about Mr. O'Connell. I deprecate the great power he possesses over the minds of his countrymen as much as my honourable opponents, and deem such power, by whoever exercised, as inconsistent with the safety and well-being of a nation, but that such a state of things exists, I must say with Hamlet, "There is something rotten in the state of Denmark." (Cheering and disapprobation). I will tell you how to put down Mr. O'Connell, and to remove that grievance which gives support to agitators. Do Justice to Ireland, redress the grievances that so long have depressed that unhappy country, and prevented her rising to that position she ought to attain, from her great natural resources. If you have given to England and Scotland reformed corporations, why insult the Irish by saying— you are unable or unfit to enjoy the benefit of them? They may bear injury, but certainly will not endure insult. Will they bear to be told that they are Aliens to our blood? Will it unite Ireland as one man, if required to resist an invader, to call to the councils of the Queen a man who has stigmatized them as Aliens? Will it
conciliate the Irish people to refuse them corporation reform, or to keep open the Tithe question? (Cheering.) Let us support the administration of the Earl of Mulgrave, who endeavours to make amends for the defects even of our laws in that country. The question is—Will you support the government that in a short time has taken off six millions of taxes, or will you support those who imposed them? I say it is impossible to restore a Tory government.—By secret and private influence a Tory may be returned in this or any other county, but that they should have a majority in the next parliament is impossible. You might as well attempt to restore the arbitrary powers of the Tudors or Plantagenets. The question is whether South Hants is to be the only place in the kingdom from which no reformer is to be sent; whether we shall sympathise with the spirit of the age, or go behind it. I do not know whether any thing has been said about government influence, it is not likely, as that was the ladder by which my honourable opponents, if rumour speaks true, mounted to power, and by which my late honourable colleague and myself were driven from our seats. If the influence spoken of be that moral influence which a good government should possess, then I glory in receiving the support of such influence. I do not think the present or any other government infallible, but reserve to myself the right of judging of its acts, but that the present welfare and future peace of the empire mainly depend on the continuance of this government in power, I believe. If the Tories had a majority in the House of Commons, they would deprive the Queen of her right to choose her own ministers, and so far from giving the government a fair trial, would subvert it to restore their own party to power. It has been said that the present ministers would wish to destroy our institutions, but are not the possessions and property of the ministers themselves a guarantee and a proof that they can never aim at a destruction which must fall so heavy on themselves. The time when there was danger of a revolution in this country was when a weak Tory government resigned their power, just as our late amiable monarch had ascended the throne, when he was prevented from even going in person to dine with the citizens of London. The great question is whether you would wish to see our good Queen retain her present ministers in office, or would you witness her being compelled to give her confidence to the Tories?—(cheers). An objection may be made against my gallant friend and myself, for both living in the eastern part of the county, but the Tory paper has shown the futility of the objection, by stating that Mr. Compton, while living in the inmost recesses of the New Forest can attend to the business of all his constituents and extend his cares to the fishermen of Emsworth. Now when I was last In parliament I was almost single-handed in managing the local business of the county, yet, I beg to ask If it was at all neglected; you know it was not: and how much better will it be, if I have the benefit of the assistance of my gallant friend Sir John Ommanney—(cheers). We have come forward in one respect under disadvantageous circumstances, having been somewhat late in the field, but the reception we have met with has been encouraging beyond our most sanguine expectations. But we are told our success in the Eastern part of the county is owing to our personal influence there, and that men are not all prophets in their own country, but if we had not done our duty, we could not have received the support we have even in our own district. The support in other parts of the county is also so great, as to render the issue of the contest no longer doubtful of being in our favour. We did not anticipate the success we have met with in Southampton, but the first days of our canvass shewed at a glance that a great reaction had taken place, and this was shewn already by the return of Lord Duncan. At Portsmouth, the tried friends of Reform, Messrs. Carter and Baring, had been returned. The Honourable Baronet then apologised for not having called on many of the electors, and hoped they would excuse him, and finally thanked them for what he was pleased to term a kind and patient reception. So great, however, was the disturbance, that none could hear the hon. Bart. except the few persons close to him. Three cheers were called for by Sir George's friends, and given.

Sir John A. Ommanney next addressed the crowd. The Sheriff having called for a show of hands, the six hundred from Portsmouth gave a slight numerical majority to Sir George Staunton and Admiral Ommanney, and it was so declared; upon which a poll was demanded for Messrs. Fleming and Compton. The crowd soon broke up, and the Portsmouth men made the streets vocal with their song, during the day. Bread and beer was liberally supplied to them at appointed houses, and in the evening they were under weigh on board the steamers. The contemptible ruse had no real effect upon the partisans of either side, as the show of hands at the hustings is a mere mockery, scarcely one in twenty having a vote among all the crowd usually present.

5 August 1837, Hampshire Chronicle

1837 – Meeting of the Friends of Sir George Staunton and Sir John Ommaney, 1 August: ‘A Meeting of the Electors of this county, (friends of the above candidates) residing in these towns and neighbourhood, was held on Wednesday evening, at the Beneficial Society's Hall, Portsea, by invitation from Sir George Staunton and Sir John Ommanney, for the purpose of affording those gentlemen an opportunity of expressing their thanks for the warm support they had
received front them on the day of nomination at Southampton. D. Howard, Esq. having been called to the chair, and stated the object of the meeting.

Sir George Staunton rose and said: “Gentlemen, my gallant friend and I are come here to-day to discharge a great debt of gratitude; we are come here to give our cordial thanks to the free and independent electors of Portsmouth and Portsea, for the timely and truly unparalleled support which they gave to our good cause, yesterday, the day of nominations, at Southampton. The fate of our course, as far as it could be decided by a shew of hands, seemed trembling in the balance, when you came up to our aid, like Blucher and the Prussians at the battle of Waterloo, and decided the day. Our alarmed opponents, when they saw your glorious banners successively advancing, seemed to shrink back like the affrighted Macbeth, when the apparitions of a long line of Kings descended from his enemies, was presented to his aching sight. They seemed to say, with him, what another, and another – I’ll see no more; and retired to the inmost recesses of the hustings. Our success, our victory yesterday, was so complete, that I feel it my duty rather to check your confidence than to excite it. We must not despise our enemy. This is, I believe, the last expiring struggle of Toryism in South Hants. We must be prepared to find that arts the most base, and contrivances the most despicable, will be employed against us. The struggle will undoubtedly be most severe. I have no longer any hope of conciliating our opponents. The Tories are incorrigible. The battle can alone be won by energy and union among ourselves. I am happy in being able to declare to you, that I consider thy great question of Reform or no Reform, as it affects the empire at large, already settled. The majority in favour of the liberal cause of the Members already returned to Parliament exceeds fifty, and there is every reason to expect that the total majority, when the returns are completed, will be double that number. It only remains for you to decide whether South Hampshire shall sympathise with the empire at large, whether we shall aid our countrymen in promoting the march of sound constitutional Reform, or whether we shall stand still, or counteract it. I know the feelings that animate you. If you will only firmly and earnestly come to the hustings and record your feelings by your votes, I am confident of the result. I will solicit your indulgence while I say a few words on a matter which appears peculiarly to affect myself; but as you have done me the kindness to select me as one of the champions of your cause, whatever affects my honour in some sense affects your own.- Everything was harmonious and gratifying at the hustings yesterday except one little incident: a man decorated with the Tory badge, the gloomy ivy, endeavoured to interrupt me while speaking, by calling out, "Pray who was your father?" and I am sure he was prompted by a certain Clergyman standing near him, whose conduct has long afflicted the true friends of the Established Church, as much as it rejoices its enemies. I did not hear the question, myself, but as it was heard by others, I solicit your permission now to answer it. Gentlemen, my father had the honour to be a friend and associate of the great Mr Fox. My father was once a candidate for a borough in this very county. If he had not been defeated by the same kind of Tory influence as that which deprived my of my seat three years ago, the walls of the Senate would have rung with the eloquence in support of the liberties of the people - of the same good cause which brings us together this day. My father Gentlemen, at a most critical period, negotiated a treaty of peace which saved our empire of India, and received as reward from his Sovereign that honourable title which I now, so much less worthily, bear. If I required any testimony to what my revered father was, I might appeal to my gallant and excellent friend near me, who knew him well, and will I am sure generously bear witness to his talents and virtues which adorned his character (Cheers).

Since I entered this room a most absurd and uncharitable placard has been put in my hands, containing some nonsense about cheap soup and pasteboard coffins, unworthy of an answer; but as it concludes by appealing to the people in favour of Messrs. Fleming and Compton as their exclusive friends, and as those who are exclusively willing to amend the Poor Law Act, I will, with your permission, bestow a few words upon it. It is possible Gentlemen, for you to be for one moment deluded into a belief that my gallant friend and myself are not just as anxious to assist in correcting the defects of that law, as our honourable opponents can be? we all feel that it was impossible that so great a measure, one of such extensive application could be brought to perfection at once. We know that it has defects - and that there have also been errors in the administration of it, in certain cases. But as to the principle of it, nothing can be more unjust than to attach exclusive responsibility to either party. I was in the House of Commons when the Bill was carried. It was carried by the union of all parties, by a majority of 300 to 28. The Duke of Wellington most honourably congratulated Lord Melbourne in the House of Lords on the success of this Bill. Will the Tories repudiate and condemn the Duke of Wellington! In fact it was not a party question at all; all parties saw the necessity of it. But however useful and economical a measure it may be, it would never have my support unless it can be rendered a just
Lieutenant Walker wished Sir George Staunton to explain his sentiments on the question of the Ballot: Sir George Staunton – I am as strongly impressed with the evils of intimidation and improper influence on the voter, as any individual can be who hears me. My only doubt is as to the expediency and efficiency of this remedy. I may possibly vote for the ballot six months hence, but I cannot support so great a change in the working of the British Constitution, without first fully satisfying myself respecting the effort of the ballot in those counties in which it is adopted. I should hold myself utterly unworthy of your confidence if I were now to pledge myself upon this or any other subject whatever. All I can say is whatever the subject comes before me in Parliament, I will give the fullest and most anxious consideration.

7 August 1837, Hampshire Telegraph

1837 – South Hants Election – The Polling: The polling commenced at Southampton early on Friday morning with the greatest spirit, and at half-past one o'clock the majority for Fleming and Compton, was 65; and let it be recollected that Sir George Staunton and Sir J. A. Ommaney had declared in their addresses, both printed, and at the hustings, that they had an immense majority in Southampton. We exposed one great bouncer of Sir George Staunton's, with respect to his canvass, last week. The result of the poll has extinguished the veracity of the Baronet for ever. At half-past one o'clock the following state of the poll was exhibited —

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<tr>
<td>Havant</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,449</td>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>1,087</td>
<td>1,064</td>
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The appearance of the Liberals, as they hurried aghast through the streets was pitiable. All the flourish of trumpets was silenced, and the open windows of their committee room looked like almost deserted sepulchres, with but here and there a cadaverous and elongated face stiffening into rigidity. At four o'clock crowds of persons collected in front of the Dolphin Inn, from the balcony of which Mr. Fleming addressed them as follows: — Gentlemen, — Look at that hoard! (In front of the balcony, with the state of the poll painted on it — immense cheering followed). And is this the result of the show of hands at the hustings? — (laughter and cheering.) Is this the triumph of the 500 hands brought from Portsmouth, in the two steamers freighted at the government expense? Is this the fulfilment of the prophecy of the 500 on their return to Portsmouth, that their friends in Southampton had a majority of above 100 for our opponents? (Laughter and cheering.) I beg to thank you, on the part of Mr. Compton and myself, for the zeal you have thus displayed, and which has placed us in our triumphant position on the poll (cheers), a position which completely exposes the weakness of our opponents, and assures us of complete and certain success — (immense cheering). I will not apologise to you for the absence of Mr. Compton. It was alike both our wish and duty to appear before you, but our opponents are wary and wakeful, and I have therefore left my excellent friend at Portsmouth, where he will frustrate the tricks of our opponents, though they are assisted by the influence and power of Government, a power exercised by endeavouring to compel the voters to obey the mandate of the ministers, and sacrifice the independence of their country — (immediate cheering) But they will fail in their attempts — the people have opened their eyes to their designs (cheering) and distinguish between real and mock reformers — (cheers) They see the Institutions of their country are threatened, and they are determined to rally round the Queen, the Church, and the British Constitution — (imdense cheering.) I never doubted our triumph in this contest, and am at a loss to imagine how our opponents could anticipate success. I hope they did not intend to insult the constituency, by supposing them so degraded as to be induced to break the promises they had pledged to us — (cheering.) But, gentlemen, no device, no effort of reward or intimidation have been spared, on the part of government, to effect their purpose: the people in the Dockyard have
been warned to take care of their bread and cheese (the language used,) and the poor workmen in the Forest have been
told that if they dared to perform what they considered their duty by voting for us, they should be turned out of their
cottages, and left to starve — (immense sensation, and cries of — shame! shame!) But, gentlemen, they mistook the
character of our foresters, and of our respectable friends in the Dockyard; they have shown they possess the spirit of
Englishmen—a spirit which will not permit them to forsake their duty to their country, and act against the dictates of
their conscience — (immense cheering.) Indeed, a gentleman who knew the facts, had assured Sir George Cockburn,
that if the voters of the borough of Portsmouth had proved as true to their words, as the men in the Dock Yard, Sir
George would have been at the head of the poll— (great cheering.) But such practices as I have detailed show a
failing cause, and the state of the poll to-day is another signal evidence of their dis-comfort— (cheers.) Gentlemen,
we cannot fail of success, but do not relax in your exertions till you have put our victory beyond a doubt, and
achieved the independence of the County of Hants against the corrupt influence of the ministry — (immense
cheering.) Let us be early at the poll tomorrow — there let us pour in a broadside of double-headed shot for Fleming
and Compton, into the hull of the enemy, make the gallant Admiral strike his flag, and the worthy Baronet give up his
turning and winding, and retire into the solitudes of Leigh Park, for ever. Mr. Fleming was then greeted with
tremendous cheering and huzzas, several times repeated. Three cheers were also most lustily given to Mrs. Fleming.,
who with her daughters and other ladies were in the balcony.

At the close of the first day's poll the numbers stood as follows: —

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fleming</th>
<th>Compton</th>
<th>Staunton</th>
<th>Ommanny</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>272</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lymington</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ringwood</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romsey</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gosport</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>96</td>
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<td>Portsmouth</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>523</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fareham</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Havant</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,120</td>
<td>2,104</td>
<td>1,815</td>
<td>1,754</td>
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At Portsmouth, on Friday, Messrs. Fleming and Compton were fifty a-head of their opponents' and the numbers varied r the day. At the close of the poll Mr. Compton arrived at the Committee room and addressed the assembled electors from the window, and was received with loud cheers. He expressed his hearty and cordial thanks for the kindness and the honour which on this, and other occasions, had been shown to his honourable friend and himself. He knew the temptations to which the electors had been subjected — he knew that their unscrupulous opponents would tamper with them and endeavour to intimidate them; but he had always been confident that they would not be diverted from their honourable purpose — (loud cheers.) Their opponents he knew would have all the influence of the Government — that Government which had identified itself with Mr. Leader — the advocate of every destructive measure. The Attorney-General and Lord Palmerston voted for Mr. Leader, and thereby identified themselves with the man who advocated the destruction of the House of Lords. He had always been satisfied that they would never support men who wished to destroy any of the valuable institutions of the country— (cheers.) They did not forget Nelson— (cheers), and sure they never would consent to the destruction of that noble body — the Peerage of this country — which could boast the name of Wellington— (loud and protracted cheers). Their opponents boasted that their Government had carried the Reform Bill; but nothing could be more untrue. They had been abandoned by all the
talent and all the virtue of that government, and they are not now able to defend themselves against their Radical
adherents—(loud cheers) — they are not able to withstand the storm they had themselves created—(protracted
cheering). They have no hope but in the intimidation of the honest electors, as the only means of obtaining security in
those places which they so much loved— (laughter.) But they had no authority to assume the name of their beloved
Queen, for she had done nothing more than retain the Ministers whom she happened to find in office at the death of
her beloved and lamented uncle — (cheers.) Gentlemen, you may rest assured that her most gracious Majesty
possessed too much of the strong mind, for which the Royal Family was remarkable, ever to consent to be made the
dupe — the tool of a faction — (tremendous cheering.) The honourable gentleman then alluded to the poll at
Southampton, at half-past one, where Fleming had polled 403, Compton 402, Staunton 248, and Ommanney 231. The old Admiral was ahead of the honourable baronet. He'd better cut his painter.

This observation which, it will be remembered, elicited such an exhibition of feeling, when used by—Lord Fitzharris, called forth tremendous and long continued cheering.]

Ringwood, Romsey, Lymington, and Gosport all furnished large majorities, in Fareham they were only in a small minority, and even in Havant, where the Admiral and his colleague both came from, the minority was only sixty-four. The gross poll gave the lowest of them a majority of 300 over the highest of their opponents. These various statements elicited loud cheers, particularly the observation that he and Mr. Fleming were "Siamese twins," in several of the polling districts, which proof of the unity of interest for the two Conservative candidates, was loudly responded to. Mr. Compton reiterated his sincere thanks on behalf of himself and his honourable colleague. He begged them to continue their exertions to bring up their forces early to the poll to-morrow, and they would give their opponents such a dressing (cheers) as should teach them henceforth to know their place in this county. The honourable gentleman retired amid loud and long protracted cheers.

While Mr. Compton was speaking, one of the constables of the borough, and of course a Radical, whom we would name but for the respectability of other members of his family, gave all the interruption that he could; called Mr. Compton a liar, and evidently tried to get up a disturbance among the whole assemblage, which would afterwards have been charged upon the Tories. Several very respectable inhabitants were fortunately near him and soon silenced the fellow. With this exception, and with the exception of some Radicals having upset some wheelbarrows to prevent the Tory carriages going up High-street, everything went off well. The Tory coachmen did not contend for the barren right of going through the Queen's highway, as did the Radicals in St. Georges-square, but very quietly turned off and went down Penny-street. Captain Napier addressed the Greenhorns from the Radical Committee-room; but, as his very friends are disgusted at his recent support of the Carters, whom he once so foully abused, he had not much of an auditory.

Southampton Saturday— the polling this day was carried on with undiminished spirit on the part of the Conservatives, and with spiteful pertinacity on the side of the Radicals. At the final close, the poll stood as follows:—

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<th></th>
<th>Fleming</th>
<th>Compton</th>
<th>Staunton</th>
<th>Ommanney</th>
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<tr>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>292</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lymington</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ringwood</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>239</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romsey</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>624</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gosport</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fareham</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Havant</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>169</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,380</td>
<td>2,258</td>
<td>2,077</td>
<td>1,957</td>
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12 August 1837, *Hampshire Advertiser*

1838—Portsmouth Election: The unlooked-for death of Mr. Carter again promises us all the din, the discord, the heart-burnings of a contested election. The Liberal party, who were the friends of their late revered and deceased member, and still the attached friends of their living representative, Mr. Baring, assembled this evening, knowing the activity of their adversaries, and unanimously determined to invite Sir George Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park, to stand forward in the support of the present government, and accordingly sent requisition to him this evening, signed by upwards of one hundred electors, to that effect. Their choice honourable to themselves, and must be doubly flattering to the independent baronet, who for his manly bearing in the late county election richly deserves this proof of their confidence and esteem. We have reason to know that Sir George will respond to the warm wishes of his friends and supporters at the late election; and though he did not succeed then, we have full assurance he will now be returned; and earnestly invite the burgesses to retain their votes in his favour. Captain Napier has, however, most unwisely, and he must pardon us the expression, determined, notwithstanding his knowledge of the withes of the Liberal and Reforming part of the burgesses, to put himself forward as a candidate; and with the clap-trap in his address of being
friendly to the ballot, triennial Parliaments, and the abolition of Church rates, thinks to overwhelm a more moderate though much more consistent Reformer. Captain Napier has yet to earn political character; and as has been rather Proteus-like in his promises, common prudence we should suggest would point out that the safer course would be to take a man whose political character is already known; and such a man is Sir George Staunton. Captain Napier talks loudly and glibly of reform: how did he evince his attachment to that cause when he coquetted with Sir Charles Rowley, an un-avowed Tory, to jilt the Reform candidates, Messrs. Carter and Baring. He cared not then for any political principles. If he is sincere in his desire to oppose a Tory, he will instantly announce his retirement from the field, and we give him the opportunity; for on the very eve of our publication the Portsmouth Tories, who are themselves rejected by Sir George Cockburn and Lord Fitzharris, are about to try their fortunes with our gallant Port Admiral, Sir Philip Durham, who but recently was elected member for Devizes, on the promise being a Reformer; but his idea of Reform savoured very strongly of Toryism, and he sold his place birth-right) for mess of pottage—the command at Portsmouth; and the DeVizes electors strongly marked their sentiments on his retirement, by electing Captain Deans Dundas, a thorough going Reformer.

1838 – Portsmouth Election: But, conceding all this to the Globe, the question in reference to the Portsmouth election still remains, why Captain Napier, the Radical candidate, should give place to Sir George Staunton, the Ministerial candidate, rather than the latter to the former? The political interest upon which they severally stand being, as the Globe insists, the same, the meritorious and all-sufficing title of Reformer belonging equally to both, why should Captain Napier permit himself to be bullied into the practical admission that his pretensions are inferior to those of Sir George Staunton? The Globe somewhat arrogantly assures Captain Napier that, under no circumstance, could the contest end in his election. The determination to contest the seat is all that is required to entitle Captain Napier to retort upon Sir George Staunton all but what is mere insolence in this threat. Why should Sir George Staunton have a chance of election, and Captain Napier no chance, both rejoicing alike in the name of "Reformer," and both appealing to an interest which, according to the Globe, is so entirely one that to incur the risk of dividing it in the borough of Portsmouth is a heinous political sin? The fair inference from the identity of political interest in favour respectively of the two candidates is, that he who is more immediately connected with Government, and more subject to its control, should retire from the contest. What difference can it make to such a Government as the present which of the two Liberal candidates gets the seat? Does anybody doubt that if Captain Napier alone were in the field against a Conservative candidate all the influence of Government would be exerted in his favour? He is for the ballot, and an extension of the suffrage, and short Parliaments, and, for anything we know, he may have been an instigator and abettor of rebellion; but what of that? Are trifles like these to be regarded among friends? Did not Government bring in Mr. Leader for Westminster, and do all it could for Mr. Hume in Middlesex? And can it be pretended that the employment is too polluted and corrupt for the dockyard influence of Portsmouth which was held pure a century ago? Captain Napier has meritorious enough for the exercise of an influence emanating directly from the Palace of the Sovereign?

1838 – Portsmouth Election: This borough Is in a state of great excitement, consequent on the approach of contested election for the seat vacant by the demise of Mr John Bonham Carter, one of its Members. The Whig party have invited the rejected of South Hants, Sir George Staunton, of Leigh Park, Hants, who has consented to stand; and Captain Chas. Napier, R.N. comes forward on the Radical Interest. Lord Dudley Smart has also paid a visit here to make offer of his services, but Captain Napier having been first in the field, his Lordship has again declined. In consequence of Sir George Cockburn and Lord Fitzharris having declined to stand again, our Port Admiral, Sir Philip Durham, was solicited by the Conservative party to allow himself to be put in nomination, and acceded to the request, but shortly afterwards declined the honour. A candidate has, however, been found in the person of a much respected resident, Daniel Quarrier, Esq., R.N., Surgeon to the Royal Marine Forces, gentleman of acknowledged wealth and independence and the greatest exertions are making to ensure his return. The election, it is supposed, will begin on Monday next. Mr Walter, the late Member for Berks, it is understood, would have offered himself to prevent the Whigs from walking over the course. . . [Since the above was written, we learn that Captain Napier has just given up, being his third unsuccessful trial.]
The Chairman said they were called together in consequence of the death of their late lamented excellent representative. He could not commence the business of the meeting without a passing tribute of respect and veneration to the memory of a gentleman who had for twenty years consistently advocated that cause which it was their pleasure in this enlightened day had proceeded so far as it has. He could not but express a hope that the borough of Portsmouth may not suffer in consequence; and their regrets were in some measure relieved, by the appearance among them of a gentleman, not of promise merely, but of equal character, intelligence, and principle with that lamented man. He referred to Sir George Staunton, Bart., who had responded to their call to come among them, and who is possessed of those high principles—moral, humane, social, and political—will qualify him to fill the vacancy in the representation of this borough, with high and distinguished ability and honour. Sir George Staunton rose amid loud cheer. He said he once more appeared among them as a candidate for the honour of representing them in parliament—not from any confidence in his own power, to serve them, but in consequence of a very flattering requisition signed by the majority of the electors favorable to civil and religious liberty, which had been transmitted to him in London. As the unsuccessful candidate for South Hants, though certainly not unsuccessful in this part of the county, he considered his public and political life was terminated; but since the Reformers of the borough considered he might be useful to the cause, he had determined he would not be wanting. He felt that he came forward under a great disadvantage; but it was one that would have been common to every other candidate who should have presented himself—in succeeding a gentleman for whom they had so much regard and affection as their late excellent representative, Mr. Bonham Carter (cries of hear, hear.) A gentleman who from his family and local connections, from his long experience in the House of Commons, from his excellent habits of business, and from his inflexible attachment to the cause in which they were all engaged, possessed qualifications which it was hardly to be expected would again meet in the same individual. His (Sir George Staunton's) connection with the county brought him into union with their late member and in all the measures, he heartily concurred—invariably concurred in the end—though it may be differed about the means; but those differences never cooled or interrupted their friendship. In those qualities which so admirably fitted him for a representative, it would be presumption in him (Sir George) to think of competing with him; but as to honesty of purpose and diligence in their cause, (hear) he felt he might flatter himself as in some degree worthy to wear his mantle, (applause). Be possessed one cause of gratulation in that he had come forward at the invitation of the Reformers of this borough. The friends of her Majesty's government had certainly concurred, but not the smallest intimation of a wish came from London. If, therefore, he should be elected, he should consider himself in the most emphatic sense—the Representative of the People—(cheers). He had in his short address to them offered himself on the principle of a Liberal, and independent support, to her Majesty's present ministers, and he would now state the reason why, and to what extent it would be yielded. He should support them not because he believed them composed of men either more talented or more honest than those who, in the event of a change, would occupy their places; but because they were pledged to the people to follow up the principles of the Reform Bill, and to give them the fruits—because he believed them pledged to a good course for the people, and the Tory government he considered pledged to a bad one. He believed they would not exist one hour if they did not act up to their pledge. They are opposed by wealth, power and talent to a degree never before combined against any ministry, and their sole power was—trust in the people by acting up to their pledges. He did not profess to offer them unqualified support, or to place an implicit reliance on their integrity, but not what they are as well entitled to that as any ministry; but he thought it was not the duty of a legislator to give that entire support; he ought to watch a ministry and see that they act up to their professions. If parliament was only to register what the ministry proposed, they might as well do away with the cumbrous machine—but he thought a representative should support the government when he thought it right, and check it when he thought it wrong. In the five parliaments in which he had sat, but more especially when he sat for this county, that was the course he had followed, and that was the course he would continue to follow if he should be so happy as to be returned to parliament as their representative. Their opponents had assumed the title of Conservatives, and if by that they meant a sincere, devoted attachment to the constitution in church and state, which has been handed down by our ancestors, not because it was old, but because it is good, because it works better than any known constitution of any country; then in that sense, he begged to consider the Reformers the true and genuine Conservatives—(hear-hear). But there was a sort of bastard Conservatism that
supports everything that has been long established, merely because it is established a sort of Irish Conservatism that contends that the best way to preserve a building is to refuse to repair it: and that sort of Conservatism he begged to abjure. Gentlemen were aware that he (Sir George Staunton) had long lived among the Chinese, and in this sense they were the most Conservative people upon the face of the earth, they profess to be guided entirely by the wisdom of their ancestors For the last hundred years they have seen our shipping - so majestic and so safe, and yet they still adhere to their junk's, one-third of which founder every year because none of their improvements are found written in the books of Confucius - laughter). Their opponents are divided into two classes, the first would wish to restore the ancient order of things, because they like the snug places and pensions, and the more there are the more chance they have of obtaining them. To those he would reply, that the bow night be bent too far till it break; the patience of the people might be too long strained, and woe and calamity might follow and touch even their pockets – (laughter). The other class of their opponents repeat the cuckoo cry of Church and State. He should say to the friends of the Church, that those who are opposed to the progress of civil and religious liberty are the Church's greatest enemies. If it had not been that those principles were maintained at the Reformation, the Church of England would not be existing now - (hear, hear) - they would be saying and hearing mass in popish churches. In saying this, he meant no disrespect to his Roman Catholic friends; their church Is founded, like ours, on the sound and true basis of Christianity, but he rejoiced we are emancipated from its superstitions – (cheers). He was surprised that their opponents are still bent on resisting any alteration in the present mode of collecting church rates. One would suppose all the real friends of the Church would be glad to have a better mode of collection. He thought a better appropriation of the lands of the church would cover all the objects of the church rate, and he thought that those who resisted that amendment of the present faulty system were not the real friends of the Church – (cheers). Their opponents are at present a very powerful party, but he believed that the delusion would be dissipated from those who believe them hostile to the constitution, and that they should ultimately have those Conservatives with them – (cheers). There was another subject to which he would refer, the non-fulfilment of the promise which had been made some years ago, of the complete emancipation of the negroes. He had the honour, while the representative of South Hants, to give a cordial vote for the abolition of slavery. But as to the present question, not being in parliament he had not given that subject the attention which he should feel bound to do when in parliament, and he could assure them that he should most happily vote for the entire abolition at the earliest possible period, and so that the wishes of the people be carried fully into effect. The preservation of electors from interference or intimidation, and thus enabling them to exercise the privilege of the constitution, and vote at every election, was a subject of paramount importance to all who wish the Reform Bill not to be a mere mockery. He had seen and suffered from the effects of interference, and he felt strongly the necessity that some remedy should be devised for the evil, but gentlemen would feel that a measure, which should be not merely local, but should cover the whole country, would require deep attention, should be well weighed and considered, should be founded on good evidence, and would require proof that it should be safe and sufficient when carried into effect – (hear, hear). Upon subjects of minor importance, parliament is accustomed to have committees to collect evidence; and with respect to a remedy of so much importance as the Ballot, he would say, that though he was not yet come to that conclusion, so as to state himself prepared to vote for it, yet he must observe, that from all he had seen and heard of late, he was now more favourable to it than he had been some years ago. He thought it a very reasonable measure that there should be a committee for collecting information to see how far that measure could be carried into effect. Various plans had been suggested, and there was a motion to be brought forward shortly after, if he was elected, he should take his seat. It would be very wrong in him to pronounce an opinion upon that motion, but thus far he could say that he thought it probable he might be happy and pleated to support it – (cheers). For those who feel the Ballot would be right: it would remain to place their petitions on the table of the House of Commons; and though the ministry, like himself are holding back in doubt and not yet convinced of the propriety of it, yet he would remind them that the whole body of the Tories declare they never will support it, and therefore no man who is at all desirous of carrying it can hesitate for a moment which of the parties he should support. Notwithstanding; the hesitation of Lord John Russell, he would say, let but the people give him their support, and they will find no cause to complain. For himself, Sir George declared that the reserve he may exhibit was a conscientious reserve, and he would rather say little and do more, than say more and do little - (loud and long-continued cheering). He had had put into his hands the address of his opponent – (laughter). He had nothing to say to his disparagement. The Doctor rested his claims upon three points. He (Sir George) did not deny his claims, but would urge his own claims on the same ground. In the five parliaments in which he sat for twelve years, he had supported the government when he thought them deserving of it; but he had never
received one farthing of the public money for any place or office for himself or friends: so that whether he had acted right or wrong, he had not done anything from private views. The Doctor pledged himself to promote their commercial interests. He (Sir George) should be most anxious to support all their commercial objects. He had managed the greatest commercial interests of the country, and therefore knew something of the subject. As to the new plan of a railroad, this was one of the grand features of the present age. No doubt it would be his object to yield his support to any plan that yielded a fair chance of success. He should be most happy to give the present plan his most efficient support. He (Sir George) did not actually reside in the town, yet he felt it his pleasure to live so near them, and where they would have an opportunity of consulting him. If he was a bad landlord, or neglected the poor, they would know it. He trusted he was not deficient in any point in which his honourable opponent rested his claims for their support. He was not aware of any other point on which to address them, but he would just allude to the handsome way in which that honest and sincere reformer. Captain Napier, had resolved to retire, rather than divide the interest. [A voice – I hope you will do what you can to get him a ship – (loud laughter). He (Sir George) said, he should certainly be most happy to hear that Captain Napier had a ship, but if there were any bargain, he should consider it disgraceful; but for the government to give him a ship as an officer of merit, would be alike honorable to both. [Someone here whispered to Sir George about shortening the duration of Parliaments. The Honourable Baronet proceeded: – Yes – what the gallant Captain had promised to do, he (Sir George) had actually done, for he had the pleasure of voting for Mr. Tenison’s motion for the purpose of shortening the duration of Parliaments – (applause.) He would conclude with the remark, that, as the rejected candidate for South Hants, he had in every case the proud satisfaction of being successful in these towns and neighbourhood – (applause). He then invited questions and sat down amidst loud cheers.

Mr. Bilton said there would be no compromise of principle in his moving the resolution he should now submit - That Sir George Staunton, Bart., is a fit and proper person to represent this borough in parliament – (cheers). Mr. Paul seconded the nomination.

24 February 1838, Hampshire Advertiser

1838 – Portsmouth Election, 24 February: Sir George Staunton, as we ventured last week to predict, has responded to the wishes of the Reformers of the Borough of Portsmouth, by standing forth as a Candidate for its representation in Parliament. The Honourable Baronet arrived at the Fountain Hotel on Tuesday afternoon, having on the previous day issued his address, soliciting the Suffrages of the Electors. Although Sir George has not undertaken a personal canvass, he has been actively and sedulously employed in his various Committee-rooms since his arrival, and on Thursday evening met his friends at the Beneficial Society’s Hall, Portsea, where a large assemblage took place than we ever before witnessed in that apartment – not less than 1,700 persons being present. A more enthusiastic reception than Sir George met with on the occasion, it was impossible to give; nor could anything be more manly, straightforward, and honest than was the clear exposition he gave of his political sentiments, or the good temper with which he replied to all the various questions put to him by the moderate and ultra-Reformers. His triumphant success is quite certain. In congratulating the electors on the wisdom of their choice, we are bound, in justice to Captain Napier, to express our admiration of the generous conduct of that Gallant Officer: he has many friends here, and they were anxious to serve him; but had he persevered in his canvass, he would, by dividing the Reform interest, have endangered it. The Gallant Officer saws this, and having ascertained that the feeling of the majority of the Reformers was in favour of Sir George Staunton, he honestly confessed it early on Tuesday morning, and at once retired from the field. By this judicious step he has given a stability to his political principles greater than he could derive from any conduct he could have pursued in Parliament, and has endeared to himself the good opinion of the Reformers of the Borough. 26 February 1838, Hampshire Telegraph

1838 – Portsmouth Election.—Portsmouth, Feb. 26: The Portsmouth election is over, with triumphant success to the Liberal party. At a late hour last the Tory chairman of Dr. Quarrier’s Committee waited on Sir George Staunton, with a letter from the Doctor, announcing his determination not to go to the poll, consequently to-day being the day of nomination, it became the day of election. Sir George Staunton was proposed by William Grant, Esq. banker, and was seconded by James Hoskins, Esq. of the Morning Chronicle. 27 February 1838, London Courier and Evening Gazette

1838 – Portsmouth Election, Portsmouth 27 February: The election of a Member to sit in Parliament for this borough, in the room of John Bonham Carter, esq., deceased, took place yesterday, when Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park, Hants, was declared duly elected, no other person being put in nomination. D. Quarrier, the
Conservative candidate, who had actively canvassed the borough during the week, resigned before the nomination. Sir George Staunton, in his address to his constituents, declared that he would not go into Parliament pledged to support Ministers through thick and thin, but that whenever their conduct was such as he could not approve he would then vote against them. He laboured hard to remove the impression that had gone abroad among his supporters that he was a Tory in disguise, but, if we may judge, from some of their countenances, he did not succeed. He concluded by affirming that he would support the rights of the Crown, the aristocracy, and the people. The address, altogether, partook too much of a Conservative character to please the majority of the thorough-going-, Radicals in this hot bed of political dissent. They say he was the only man they could lay their hands on in the emergency of the moment with any chance of success, and there is every probability that whenever a general election takes place they will pitch him overboard, to make room for some “whole-hog” candidate who will be less scrupulous in his attacks on the ancient and valued institutions of the country.

28 February 1838, *Morning Post*

1838 – Portsmouth Election: The election of a representative for the Borough of Portsmouth, took place on Monday last, and passed off in a most amicable spirit, the Tory candidate having withdrawn. At a late hour on Sunday night the Chairman of Dr. Quarrier's Committee, J. E. Atkins, esq. waited on Sir George Staunton, at the Fountain Hotel, to intimate to him that it was not Dr. Quarrier's intention to pursue further his opposition to the worthy Baronet's return.

The preliminary proceedings having been gone through at twelve o'clock on Monday, at the Sessions Room, the Mayor adjourned to the hustings, in St. George's Square, to discharge the remainder of his functions, where, notwithstanding the electors had been apprised of Dr. Quarrier's retirement from the field, a large concourse had assembled.

The Mayor, on his arrival, having stated that although the expected contest had ceased, there were still duties he had to discharge as returning officer, dwelt in very feeling terms on the mournful event which had occasioned the election – the death of their lamented and excellent Representative, Mr. Bonham Carter. However political differences might have divided him from others, there was but common feeling upon his loss - the most unfeigned respect for his memory and departed worth. – (Hear) – As a personal friend (having twenty years ago proposed him for a representative for this Borough) he entertained towards him sentiments not only of esteem, but affectionate regard. - (Hear, Hear) The Mayor concluded by saying he doubted not the electors would now fix their choice on a gentleman worthy to succeed the deceased, who had ever served them with zeal and fidelity – (applause).

W. Grant Esq. then came forward and said, although it was impossible that words could express the deep sense he entertained of the loss they had sustained in the death of their lamented representative, whom he had the honour to nominate at the last three elections, it afforded him some satisfaction to propose as the successor of their late worthy Member, a gentleman every way qualified to fill the office – that gentleman was already known to them – he was beloved by all; a zeal, honour, and fidelity, had always marked his character. That gentleman was Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart. of Leigh Park – (loud cheers), and he begged to nominate him as a fit and proper person to represent this Borough in Parliament – (renewed cheers).

James Hoskins, Esq. said it was impossible for him to address them this day, without for one moment adverting to that most melancholy event – the death of their late honoured and highly-esteemed Representative – one whose praise it was scarcely possible to say too much – one whose domestic and social virtues, talents, and usefulness were acknowledged by all (Hear hear.) – He had early in life espoused the popular cause – he had ever been the consistent advocate of the people's rights; his political foes, for personal enemies he had none – would allow him to have been a straightforward, manly – opponent while his political friends had to mourn the loss of an unflinching champion of civil and religious liberty – whose memory world he ever endeared to them (Applause). The tomb having now closed over his remains, it became their duty to choose a successor to be to fill the high and honourable post. He congratulated them that on this occasion there was no division in the camp of the Reformers – that, by the judicious retirement of the gallant Captain, the Reformers were enabled to unite with vigour which knew no abatement, and which nothing could withstand. (Cheers). A fond and pleasing thought had been indulged in by the Conservatives, that if some seeds of disunion could be sown among the Reformers, there would be a possibility of a chance that some thorough Tory might be marched to St. Stephens through their disunited ranks – (Laughter). In this delusion they indulged, and they hugged to their bosom this child of their own creation until they beheld arrayed against them our
firm and solid phalanx; when lo! their pleasing enchantment was broken, and their fond delusion fled – (Loud Laughter). They were again assembled under the auspices of the laurel, which in this borough had never failed to lead them to victory. It would be their duty to preserve inviolate those principles for the maintenance of which they had so long struggled, and for the maintenance of which they were ready to fight again and again (Loud Cheers.) – In selecting a representative, it was necessary to choose one who was ardent and conscientiously attached to the cause of Reform - one who would use his utmost exertions to remove existing abuses, and oppose others attempted to be perpetuated by any party whatever – (cheers) – one who while he was ready to rally round the throne, considered that its best security was based on the confidence of a loyal people – one who would maintain the honour and dignity of the aristocracy, while he would guard the best interests of the people. Such a man was Sir George Staunton – (loud cheers). A debt of gratitude was due to the Hon. Baronet, for the battle he had fought for the friends of civil and religious liberty – for his exertions to remove those civil disabilities which infringed on the rights of the people's conscience. It was the cry of their conservative opponents that they were the defenders of the throne and the altar; but where was to be found a truer friend to the altar than Sir George Staunton; who would defend that throne which rests in the affections of the people, and that altar which is based on their common Christianity - who would not desecrate the altar into a party watchword, but who considers that every man has a right to worship his Maker according to the dictates of his conscience – (loud cheering). As a private character, no man stood higher than Sir George Staunton; he was esteemed by the rich and beloved by the poor; it was, however, his public, and not his private character which should recommend him to them for their Representative. Having told them what Sir George is, he (Mr. Hoskins) would now tell them what he is not. He is not a Tory – (laughter). He is not the nominee of the Carlton Club, he has not been transmitted here by the command of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for Portsmouth would disdain to accept a nominee from any quarter nor was he sent here under a franked envelope from any public office, – (renewed laughter) – but be came here at the call of the inhabitants, a call which Sir George had nobly and patriotically responded to – (cheers). Who were to have been our opponents ? We were to have had gallant Admirals and noble Lords, but they have not made their appearance – (laughter). To them the Tories may now sing, "Fare thee well, and if for ever, oh then for ever, fare thee well! – (loud laughter). Next the flag of their gallant Commander-in-chief was to be hoisted, and all the dramatis personae of the Tory theatre came forward, and sang "Hope told a flattering tale;" but their singing was of no avail- they were doomed to mourn, for tire Commander-in-Chief would not serve them – (renewed laughter). Then we were to have someone else, and who did Gentlemen think they had put forward? Why, our old and esteemed friend Dr. Quarrier. It is said that this announcement created great rejoicings; even the rooks at Stoneham Park flapped their wings with joy – (laughter). He did not know whether those rooks sent a deputation here to canvass for the worthy Doctor, but this he knew, that a bird of ill omen was seen hovering round here for three days, and appeared in a certain Committee room, and there chattered nonsense – (loud laughter, and cries of name, name, from the Tories). That bird talked about influence, Government influence, and Corporation influence – (name, name) – name? Why, John Fleming – (roars of laughter). If they talk of influence, then what need was there of Stoneham influence? But if Fleming attempts to exercise any of his influence here, the Electors too well know their duty not to repel it; with indignation – (cheers). It was not necessary to allude to the pretensions of their opponent, because he had withdrawn; but they ought not to allow any private delicacy to divert them from a public duty. With regard to the social qualities of Dr. Quarrier, he (Mr. Hoskins) was ready to admit he was but one of the kindest, most excellent, and worthy men in the neighbourhood; but as to his qualifications for becoming a Representative of this Borough there was no one, he was sure, would more heartily laugh at such a farce, than the worthy Doctor himself.- (Loud Laughter) The farce being now over, that only which remained to be written on the prompter's book was eventue omnes. They had now only to turn to his hon. friend, Sir G. Staunton, as their chosen candidate. He had great pleasure in seconding the nomination of the hon. Baronet as a fit and proper person to represent them in Parliament – (cheers).

Sir George Staunton then presented himself, and was received with loud cheers. - The Hon. Baronet said, in coming forward as a candidate for the honour of representing them in the place of their late beloved and Revered member, he did not do so upon any presumptuous of confidence in his own qualifications, or at the suggestion of any power, beyond the limits of this neighbourhood; he came forward wholly and solely at the invitation of the friends of constitutional reform and civil and religious liberty; of those who had always been the friends and supporters of their late excellent representative. He could not pretend to supply his place in some points, for he (the late Mr. Carter), from his family and local connections, from his long experience in the house possessed qualifications which it was not
to be expected could he united in any other individual; but in two of the most essential qualifications which so eminently distinguished him, his political integrity & zeal in their cause, he was not ashamed to say, that he hoped to be able to supply his place – (loud cheers). If they did him the honour to return him as their representative, he would give the present government his liberal support, but not an unqualified or unreflecting support; for he considered it the duty of a representative to watch the conduct of any ministry, however good their professions; to support them when they study the interests of the people, and oppose them when they neglect those interests – (loud cheers). If sent to Parliament, he would endeavour to obtain from the Reform Bill, for which he had had the pleasure of giving his vote, those fruits which they had a right to expect, and which that bill was intended to confer. He would yield to no man in attachment to the glorious constitution, under which this country had so long flourished; but to preserve that the Constitution of Church and State, he would remove all the abuses which time had suffered to creep in, & which injured and disfigured it, & which without repair, would undermine its foundation – (loud cheers). These were the principles upon which he offered himself, for the honour of representing them. He had so recently explained fully, before a large body of the electors, the sentiments by which his conduct in Parliament would be regulated it was not necessary to reiterate them here. [The Hon. Baronet then alluded to the following observations which Mr. Fleming is reported to have made at the committee room of Dr. Quarrier, on Friday evening last: "When he (Mr. Fleming) looked at the patriotic efforts they (the Tories) were now making – and when he looked, moreover, at the rival candidate, he could not doubt of their success, nor could he believe in the success of that vacillating practice that can advance no public principle to guide a public life. The mind of the Honourable Baronet reminded him of the merchandize of the country in which he had so long resided, and relating to their teas – Howqua – it had something of the rich delicate flavour of the green, but with the twang of the radical black – why did he not speak out and declare what his sentiments are upon great and vital questions – why did he not say whether he would vote san: the spoliation and degradation of the Church]

Sir George said "I am sorry to be obliged to notice in this place an attack which has been just made upon me, (according to the report in the Newspapers), by Mr. Fleming. I shall not say anything as to the propriety of his abandoning his Parliamentary duties, in order to interfere in this election, nor shall I enquire of how far you think he has acted with delicacy and good taste, in coming here at this time, and reviving the expiring embers of their our county animosity – (hear, hear). I shall confine myself strictly to my own defence. The Honourable member charges me with vacillation. If by vacillation he only means that I have emancipated myself from the trammels of party, and acted independently, according to my judgement and conscience, then I acknowledge, I glory in the charge; but if it is intended to insinuate that I have abandoned any political principle which I over maintained, or have retracted any political sentiment I ever uttered, then I give to such charge the most peremptory, the most indignant denial – (loud cheers).

The Honourable Member then amused himself by comparing my political creed too certain compound of teas, well-known under the title of Howqua’s mixture, because he finds little in it of the fragrant green, but a large proportion of the radical black! I am sure the worthy Doctor, whose cause he has espoused will tell him, that although this green which he so much admires, may be the most fragrant, the black which he stigmatises is by far the tire most wholesome – (cheers and laughter). I can assure him, myself, from long experience, that if he would not stick so pertinaciously to the green, but mix a little more of the black in his potations, he would enjoy better health and sounder slumbers – (renewed laughter and cheers). As to the Honourable Member calling upon me to speak out, and say whether I really mean to spoliate the Church and overturn the house of Lords and the monarch, I cannot consider myself called upon to make a reply to such idle declamation; the history of my life, and the uniform tenor of my conduct, I trust furnish the proper answer – (cheers).

Dr. Quarrier said, he came forward boldly to state to the independent electors of Portsmouth the circumstances of his withdrawal from a contest, which no longer afforded favourable hopes of success, and having done all that could be done, he hoped for their approval. He had heard the remarks of his excellent friend and brother magistrate, Mr. Grant, and the fine flowing oratory and poetic effusions of his good friend, Mr. Hoskins, whose brilliant imagination and genius were so likely to mislead himself and others. He did require the delusions of poetic fancy, or the coruscations of genius to defend his cause; he came there to state facts, and upon these facts he would rely for their approval. - The learned seconder of the Hen. Baronet had stated that he was fallen; he now stood before them boldly and Se
fearlessly, encouraged by the kindness of the electors. He held in his hand a mendacious paper, abounding in most unwarrantable fabrications, charging him and his honourable and esteemed committee with opening houses for the purpose of riot, disorder, and dissipation; he would challenge and defy the writer of that article to produce one instance of riot or disorder taking place at any of his committee-rooms, or elsewhere among his friends. (Noise.) The gentlemen who met at his committee rooms were too independent to require treating; like honest men they paid themselves for what they required; the houses were too respectable, and the gentlemen of the committee far too honourable to allow anything but what was sober, moderate, and cheerful. He and His friends had been charged with an intention of giving way to another Tory, but the person who said so little knew the high and noble mind of the distinguished officer they referred to, who, when circumstances prevented his at that time offering himself; most generously encouraged him in his efforts, and never entertained a thought of placing him in such a position, but wished him (Dr. Quarrier) every success. He, (Dr. Quarrier), had come forward unmoved by any selfish feeling; he defied any person, and some now present had known him for forty years, to accuse him of a selfish act, or to say that he had ever betrayed a friend or feared an enemy; and he would indeed be base to betray the interests of the highly respectable electors who had promised him their support. He had come forward upon public grounds alone, at the request of friends of our best institutions, the Queen, Church and State; under which this nation had so long flourished. He had used every exertion to surmount the difficulties opposed to him and having failed, upon their judgement he would rely; he only required fair play; and having the inward consciousness of having a done what was right, he would rest satisfied with the honesty of the attempt to free them from municipal control – (cheers from the Tories). The learned gent. who had seconded the nomination of the Hon. Bart. had told you that one of the qualifications of his Hon. friend was, "that he was not a Tory!" Gentlemen, it is said the Honourable Baronet was once a Tory! Be this as it may he, (Dr Q.), had understood that the Hon. Baronet had not given direct answers to any questions proposed to him, but most cleverly and cautiously evaded them; and when asked, whether he would support the ballot, the Hon. Baronet "did not know, his impression was against the ballot; he thought perhaps something might be necessary, and if there were a great pressure, he might grant the ballot". He, (Dr Quarrier), was one of those who, if conscious of right would never submit to pressure or expediency, and he would never agree to anything which he did not believe to be absolutely beneficial and right. He had come forward with no personal object, but solely to free the borough from the vassalage it had so long laboured under. This learned seconder of the Hon. Baronet had said, that the Hon. Baronet did not come under any frank from the Admiralty, but the learned gentleman himself was an officer of the Admiralty, appointed by the present Ministry. It had been his (Dr. Q’s) honest desire to serve the borough faithfully, zealously, and truly; but by the activity and zeal of his opponents, he had lost the votes of many of his esteemed friends, who had been inveigled into a promise to Sir George Staunton, when there was no other candidate but Captain Napier in the field, and before he (Dr. Q.) could possibly announce that he was a candidate. Notwithstanding this he (Dr. Q.) should have had a large majority, if the gallant Captain had not withdrawn from the contest – (laughter). Yes, they know it well. Such being the case, it would neither have been prudent nor correct for him to have gone to a poll, when many of his best friends must have voted against him, because he was too honest to request them to break a promise made under any circumstances, and they would be too honest to comply if requested – (hear, hear). Had he been successful he would have served them with all his heart and all his might; his whole energy would have been directed to promote the happiness and comfort of the electors, and encourage their commerce and trade. He would again defy anyone to say that ever he betrayed his friends – (cheers, and a voice – “Petersfield to wit”). Allusion had been made to his Hon. Friend, one of the Representatives of the County, who had recently declared those forward and upright sentiments for which he has always been distinguished, at his (Dr. Q’s) committee-room. His Hon. friend was a tried and firm supporter of the best institutions of the county; one who would repair without risking the destruction of the noble fabric of our Constitution. He (Dr. Q.) had recently began to repair an old house, and he soon found the roof tumbling in upon him; and that was the case with all those who attempted to touch old and venerable institutions. He expressed his warmest thanks for the attention he had received, both from his opponents and friends, which would be remembered with gratitude and admiration to the latest period of his existence. (Loud cheering). The death of their late highly respected Representative had caused a severe loss. No one could entertain a higher esteem for the private character of that learned gentleman than he did, and he had always appreciated his public conduct as a magistrate, and esteemed him as a talented and cheerful companion, however circumstances may have separated them in their political relations. - (Hear.) He had ever entertained the highest opinion of his worth and integrity. He had no personal hostility to the Hon. Baronet, and was encouraged to hope that
he would give them satisfaction as their Representative. – There could be no doubt but the Hon. Baronet would make a useful member of Parliament, if he would act according to his own good judgement, and not yield either to pressure or expediency - (hear) - or to those any influences which have so unfortunately placed him at him at different times in so doubtful a position. He again thanked his friends and supporters, and would ever consider the politeness and courtesy which he had been received by the electors of Portsmouth, as the most gratifying event in his life, and nothing could efface the memory of their kindness from his heart and recollection. (Cheers).

Sir George Staunton: I request your indulgence while I offer a few words in reply. My honourable opponent says I was once a Tory. I will tell you, Gentlemen, what I was. From the first day of my sitting, in Parliament to the last, I was an independent man wholly unconnected with the Ministry of the day, supporting them or not, as my judgement suggested, regardless of private or personal advantage to myself. The grand test of liberal principles, when I first came into Parliament (now twenty years ago), was the question of Catholic Emancipation. Upon this great question, I always opposed the Administration of Lord Liverpool. I invariably voted for giving Emancipation to the Catholics. (Cheers). In 1826 I went out of Parliament, and came in again in 1830.

I then saw that Parliamentary Reform had become indispensable; and when the Duke of Wellington refused it, I instantly withdrew from his Administration my Support, and concurred in that memorable vote upon the Civil List which brought in a liberal and reforming Ministry – (loud cheers). I trust this brief summary of my political history will be accepted as a sufficient answer to the honourable Gentleman’s charge – (cheers).

No other Candidate being nominated, the Mayor then declared that Sir George Thomas Staunton Bart. of Leigh Park, was duly elected Member of Parliament for the Borough of Portsmouth. After the cheers which followed this declaration had subsided, Sir George Staunton said, although he was most anxious to do so, he found it difficult to express his thanks for the high honour they had conferred upon him. He should feel a pride in devoting all his best exertions, and what abilities he possessed, to their services and to the interests of the Borough. He trusted that all excitement, arising out of the election, would now be forgotten, and that all would unite in one common cause for the good of the country. He could not expect that he should be able to please all parties by his votes its Parliament, he sincerely trusted, however, as far as local interests were concerned, he should give satisfaction to all. (Loud cheers).

The thanks of the Meeting having been given to the Mayor, with cheers, His Worship (D. Howard, Esq.) after acknowledging them congratulated the Electors on the judicious choice they had made, and the meeting, which to the great credit of all parties, was marked throughout with the greatest good humour and decorum, dissolved. A procession was then formed of carriages, with banners, &ct. and a band, which escorted the worthy Baronet to the Fountain Hotel, where he alighted amidst enthusiastic cheering. Sir George dined in the evening with the Honourable Rear-Admiral Bouverie, and afterwards visited a party of his constituents, at the Globe Inn, where they dined to celebrate his return. On the following morning, at an early hour, Sir George set out for London to take his seat.

5 March 1838, Hampshire Telegraph

1838 – On the second reading of the Portsmouth Harbour Floating Bridge Bill, on Monday last, Mr. Baring, Sir George Staunton, Mr. Fieming, and Mr. Compton, severally presented petitions in favour of it. On presenting the petition from the Commissioners of the Act for regulating the Ferry, Sir George Staunton observed, that it was signed by persons of every shade and distinction of party, and was therefore a decided proof of the very general feeling which prevailed in favour of this most useful and desirable measure. On Wednesday Sir George Staunton presented petitions to the House for the immediate Abolition of Slavery from a congregation of dissenters at Gosport, and from the members of the Baptist Chapel at Forton.

2 April 1838, Hampshire Telegraph

1838 – House of Commons: The petition from Portsmouth, for the immediate Abolition of Negro Slavery, was presented to the House of Lords, by Lord Brougham, on the 18th inst. Sir George Staunton presented a similar petition to the House of Commons. on the preceding Monday, from Portsea. 28 May 1838, Hampshire Chronicle

1838 - We understand that the Lord Bishop of Winchester is expected to consecrate the new church at Red Hill, in the parish of Havant, on the 12th of July; on which interesting occasion he will be the guest of Sir George Staunton, at Leigh Park.

30 June 1838, Hampshire Advertiser
1838 - On Friday, the inst. the new church at Redhill, in the parish of Havant, was erected through the munificence of Sir George Staunton, Bart., and several others of the neighbouring gentry, aided by a grant from the Church Building Society, was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. 21 July 1838, Oxford University and City Herald

1838 – Sir George Staunton is giving a series of grand dinners to his radical friends of this borough; the beginning of the week he commenced with the large fry, such as Chairman of the Committee, what Sir George considered the most influenced magistrates, etc. yesterday, the fish of the next grade, such as secondary magistrates, aldermen, etc.; next week comes fish of another sort, such as porpoises, sharks etc.; after that will follow the flounders, gudgeons etc.; and even the little minnows may expect to come in for something that the big fish leave; if its only the picking of the bones – the honour of being seated at table with one who himself has sat down with a mandarin of the first state is so high a distinction, that the very Chinaman would envy the Radicals of the borough of Portsmouth.

21 July 1838, Hampshire Advertiser

1838 – China Courts Bill, House of Commons, 28 July: Lord Palmerston moved that the House should resolve itself into a committee of the whole House upon the China Courts Bill.

Mr. Hawes had been requested by his Hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth (Sir George Staunton) to make a few observations with respect to this Bill. His Honourable Friend had given notice of his intention on going into committee to move certain resolutions for the purpose of showing that it was inexpedient to establish in China Courts with the jurisdiction about to be given to the present Bill, unless the authorities of China had given their assent. Now he had carefully looked over the papers which the Noble Lord had laid before the House, and he could not discover in them the smallest trace of the smallest consent on the part of the authorities of China to the jurisdiction proposed to be given by the Noble Lord. He wished to ask the Noble Lord whether the authorities of China recognised this interference with their old laws? The Noble Lord was about to establish a Court, whose authority he could not enforce. Suppose a Chinese were a defendant, and refused to appear, and a verdict was given against him, what power but that of actual force could execute and enforce the jurisdiction of the Court? He found a very apt case in the papers laid on the table of the House by the Noble Lord. A Chinese was wounded by one of the Lascars on board an English ship, and the Lascar was taken into custody. Our superintendent (Captain Elliot) demanded that he should be given up to be tried by English laws. The reply was, that the Lascar was in custody of the Manderin, and could not be given up, pending an inquiry relating to the safety of the wounded native of China, and it was argued that if an Englishman went to France, he must be, and would be, held amenable to the laws of France? and they said why then should not the same rule apply when Englishmen went to China? That proved that the Chinese well understood their position, and the necessity of obtaining the sanction of their Government before instituting this court. The British nation was admitted into the Chinese territory by sufferance, for the purposes of trade, and were bound to conform to Chinese usages, and not to attempt to force their own customs upon the Chinese. (Hear, hear.) In case this measure was adopted and attempted to be carried into effect, we would involve our commercial intercourse with China in very considerable danger. The provisions of this Bill were most extraordinary. The Orders in Council—virtually, the orders of the Noble Lord (Palmerston)—were to have the force of law, and were to be co-extensive with the jurisdiction of the Court that was to be established. The East India Company carried on their trade in China without the aid of any such powers; and the Americans conducted their commerce with China without any such powers, nay, without any salaried establishment at all; they depended on the simple principles of trading—mutual and reciprocal benefit. Supposing this Bill passed, could it be carried into operation with anything like good faith, while the contraband trade between us and the Chinese (which went to such an extent, and which must exist, until our trade with China was put an end to) was suffered to go on? Impressed with these views, he (Mr. Hawes) should conclude by moving the first of the resolutions, notice of which had been given by the Hon. Baronet (Sir G. Staunton)—That it is inexpedient to pass any Bill for establishing courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction in China, until satisfactory evidence be given of the assent of the Government of that country.

Captain Alsager seconded the amendment Lord Palmerston could not acquiesce in the proposal of his Hon. Friend, and thought that he and the Hon- Member for Portsmouth, whose speech he had undertaken to make — (A laugh) — had not fully considered the nature of the Bill now under the consideration of the House, and the enactments of the law passed in 1833. The Hon. Member stated that it was inexpedient to press any Bill establishing Courts with criminal and admiralty jurisdiction in China, without the previous consent of the Emperor of China. The fact was that
this had been done by the Act of 1833, to which the Right Hon. Baronet opposite (Sir J. Graham), when First Lord of the Admiralty, was a party. That Bill conferred on the Crown the power of establishing in China Courts of Admiralty and Criminal Jurisdiction; and one reason why he now proposed this Bill was that he thought it expedient these Courts should, in addition to criminal and Admiralty jurisdiction, possess civil jurisdiction; and that doubts were entertained, consequence of the ambiguous wording of a clause in the existing law, whether the later words of that clause, which specifically mentioned the Admiralty and criminal jurisdiction, did or did not control the words in the former part of the section, which were more general, and which, if they stood alone, would give all the powers which were now required to establish the civil jurisdiction. (Cries of “Hear, hear.”) The Act to which he referred was the 3rd and 4th of William the Fourth, c. 93. It was contended that the words of the latter part of the clause controlled the former, under which it was competent to give facilities for the establishment of these Courts by an Order in Council. He would contend, therefore, that the resolution applied more to the law passed in 1833 than to the Bill now before the House; but he was prepared to discuss the principle of the present measure with the Hon. Member. It was true, the present might be called an exceptional case. It was well known that they had no diplomatic connection or relations with the Emperor of China. Frequent attempts had been made to establish them, but they had failed. The only way by Which these relations could be established was by another embassy, and he did not think his Hon. Friend would recommend such a course again. It was alleged that the India Company had no such Courts, but that they had a power and authority which stood in Lieu of it. Cases unfortunately arose in which offences had been committed by British subjects in China, and the surrender of those subjects was required, and the Company found itself placed in the discreditable dilemma of either on the one hand surrendering a British subject to be tried by Courts in which justice was openly set at defiance, or, on the other hand, refusing to deliver up the offender, and invest him with impunity for his offence. That position was full of embarrassment, and it was as discreditable to the character of the Company as it was to the character of the British nation. But cases did happen in which it did occur. Then panic came the embarrassment if the Chinese Government had chosen to assert its rights and resented these infractions of its acknowledged jurisdiction, they would have stopped the trade, and that would have been attended with great loss. The Company, however, in more than one instance, risked the loss of trade rather than be the instruments of committing legal murder on the subjects of this country. He would admit to his Honourable Friend that there was no consent on the part of the Chinese authorities, nor could they obtain it without that intercourse with China which it was impossible in the present state of things to obtain. (Hear, hear.) But the question was, though the authorities of China had not given their consent, whether they would resent such an interference on the part of this country; and from the papers that had been laid on the table he thought it clearly appeared that they would not, and that there was every probability of their being reconciled. His Hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth, in a work written by him on this subject, stated in distinct terms, that, in order to enforce order the usual mode of administering justice in China would be wholly inadequate. The question then arose, were the Chinese laws suspended or relaxed in favour of strangers? Sir George Staunton stated that virtually all the Chinese laws were suspended in the case of foreigners, except in capital offences, so that there was nothing contained in the Bill which was at all inconsistent with the present practice, and the acknowledged principle of the Chinese people. He further stated in his book that a foreigner who had committed an offence, if not punished, he drew down the hatred of the Chinese upon the country he belonged to, and if he was punished, it led to great humiliation and disgrace to the criminal's Countrymen. (Hear, hear.) It was impossible for them to deliver up an offender who was sailing for China, or was resident there under our protection.

Not only Sir George Staunton, but another gentleman, who, from his long residence in China, was entitled to be considered a high authority, he meant Mr. Drummond, stated that the Chinese, in the event of a murder or homicide, would put to death any person delivered up to them, whether guilty or innocent, with what they (the Chinese) indeed called a regular trial, but which was, in fact, most irregular and unjust. The Chinese held the Governments of foreign countries responsible for the conduct of all their subjects in China. Sir George Staunton stated that the Company's servants would be held responsible, not only for the conduct of the crews of all private vessels but all of the King's ships there; and Sir George went on to give an instance of an American, who being given up to the Chinese, was put to death. This proves two things; first, that the Chinese held the entire trade of a nation responsible for all their subjects going there; and secondly, that the custom of delivering up persons to the Chinese tribunals in cases of homicide (a custom opposed to that which was at present adopted by the English) was not calculated to lead to a satisfactory conclusion. The Noble Lord proceeded to say, Sir George Staunton contended, not only was it necessary to have the power to control by established rules her Majesty's subjects, but that there should be even the power of
suspending the trade of British subjects in cases of negotiation with the Chinese Government. He contended, therefore, from the authority of the Hon. Member for Portsmouth, that he had clearly established the grounds upon which, not this Bill, but the Bill of 1833, to which the Right Hon. Baronet opposite and himself were joint parties, had been passed. A due regard to British interests and to British character required that the Bill should pass. If it was shown that the English Government had power to establish courts for the trial of those greater offences, and Sir George Staunton said it did not apply to the trial of minor ones, he should like to know upon what principle that power was not applicable to the smaller offences, which it was in fact more necessary to control and prevent, as it would be the best means of preventing that insubordination which was calculated to occasion these more grave offences. He would say, therefore, that there must be some misunderstanding as to the operation of the present Bill. Its object merely was to extend the power of the existing law to the trial of civil offences. His Honourable Friend had complained of the arbitrary dictatorial power confided to the Government, which, by an Order in Council, could establish Courts for the trial of any offences there. He admitted that such was the case, but there was no remedy for it. His Hon. Friend and the House must perceive the difficulty of passing any law embodying such a code as would be applicable to all offences that might arise. It was proposed by the present measure to give to those Courts a power of adjudicating between a British subject and persons of any other nation, or Chinese, when an appeal was made to them against a British subject. In the Bill of 1833 power was given to levy certain tonnage duties to defray the expenses of the establishment of these Courts. But upon further consideration, it was felt that such a proceeding would be an injury to the trade with China, and the plan was abandoned. The expenses of these Courts have, from that period, been the subject of an annual vote from Parliament. He thought when he was bringing in a Bill upon this subject, it would be better to repeal that part of the law which empowered the Crown to levy duties, and therefore a clause had been introduced in the present Bill to that effect. He also felt that it would be desirable to alter the title of the officer who was to administer the law, and for that purpose a clause had been introduced, giving the power and authority hitherto vested in the Superintendent to the Consul; at the same time, however, he felt bound to say that while he considered it desirable that the power should be given to Consuls, he thought it might be expedient, considering the character of the Chinese nation, and their aversion to change, for some time longer to retain the title of Superintendent. These were the chief features of the Bill, and with these explanations he trusted the House would allow it to go into committee.

Sir James Graham felt bound to express his regret that the Noble Lord should have thought it necessary, in the present state of the House, and at this advanced period of the session, to bring under its consideration a question of such great importance. The Noble Lord had read to the House some extracts from a work of the Hon. Member for Portsmouth, published some time; and although he was disposed to give them the credit they deserved, he must remind the Noble Lord that, whatever might have been the opinion of the Honourable Member for Portsmouth under other circumstances, he was decidedly opposed to the measure proposed by the Noble Lord. The Noble Lord was perfectly correct when he stated that when he (Sir James Graham) had the honour of being his colleague, he had taken some part in framing a measure that was then brought under the consideration of the House. He never regretted that, because the measure had the effect, notwithstanding all that had been said against it, of opening the China trade. But he found himself bound to say that experience had convinced him that the clauses were unnecessary, and he now considered that it would be highly inexpedient to extend their operation. It was clear that Lord Napier leaving this country with an erroneous impression of the powers entrusted to him, did so demean himself to the Chinese authorities as seriously to endanger our commercial relations with that country and ex posed himself to such annoyances as he (Sir James Graham) fully believed cost him his life. Those who accompanied him being taught by experience, so modified their course of proceeding as to be able to renew our intercourse. The Chinese never allowed us to fix ourselves at Canton, and in place of having three Superintendents resident there, we had only one officer exercising the power of a Consul. He had no doubt but that the Chinese would take every advantage of the Court as plaintiffs; but they would never submit to its jurisdiction as defendants, so that it would prove to be a gross hardship on British subjects. (Hear, hear.) If these extraordinary powers were granted, it would be impossible to entrust their exercise to the ordinary authorities; there must be some high legal authority. He (Sir J Graham) had somewhere read that all the earth was to be put under a commission - that the whole population of the world would soon be put under the superintendence of barristers of six years' standing - (A laugh) - and he supposed there must be a barrister or a commission of barristers, of six years' standing sent out to China to put a law in execution acknowledged to be arbitrary in its nature. Now, as to the authority of Sir George Staunton, which the Noble Lord had quoted, that Hon. Baronet had since modified his opinions, and was opposed to this Bill. Besides the Noble Lord rested his case on the
papers that had been produced when there was no consent on the part of the Chinese signified, and he (Sir J. Graham) begged the House to recollect that Captain Elliott, in his last despatch (July, 1837,) had stated that the Chinese were daily becoming more anxious to stand well with the British Government, but they were very jealous as to this point on which the Noble Lord wished to venture, and was it prudent to run such a risk at a period when everything was running smoothly?

Mr. Warburton hoped his Hon. Friend would withdraw his resolution, and allow the Bill to go into committee. It was most essential that these tonnage duties should be repealed, and the Government having given its assent they were certain of carrying the proposition to a favourable result. With regard to other clauses to the Bill he hoped the Noble Lord would reconsider them before he decided upon pressing them upon the consideration of the House. In his opinion, it would be far better to defer them until they had further information upon the subject.

Lord Palmerston begged to set the Hon. Baronet right with respect to the dispute between Lord Napier and the Chinese Government. The dispute did not turn upon any question like the present, but as to the mode of communication between the British and Chinese Governments – the former wishing to have a direct communication, and the latter refusing any intercourse except, as under the old system, through the Hong merchants. He admitted that it would be expedient to ascertain the views of the Chinese Government before carrying a measure like the present into operation. (Hear, hear.) Captain Elliott, who was the only superintendent, gave as his decided opinion that the consent of the Chinese authorities could be obtained. The Right Hon. Baronet had said, get the consent of the Chinese Government, and then come to Parliament. Did the Right Hon. Baronet really think that that would be the best course to adopt? Because, when the Chinese Government was asked to consent, they would naturally inquire what the regulations were before they decided. Now, the wish of the Government was to obtain the consent of the Chinese Government to something specific, and that was all that was wanted.

Mr. C. Lushington trusted the Noble Lord would accede to the excellent advice given him by the Right Honourable Baronet, as he felt convinced that it would be utterly useless to attempt to get the consent of the Chinese Government to abstract regulations.

Sir R. Inglis thought it would be far better not to proceed further with the Bill in its present shape.

Captain Alsager understood that the Courts were to have jurisdiction over British subjects only. Now, he knew that nine-tenths of the disputes in Canton were between the British and Chinese subjects, and he was certain that they would never submit to the authority of any Court but their own

After a few words as to the course to be taken, Mr. Hawes withdrew his amendment, in order to let the Bill go into committee. He would divide the House upon the first clause.

The House then went into committee on the Bill.

On clause 1 being proposed, Mr. Hawes rose to move its omission. As far as he knew no British merchants had given their assent to the measure, which was, therefore, to be considered as emanating exclusively from the Foreign Office. To the establishment of a Court for trial of offences by British subjects there could be no objection, but he protested against a Court interfering with an independent power like China. And if such a course were taken let it not be forgotten that interested parties would easily be found to whisper that to the Chinese authorities, and render them jealous of, and hostile to, British interests. (Hear.) He, therefore, moved that the clause be omitted.

The Solicitor-General thought the emission of the clause would place the House in a novel situation. There were two thousand of her Majesty's subjects resident near Canton, and it was necessary there should be some means of settling the disputes which might arise. It was for the benefit of those on the spot that there should be some tribunal to which they might resort.

Viscount Palmerston said, that as the sense of the House appeared to be against the Bill, he had no objection to postpone it until next session. (Hear.) After a few words from Sir J. Graham, the Bill was withdrawn for the present session.
1838 – Leigh Park: Another interesting memorial has recently been added to the numerous objects of attraction that adorn Leigh Park, the favourite retreat of Sir George Staunton, Bart. It is a column raised to the victories and the reverses which have happened to Sir George in his electioneering contests in this county during the last six eventful years. The first side of this column is devoted to recognition of the 1530 gallant Reformers who secured Sir George's return for the Southern Division of the county in 1832. The next side records his defeat, and along with it his grateful recollection of the 1474 honest and true men who stood him to the last. The third side is made tributary to the devotion of the voters who supported him in 1837, his endeavour restore the independence of South Hants; and the fourth to the worth and virtue of the honest electors of Portsmouth, who rewarded his toils and sacrifices returning him, without a contest, the unplugged Member of their independent borough. The memorial is a very interesting one, and, as we are sure our readers will agree with us in thinking, exhibits at once both the good taste and the good feeling of this excellent gentleman. 30 July 1838, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1838 – Portsea Beneficial Society: The anniversary of the Beneficial Society, Portsea, took place on Monday last. The Rev. S. Slococck, B.A., preached before the members of the Society and their friends, at St. George's Chapel; after which the collection amounted to upwards of 10/. The anniversary dinner took place in the evening, at the Society's Hall, and among the guests were Sir George Staunton, and J. Bonham Carter, esq., whose health was proposed by the honorable Baronet. evidently with the view of bringing him forward. The attraction of the dinner was greatly enhanced by the present of venison, by Sir Thomas Baring. 6 October 1838, Hampshire Advertiser

1839 – House of Commons: We have just heard that Sir George Staunton has declared on official authority that the Government expect to be defeated on Lord John Russell’s motion respecting Ireland. 9 April 1839, Brighton Patriot

1839 – House of Commons: Colonial Churches: Sir George Staunton presented a petition from Portsmouth (we understand), numerously signed, complaining of religious destitution in the colonies, and praying for aid to the established church in her Majesty’s foreign possessions. 15 April 1839, Evening Chronicle

1839 – House of Commons: Numerous petitions were presented in favour of Mr. Rowland Hill’s plan of a penny postage, amongst which was one by Sir George Staunton from Gosport and one by Mr. Brodie from Salisbury, signed by the Mayor and Magistrates, and almost all the principal inhabitants of that city. 29 April 1839, Salisbury and Winchester Journal

1839 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton has given notice of the following amendment upon Mr. Grote's motion for taking votes at election by ballot:—“That, it order to ascertain by experiment the efficacy of the ballot, as a remedy for existing abuses at the elections of members of parliament it is expedient that in the first ten counties, cities, or boroughs, of which one-half or more of the registered electors shall petition for the same, the votes at the next ensuing elections for such places shall be taken by ballot.” The motion of Mr. Grote comes on upon Tuesday next. 17 June 1839, Freeman's Journal

1839 – House of Commons – National; Education – Adjourned Debate: Sir GEORGE STAUNTON, situation as he was with reference to his opinion on this question, felt that whatever side he might take he would be exposed to much unjust and uncharitable animadversion. He had always been a warm friend to religious education and thought that it should be extended to every class and denomination of the people; at the same time he had never considered that it was inconsistent with the religious opinions to give his private assistance, as far as he was able, to the dissemination of education among Catholics and dissenters, for he did not think that devotion to one particular branch of religious faith ought to lead a man to forget that we were all joined and knit together by one common bond of union as Christians [hear!]. He (Sir George Staunton) had been one of those who supported the principle on which the London University was first based; and if her Majesty's government had brought forward one general plan of education in the same spirit which had actuated the promoters of that Institution - if they had proposed to establish in London a university which would not like those of Oxford and Cambridge, reject all sects of non-conformists, he for one would have been ready to concur in any vote of pecuniary aid. The plan of the government was to place the education of the country under the control of a committee which was wholly at a political character, and on which there was no member of the church, he was aware that the reason avowed for this was that the dissenters would object to have their children taught in schools which were under the control of a board of which church-men formed a part. But this, in his
opinion, only showed that conformity and non-conformity could not be combined under the same educational system. The honourable baronet was understood to say that he approved of some portions of the plan of education proposed by her Majesty's ministers, but differed materially from others. On such a question as this, however, where the principle of equality or non-equality in religion was concerned, he could consent to no compromise whatever, and he should therefore vote for the amendment.

21 June 1839, Morning Chronicle

1839 – House of Commons – The Borough Members and the Ballot: The Borough Members and the Ballot.—The "Weathercock Baronet," as Sir George Staunton is styled by his own radical friends, having given great dissatisfaction to some of them by not voting for the Ballot, has written a long and laboured "explanation," in which he at first denies having given any pledge upon the subject, and afterwards quotes our observation of last week to the effect that he is understood to adopt the principle by admitting it in some instances. Now we give Sir George Staunton the full benefit of his speech; it is true he did not positively pledge himself to vote for Mr. Grote's Ballot motion, but he gave utterance to language strongly calculated to deceive the gulls of Liberalism, and induce them to think he would support it. In speaking of Mr. Grote's motion, Sir George observed, "thus far he could say that he thought it probable he might be happy and pleased to support it. Notwithstanding the hesitation of Lord John Russell, he would say let the people give him their support and they will find no cause to complain. For himself, Sir George declared, that the reserve he may exhibit was a conscientious reserve, and he would rather say little and do more, than say more and do little." This was followed by long and continued cheering, and was evidently intended to induce the radicals to think that upon a little pressure he would give up his "conscientious reserve." as he had already done in pandering to the radical demands in reference to church rates. His conduct evidently shews that he was afraid openly to avow himself a radical, and at the same time tried to keep the radicals in tow; like the old man with his ass—trying to please both parties. He therefore "concedes the principle," and yet votes "against its adoption." Sir George, however, is made of squeezable materials. If the radicals are sincere in their demands, which we hardly believe, Sir George will yet "go the whole hog," his conscientious reserve will vanish, as it did on the church rate question. We have not seen a copy of Mr. Baring's letter, but we understand that he excuses himself from opposing the ministers because he belongs to the ministry. So the Radicals are content to sell their Borough, to have a placeman for their representative.

29 June 1839, Hampshire Advertiser

1839 – SIR GEORGE STAUNTON: The following correspondence has passed between the Secretary of a Committee, appointed last year at a meeting, to petition Parliament upon the ballot, and Sir George Staunton, Bart., one of the members for this Borough:—

Portsmouth, 17th June, 1839.

Sir George, – By desire of the Committee, (appointed at the public meeting last year, where the petition was almost unanimously adopted), I have sent you petitions from the Wards of St. Paul's and All Saints', of this Borough, in favour of the votes at elections being taken by Ballot.

The Committee trust you will give Mr. Grote's motion your vote and support, and that you will only make the motion, of which you have given notice, in case of Mr. Grote's being lost.

The Committee consider your notice objectionable, inasmuch as the Ballot is only to be tried in ten elections, where the majority of the electors petition for its adoption, but rather should be tried in the ten first elections that occur. Your motion would preclude its being tried in a borough with Tory members, for it would be as difficult to obtain a majority of the electors as to return a member; it being often the case that the member has not a majority of the whole of the electors—and if such was adopted, there would be petitions and counter petitions, with probably the signatures of some electors to each, because the same influence would be used to prevent and obtain voters as in an election, without you propose that the petition should be adopted or rejected by the electors by Ballot.

I have the honour to be, Sir George,

Your obedient Servant, JOHN NEWLYN.

Devonshire Street, June 25, 1839.
Sir, - In reference to the favour of your letter of the 17th inst., I now beg to trouble you with a few observations upon the course which I have taken with respect to the ballot, and which I shall feel obliged by your making known to the committee.

In the first place, I am confident that everyone who heard me at the meeting at Portsmouth, will admit that a I gave no pledge whatever on the subject, and that I have fulfilled to the utmost extent, any reasonable expectation which I then raised.

First, by the amendment, of which I gave notice, but withdrew in order not to embarrass Mr. Grote's motion. And secondly, by the substantive motion, on the subject of which I afterwards gave notice, and which (if the friends of the ballot concur with me in its expediency), I propose to bring forward at the earliest opportunity next session.

I need not remind the committee that Mr. Grote’s motion of last year upon the ballot, was decided some days previous to my election; and that the subject was not again brought forward during that session.

The opinion, which the Tories entertain of the course which I have pursued, I find thus expressed in the last Hampshire Advertiser, - "Sir George Staunton has avowed himself an advocate of the ballot, by admitting it in principle, though his plan was to confine its operation to certain large towns as an experiment."

The ballot is certainly gaining ground – the Tories even do not deny, and cannot deny the enormous evils for which it is proposed as a remedy. The only question with a reasonable man is - "Is it a remedy?" How then can this question be more effectively, more convincingly answered, than by appealing to its actual, safe, and beneficial operation in a certain number of selected constituencies? With a view to render the selection a perfectly fair one, I shall propose that it be made by ballot, at the table of the House. However desirable, however necessary the ballot may be, it is a new principle in respect to Parliamentary elections; and will, confessedly, require many accompanying provisions to ensure its being fairly carried out, and to prevent false returns, when a subsequent scrutiny becomes impossible. I am, therefore, not as yet prepared to change the system of our elections from the Land's End to the Orkneys, by a single bill, without one word of previous enquiry by a committee, or one single test of its efficiency by means of a previous experiment. At the same time, I cannot deny that violent diseases often require violent remedies, and that the progressive increase of the abominable system of intimidation and corruption at elections, may render the evil so intolerable, and so unite the opinions of all Reformers in favour of the ballot, as to justify me in taking a course for which I am not yet prepared, namely supporting the motion of Mr. Grote.

It must, I conceive, be obvious to everyone, that in adopting the line I have chosen, I cannot possibly have any other view than the good of my country, and an anxious desire to meet, as far as I conscientiously can do, the wishes of my constituents. I certainly do not conciliate by it a single Tory, and I undoubtedly disappoint by it many an enthusiastic Reformer. But, although I may thus sacrifice some temporary popularity, I have the firmest confidence that I shall ultimately receive from my constituents, that reward of deliberate approval, which I am persuaded no seeker for a temporary popularity, at the expense of his private judgement, can ever obtain or deserve.

I shall be most happy to communicate personally with my constituents upon this important subject, as soon as the session is over; but I do not wish to let another day pass, without fully and candidly explaining to them my sentiments on a question in which they are so deeply interested.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your very faithful Servant, GEORGE T. STAUNTON,

1 July 1839, Hampshire Telegraph

1839 – To the Editor of the Hampshire Telegraph, June 24th 1839: Sir, I have just read, with feelings of surprise and regret in the Hampshire Independent (Advertiser), of Saturday last, under the head of “Portsmouth,” a most arrogant and I unprovoked attack upon your Members, Messrs. Baring and Staunton, with respect to their late votes upon the Ballot; but more particularly scurrilous with regard to the general political character and conduct of Sir George Staunton; and, as an Elector of South Hants (who has always felt a deep interest in the representation of this Division of the County), I do feel that I should be wanting in my duty towards my brother liberal electors, as well as prove myself ungrateful to that noble-minded and independent Country Gentleman, who has three times, at the special
invitation of the Reformers of South Hants stood forward, and spared neither exertion or legitimate expense, to fight their battle in the most severe contests that are recorded in our electioneering annals, if I did not on the present occasion lend my humble aid in warding off the attack of the Independent.

I am a reluctant, but from conviction, a no less earnest supporter of the Ballot, and should have rejoiced to have seen the names of Baring and Staunton in the minority upon Mr. Grote's motion; but because these worthy Gentlemen differ with myself and others upon this one question, are they to be thus attacked by a Newspaper established in the County for the avowed purpose of supporting the Reform interest? The first duty of that Paper ought to be to promote union amongst the ranks of Reformers, instead of playing the game of the Tories, by causing disunion, which the writer of the article in question seems so strenuously to advocate.

I am somewhat amused at the tone of self-sufficient conceit with which this would-be Giant in mind and political integrity assumes to himself the office of Dictator to the Constituency of Portsmouth, as to their choice of Representatives; but I beg to tell him, that the people of that borough are too much enlightened to require any advice or assistance in the exercise of that important duty, and least of all do they need any rash and unwise Counsellors, who would bring about a division in the Reform Camp, and be thus the means of letting in two Tories In any future election. With respect to Mr. Baring, it is well known that he has always been opposed to the Ballot, and therefore it must have been expected that he would vote against it; and as for Sir George Staunton, he has never pledged himself to vote for the Ballot, or led any of his Constituents to suppose he would do so, upon either of the occasions when he was a Candidate for South Hants, or at his late election for Portsmouth; but he has given a most decided proof of the sincerity of his intentions to protect the voter by moving the amendment, which the writer in the Independent has been pleased to call "a curiosity." And although from the temper of the House, in the late debate; he was obliged to withdraw his amendment, yet he has given notice to bring it forward next Session. The object of Sir George Staunton's motion is to try the efficiency of the Ballot, by adopting it first in certain counties or boroughs to be selected; and surely no man with the slightest regard for truth, can accuse the Mover of such a resolution of being an enemy to the Ballot; and I am inclined to think, that had Mr. Grote contented himself with framing his resolution, so as to have pledged the House to Sir George Staunton's experiment only, his late minority would have been considerably increased. I have no doubt that a majority of the present House of Commons are of opinion that the Voter ought to be protected; but as to whether the Ballot will effect that object, a considerable difference of opinion exists not only with the members of the House of Commons, but also with the present constituency of the county Sir George's sentiments upon the Ballot were perfectly known to all his constituents at Portsmouth who attended his committee at public meetings previous to his election, and to none better than the staunch Reformers of Landport; and I fearlessly assert, that he has not played with the question of the Ballot, but has honourably carried out, to the fullest extent, all that he led his constituents to expect. As to his having abstained from voting upon the Ballot last year, it happens that Sir George was not returned for Portsmouth until some days after Mr. Grote's motion upon the subject had been disposed of - so much for the accuracy of the Independent. This babbler has been pleased also to doubt whether Sir George is a Reformer, and to accuse him of backsliding and treachery as to the Appropriation Clause, as exposed in some coarse and vulgar letters signed "Ithuriel," in the Independent; but Sir George Staunton's political character stands too well with the Reformers of Portsmouth to be damaged by any such attacks as these. It happens that the letters, signed "Ithuriel"- appeared in the Independent shortly before the last General Election, but the electors of Portsmouth will not forget that a few weeks afterwards, when Sir George came forward as a candidate for South Hants, a leading article appeared in the columns of the same Newspaper in which "Ithuriel" appeared (the Independent), lauding Sir George Staunton to the skies, as a highly honourable and independent Reformer, worthy of the support of the Liberal Constituency of this division of the County. - So much for consistency. And, in answer to the threat that "Ithuriel's" spear will again be brought into the action, I beg to tell this boaster that Ithuriel's sting (if he ever had any) has been long since extracted and that the Individual, who is honoured with his censure is as fortunate as the party who has his praise is to be pitied.

Sir George Staunton has proved himself a staunch Reformer, ready to promote a steady, constitutional, onward movement; but not a Revolutionist! And I have no doubt, the enlightened Constituency of Portsmouth will, at the next election, shew their opinion of both their present honourable Members by returning them again to Parliament with triumphant majorities.

I remain, Sir, your faithful Servant, A HAMPSHIRE REFORMER.

1 July 1839, Hampshire Telegraph
1839 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton — That in order to ascertain by experiment the efficacy of the ballot, as a remedy for existing abuses at the elections of Members of Parliament, it is expedient that a certain number of counties, cities, and boroughs, be selected; and that the votes at the next ensuing elections for such places be taken by ballot.  

29 August 1839, Morning Post

1839 – Dinner to the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Portsmouth: Wednesday evening a dinner upon a large scale was given to the Right Hon. F. Baring, to celebrate the return of that gentleman at the last election for Portsmouth. The price of the dinner tickets was fixed at 3s. 6d., and about three hundred persons sat down to dinner. The chair was filled by Daniel Howard, Esq., one of the Aldermen of the borough. The Chairman first gave — “Her Majesty the Queen, and may her reign be long, happy, and prosperous” (loud cheers and cries of Amen.) The Chairman said — Gentlemen, we have drank one branch of the constitution, and I now propose to you to drink another, “The People, the true source of all legitimate power” (great cheering).

The Chairman then proposed the health of Sir George Staunton, the other Representative of Portsmouth (Applause).

Sir George Staunton returned thanks. He would just advert to two subjects, in reference to which some misconception had gone abroad as to the course which he had pursued respecting them. He alluded to public education and the ballot. But before he adverted to his conduct in respect to the said questions, he would just allude to the votes which he had given in the course of the last sessions. He had supported Mr. Villiers’s motions on the corn law. He had also supported government in their desire to give a good municipal government to Ireland. He was also favourable to a settlement of the question of church rates, and had also resisted the payment to the King of Hanover, for it certainly appeared to him that the sum granted to the Duke of Cumberland at home ought not to be given to the King of Hanover. With respect to general education, he had for the last twenty years given his best to support it. It did not, therefore, appear to him that because he might happen to differ with the government as to the mode in which they proposed to carry out the education principle, that therefore it would be supposed he had turned his back upon his former views in this matter. (Hear, hear.) Although he was most anxious to advance education he could agree in the propriety of appointing a Cabinet Board to work out the principle; for they ought to recollect that although a Cabinet may he Liberal to-day it may be Tory tomorrow. His opinion was that there ought be a permanent board of education, formed of men who were not only liberal but learned (hear). It might, however, be said, that he ought not to have placed her Majesty’s government in jeopardy, in his desire to carry out his principle (hear). This, however, was a very unsound doctrine, and would, if carried out to its full extent, lead to perfect despotism (hear) At all events, although had opposed the government on the point in question he had voted in favour of the education grant, and by so doing had, in fact, saved the government (hear). Upon the second point - namely, the ballot, he had not led any astray for he had never declared that he would support the ballot. He had, however, read and thought much on this subject, and he had come to the conclusion that the experiment of the ballot ought to be tried, at least to a certain extent (hear).

23 October 1839, Tipperary Free Press

1839 – Correspondence Addressed to the Editor – Speech of Sir George Staunton:  

Sr.— Axminster, Oct. 22, 1839:

As your report of what I said at the dinner, on Wednesday, is generally very correct as far as it goes, I feel persuaded you will, in fairness, Insert this note in your paper, containing some essential corrections.

What I really said respecting the "great paladium of our liberties" was, that "corruption and intimidation, had, in many instances, rendered the elective franchise, which was the great paladium of our liberties, little better than a mockery."

I did not intend to assert that "I had saved the Government, "but only that " I had maintained the Government on a majority: "but I certainly said, as you state, that I had been told so.

Instead of "reserve a conscientious reason," my words were, "maintains a conscientious reserve." I did not say that I was not quite prepared to say how the experiment of the Ballot should be tried, but that I was so little bigotted to my own plan, that I was willing to leave the selection to Mr. Grote, or any other friend of the Ballot.
You say that I appealed "very pathetically," but my words certainly were "boldly and fearlessly," and I thought that my manner was the same. As to the "yes, yes" which you state you heard, I can only say I did not hear it, nor did those persons of whom I made enquiry; but, at all events, I am sure you will have the candour to admit that the noes had it, by an overwhelming majority.

I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant. GEORGE STAUNTON.

[We have had some little satisfaction in receiving the above letter from Sir George Staunton, containing, as it does, incidentally a strong corroboration of the accuracy of our report, for it is evident that if such trifling matters can attract attention, there can be nothing of any consequence inaccurate. The first point can scarcely be called a correction — Sir George admits that he did call the elective franchise little better than a mockery, even since the passing of the reform act. Secondly, the Right Hon. Bart. did not intend to assert that he had saved the Government, but he did assert it, and others understood him as he did, and with every wish to render the Right Hon. Bart. every opportunity of explanation, we are not chargeable for his mistake. Thirdly, Sir George's words were, that he would reserve a conscientious reserve, for we noticed at the time the repetition of the word. The transmutation of the second reserve Into reserve was an error of our compositor. Fourthly, Sir George declares he did not say he was not quite prepared to say how the experiment of the ballot should be tried; but he admits that whether prepared or not, he did not say how. As to the application of the epithet pathetically, we have only to say that Sir George's speech, despite the words "boldly and fearlessly," was evidently that of a man on his defence, and without exaggeration, we may say, before very unfriendly judges, Sir George's concluding point, that when he inquired whether he had broken faith with his constituents, the noes had it by an overwhelming majority, needs no other reply than to be referred back to the report. Our words were, that among many noes, he distinctly heard several cries of yes yes. We repeat that now. It would have been hard indeed, if with all the exertions that were made to get up the demonstration; the majority had not been friendly; but there were several who evidently entertained a very lukewarm friendship to the Right Hon. Bart. We have now answered the various paragraphs of Sir George's letter verbatim but are still at a loss to comprehend the object of correcting, what everyone must see was utterly immaterial. We have not been able to discover the "essential corrections".

2 November 1839, Hampshire Advertiser

1839 – The municipal elections have, in the great majority of cases, gone against the Whigs; and one example, we may point to is Chichester, where, in spite of many disadvantages, the Conservatives have, for the first time since the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act, succeeded in electing a majority of Town Councillors. At Portsmouth, too, there has been a similar reaction; and the case of this borough is so instructive, that we are induced to print below an extract of letter which we have received upon the subject:— "You will be glad to hear we have had success after our struggle, having added three more Conservatives to the Town Council. This has happened simply from the exertions of those who have been inactive before, and teaches a good lesson for the forthcoming general election. There has been a great reaction in our favour; for during my canvass many of the Radical party gave all their votes to our friends, and otherwise received us well. This augurs well; and, provided we get a good candidate, I think we shall certainly oust Sir George Staunton.

7 November 1839, Brighton Gazette

1839 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., with his usual liberality and benevolent disposition, has given £20 worth of coals to the Poor of Havant. It is an annual present of the worthy Baronet; and it affords us still the greater pleasure in announcing that the Inhabitants of Havant, we hear, are entering into a subscription, in by order to imitate so laudable an example.

30 December 1839, Hampshire Telegraph

1840 – The Chinese Question: At this moment, when everything relating to the intentions of Government respecting China is kept in the profoundest obscurity, it may not be unacceptable to the public to have their attention recalled to a series of very curious and we think important resolutions which were placed on the journals of the House of Commons in 1833 by Sir George Staunton.

As this gentleman resided many years in China, accompanied two embassies to Pekin, studied the language of the country with great success, and was for a long time at the head of the East India Company’s great factory at Canton, it may be well supposed that few if any other persons alive have enjoyed such extensive or accurate means of becoming acquainted with the subject treated of in these resolutions. Sir George Staunton is moreover known to be a judicious
and dispassionate statesman, a thorough man of business, and by no means a person to be led away by vain theories, or wrongheaded national prejudices. On all these accounts we cannot doubt that the present Government have consulted so distinguished an authority before adopting their line of policy in regard to the Celestial empire. In our ignorance of what that policy is to be, therefore, we naturally turn with interest to the gravely recorded opinions of a person on whose judgment we imagine it probable they will rely. It is not our present purpose to enter at all into the soundness or unsoundness of Sir George Staunton’s views, but simply to call public attention to them; more especially as they seem to be written with a more than usual degree of prophetic spirit, indicating a degree of familiarity with his topic, in all its bearings, which could result only from long and personal acquaintance with its details on the spot.

It is material to add also, that Sir George Staunton has long retired from the service of the East India Company, and, if report maybe credited, has repeatedly declined very high and tempting offers to embark once more in active public life in those distant regions to which the following resolutions refer. All these considerations, we repeat, give a peculiar value to his opinions on a question which cannot possibly be allowed to remain much longer in the preposterous situation it has so long held, to our great national loss, and some degree of humiliation.

“1. That the British intercourse with China is the source whence this country is exclusively supplied with tea, an article in such universal use as to be nearly equivalent to a necessary of life, and through the consumption of which a revenue of between three and four millions sterling is annually raised with greater facility and certainty, and with less pressure on the people, than in the case of any tax of equal amount; that this trade moreover employs a very considerable extent of British shipping, is the medium of the export of the manufactures and productions of Great Britain and the British possessions in India to the amount, annual value, of some millions sterling, besides affording a certain and convenient channel for the remittance to Europe of that portion of the Indian revenues required meet the home charges in this country.

“2. That this branch of British commerce being of such great importance to the interests of this country, even while it continues, as at present, confined a single port, and that port one of the least advantageous in the Chinese dominions, either for the export of the staple commodities of China, or the dispersion amongst the Chinese population of the chief manufactures and productions of Europe, is not easy to estimate the vast field which would be opened to the enterprise and the industry of the manufacturing and producing classes in this country, if such an improved understanding could be effected between the Governments of Great Britain and China as might lead to a free and unrestrained Intercourse of British subjects with the ingenious end industrious population of an empire exceeding, respect to numbers, extent, and natural resources, the aggregate amount of all the nations of civilized Europe.

“3. That the peculiar jealousy of foreign intercourse which distinguishes the Governments of all the nations beyond the Ganges has been fully exemplified by the exclusion of all foreigners, the Dutch only excepted, from the ports of Japan, and without any exception from several of the ports of China to which formerly they were freely admitted, and by the obstructions which have been found insurmountable to any extensive beneficial intercourse with Cochin China and the other minor states, and, being partially mitigated in the single instance only of the port of Canton, it is of the utmost importance that all legislative measures in any manner affecting a branch of British commerce at once so valuable and so capable of improvement, and yet so precarious, should founded on the fullest and most impartial consideration of all the circumstances which have contributed to place it in its present position.

“4. That in the first place, instead of being regulated by international treaties, and placed under the recognized protection of a public minister at the capital, and acknowledged consul at the port of trade, as is customary in other civilized states, it is wholly abandoned to the arbitrary control of the Chinese local authorities, and is by those authorities subjected to many very severe and vexatious burdens, and to various personal restrictions and privations of the most galling and oppressive nature.

“5. That these evils, in the second place, are wholly attributable to the nature and character of the Chinese Government, and not to any want of proper spirit and firmness in the agents of the East India Company, who have, upon various occasions, opposed the arbitrary and oppressive acts of local Government with considerable success, and in a manner which individuals, pursuing their separate interests, and unconnected by any bend of union, never could
have attempted; and have thus repeatedly secured, for the general interests of the foreign trade, privileges of the most essential importance, and averted from it evils the most serious description, solely through the influence derived from the magnitude of their commercial dealings

“6. That this influence being the sole existing check now in operation for control and counteraction of the corrupt local administrators of the peculiarly arbitrary and despotic Government of China, it is indispensably necessary to the security of our valuable commerce with that country, that whenever any change shall be made in the British commercial system, having the effect of putting an end to this influence, an equal or greater instrument of protection be at the same time created and substituted for it under the sanction of a national treaty between the two countries, without which previous sanction any attempt to appoint national functionaries at Canton for the protection of trade would, in the present state of our relations with China, not only prove of little advantage to the subject, but be liable, in serious degree, to compromise the honour and dignity of the Crown.

“7. That notwithstanding the failure, in this respect, of all complimentary embassies to the Court of Pekin, however otherwise beneficial they may have been in raising and procuring the due recognition of the national character, the evidence of the treaties which have repeatedly negotiated by the Chinese Government with that of Russia, through the medium of commissioners duly appointed on both tides, not only for the adjustment of boundaries, but for the regulation of trade, prove that there is no insurmountable obstacle to each arrangement.

“8. That in the event of such expectations not being realised, and it proving impracticable to replace the influence of the India Company’s authorities by any system of national protection directly emanating from the Crown, it will then be expedient (though only in the last resort) to withdraw the British commerce altogether from the control of the Chinese authorities, and establish it in some insular petition on the Chinese coast, where it may be satisfactorily carried on beyond the reach of acts of oppression and molestation, to which an unresisting submission would be equally prejudicial to the national honour and the national interests of this country.

“9. That, lastly, the state of the trade under the operation of the Chinese law in respect homicides committed by foreigners in that country calls for the early interposition of the Legislature, these laws being practically so unjust and intolerable that they in no instance, for the last 49 years, have been submitted to by British subjects, great loss and injury to their commercial interests accruing from the suspension of trade in consequence of such resistance, and the guilty as well as the innocent escaping with impunity; and it is therefore expedient to put an end to this anomalous state of the law by the creation of a British naval tribunal upon the spot, with competent authority for the trial and punishment of such offences. 27 January 1840, *Evening Mail*

1840 – Expedition to China: It is generally reported that Sir George Staunton will be the commissioner despatched with the force destined against China, and that he will take passage in the Pique frigate.

25 January 1840, *Naval and Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of the United Service*

1840 – Our Fleet of War will leave for China on Thursday – Sir George Staunton accompanies.

12 February 1840, *Limerick Chronicle*

1840 – The news from China increases in interest. The violence of Zin, the Imperial Commissioner, seems to know no other limit than his power, and the absence of nearly all semblance of power on our part. His late conduct has added perfidy and treachery, in the violation of his own engagements, to that which he before exhibited in seizing the sixteen principal Merchants, with the Agents of the British Government, till his illegal behests were fulfilled—in the cruel treatment of Mr. Moss, and the destruction of the Spanish ship because it was supposed to be English and to be an opium vessel, in violation of the rights of nations.

The predictions of the East India Company in 1832 seem to be fulfilled almost to the very letter. Of the conduct of Captains Lord Napier and Elliot, the present Superintendent, we say nothing, nor is it necessary;— everyone will form his own conclusions from the facts placed before him, and we possess no other means.

That the Chinese Government have a right to regulate the trade in every way consistent with the laws of nations, we by no means wish to dispute; but in seizing the persons of our Consular Agents, and the principal Merchants (many of
whom had no concern in the smuggling trade in opium), till all the opium then afloat, and not legally within the reach of the Consul, any more than it was within the power of the Chinese authorities themselves, was given up to them, they plainly violated all those laws, as recognised everywhere else. No nation is bound to be the Custom-house officer of another stale; and the Chinese Government, in starving and threatening with death the English Agents and Merchants whom they had seized, to effect an illegal act of spoilage and violence, placed themselves both wantonly and unnecessarily in a state of hostility with this country, which owes due protection to all its subjects.

The Chinese Government had as much right to insist on the surrender of all the opium then on its way to China, as of that which was then on board the depot ships;— nay, more, they had as complete a right to all the crop of opium then growing in India, as they had to any which, being beyond their jurisdiction or power, they could not legally seize :— they have a perfect right to prevent its landing, or to seize and confiscate all which is in their own jurisdiction, but nothing more.

What should we say if the French or any other Government were to confine all our merchants and consuls in any port of France, till our woollens or hardware (supposing them to be contraband) then on board ships in the Channel were gives up to them? The eases are perfectly parallel.

Except the Naval armament necessary for the settlement of this dispute, we trust the whole of the Military arrangements will be left to the Supreme Government of India, which, beside skill and practice in these affairs, has a large army of seasoned troops at its disposal: 20,000 or 30,000 troops may be sent to seize and form a depot at the Island of Hainan, S. W. of Macao. A division of that force, with the Navy, may lay Canton under contribution, then re-embark, and in force land where Lord Macartney landed in 1794, in the Yellow Sea. Six or seven marches, having the aid of a fine river or canal the whole way, takes them to Pekin, where they may fulfil the ultimate object of their mission, under such instructions as may be furnished from England through the Supreme Government of India, to which power all the details should be left of this great but necessary enterprise. But we trust that Sir George Staunton, the most able and experienced of all our Chinese agents, will be employed with full powers as High Commissioner on the part of the English Government. If practice, temper, learning, and discretion, form any recommendations for the office, Sir George is unquestionably the fittest man for the office of any now in England.

We should regret to see any troops sent from England on such an occasion; for, unaccustomed to the climate, they would assuredly nearly all perish. It should be left entirely to the Indian Army, which possesses seasoned troops in abundance, with skill and experience, and to which long service and constant. success in every department will render it rather an expedition of pleasure. We have seen by their conduct in the Afghanistan affair, that they will do their work effectually, if they have but skilful leaders.

7 March 1840, Naval and Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of the United Service

1840 - "Sir George Staunton, in 1836, expressed, with reason, his surprise to find it distinctly and unequivocally admitted, by an avowed opponent of the Company, that the real cause why our grievances in China had become all at once insupportable, was no other than the abolition of the East India Company monopoly! He then quotes his authority:—"That our Intercourse with China has continual in a comparatively prosperous condition under the management of the East India Company, is to be attributed solely to the judgment and firmness occasionally displayed by the resident representatives of the Company.'-- When these interruptions occurred during the East India Company monopoly, their united influence and capital enabled them sometimes to make a stand against the Chinese, and to sustain the heavy commercial losses attendant on the struggle. 'They were never deprived of £2,000,000 at one blow. 'Widely different, however, would be the case under present circumstances, when the free-traders, pursuing each his separate and disunited view, and having no common head recognised by the Chinese, must fall a sacrifice in detail to their well-combined machinations.' This was precisely the language of the Company's advocates before the demolition of the long-established system; but they were not believed. It was rather soon to become thus disgusted with the granted boon, only two years after its concession, and to predict thus truly what has now become unfortunately verified. The same writer proceeds to say,--"We shall become the laughing-stock of the world, if the direct effect of our elaborate legislation be either to shut us out altogether from China, or place our Intercourse upon an infinitely more precarious, oppressive, and ignominious footing then ever; as will infallibly be (as has infallibly been) the result, if we be not now fully alive to the nature of our claims upon China, and prepared to assert them with
resolution and vigour.’ Let us, than, proceed with ‘resolution and vigour,’ but not without counsel and prudence, that we may be no longer the ‘laughing-stocks of the world,’ and (what is, perhaps, of fully equal consequence,) that we may not lose for ever a must valuable commerce and revenue.”

16 March 1840, *Cheltenham Journal and Gloucestershire Fashionable Weekly Gazette*

1840 – In the House of Commons, 24th June, numerous petitions were presented for a repeal of and in favour of the Corn-laws; and among the petitions against intrusion into the Scotch Church, was one from the General Synod of Ulster, and one from the Presbyterians of Belfast, presented by Sir Robert Peel, On the understanding that Mr. Villiers’s motion is certainly to be brought forward on the 31st, Mr, Christopher announced that he would enforce the call of the House; and Sir James Graham anticipating a protracted debate, postponed his motion respecting the China papers to Monday week.

Mr. Crawford moved that the grievances complained of in the petitions of the owners and representatives of the owners of a large part of the opium delivered up by Captain Elliot to the Chinese authorities, be referred to a select committee. The honourable gentleman went into a history of the trade in opium, which from the earliest period had existed between Bengal and China. Up to 1796 the commodity were introduced, subject to a fixed duty. But in that year the use and the importation were prohibited. The edict, however, proved utterly inoperative; for the quantity of opium exported from Bengal had never decreased. The quantity in 1796 was 4,000 chests. The opium was delivered by the connivance of the Chinese authorities; and in consequence of an understanding between those who received and those who paid bribes, the ships entered the port of Canton, having at all times the opium on board, when it was delivered by the connivance of the Chinese authorities. The hon. gentleman proceeded to describe the establishment of a rendezvous at Lintin, and the venture made for the first time up the east coast in 1824, and the extended trade to which the success of that adventure led, which in 1838 amounted to 27,000 chests. In 1836 the Chinese Government took the opium trade into their serious consideration, apparently with an earnest desire to put it down, and certainly so as regarded foreigners; but a question arose whether it would be more politic to legalize the importation or continue the prohibition. In July, 1836, an intimation was expected from Pekin that the trade was legalized; but it appeared that in the Council of Pekin the legalization of the trade was lost by a majority of one, and the Chinese Government adopted more stringent measures to put a stop to the trade. The measures having been found insufficient, in 1838 Commissioner Lin was invested with extraordinary powers for the purpose of carrying the views of the Government into effect. Capt. Elliot having got, as it were, into the lion’s mouth, called upon the British merchants to give up the opium in their possession to the Chinese authorities, on the principle of indemnification. He believed that by act of Parliament the British merchants at Canton owed full and implicit obedience to every order Captain Elliot might make as British superintendent.

Sir George Staunton seconded the motion. When he had the honour to reside in China, vessels having opium on board were always warned by the authorities against committing any infraction of the Chinese regulations; but a change had taken place since the trade was taken from the East India Company, and the change had by no means tended to keep alive a good feeling between the subjects of this country and the authorities of China. The honourable baronet said that after an order had been issued by the Chinese authorities, to the effect that unless the receiving ships at Lintin left the coast, the legitimate trade in tea should be put an end to, he did not understand that any warning had been given by the Superintendent to the commanders of the ships there, that they were placing themselves and their ships in a state of peril. Had the order of the 11th of September, 1839, been issued three years, or even seven months sooner, they would not now be discussing the claims to compensation, nor have seen a suspension of trade, nor a contest which it was desirable to avoid. He, however, concurred in the course pursued by her Majesty’s Government.

Lord Sandon thought it right to state the course he intended to pursue in his motion on Thursday next: it was to call on the House to condemn in strong terms the continuance by the East India Company of the growth of opium for Barter with the Chinese, and to declare the expediency of this country lending its best endeavours to enable the Chinese Government to suppress the mischievous and iniquitous trade in opium. He had strong doubts whether the empire of China had not a more just cause of war with us than we had with it.

Lord Palmerston stated that no objection would be offered to the appointment of the select committee. He conceived that if his honourable friend (Sir George Staunton) were to examine the papers laid before the House, he would see
that lie laboured under a mistake in supposing that her Majesty’s Superintendent, since the trade was thrown open, had departed from the conduct pursued by the supercargoes of the East India Company with regard to the smuggling trade in opium. “The superintendents,” said his lordship, certainly knew of the existence of the opium trade, inasmuch as it was a fact of public notoriety; but they had not given to them the same powers which the supercargoes had of putting down that trade, if they had attempted to do so. The supercargoes had a certain degree of authority. They could put down any British subject who pursued a trade which they thought injurious or discreditable within the Chinese waters or empire. Now, the superintendents hold no such power. He had explained this in his despatch, which would be found in the papers that had been presented to the House, at page 129. It was a positive instruction to them not to encourage or protect the trade; but they had no powers by law of stopping the trade. He would not then enter further into the question, as he thought the whole matter would be more conveniently discussed after the committee had reported.

Sir George Staunton, in explanation, said the Superintendent, on the 11th September, 1839, did prohibit the trade in opium, and if he had the power to prohibit then, he might have done so before. 25 March 1840, Morning Chronicle

1840 – Committee of Surrender of Opium in China: The following are the names to be nominated to-night by Mr. Crawford: — Mr. Crawford, Lord Viscount Palmerston, Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Charles Buller, Mr. Herbert, Sir George Staunton, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Colquhoun, Sir George Grey, Mr. Hogg, Mr. John Elliot, Mr. John Abel Smith, Mr. Parker, Lord Viscount Sandon, Mr. Strutt, Sir Robert Harry Inglis, Sir Charles Lemon, Mr. Edward Buller, Mr. Clay, and Mr. Horsman. 3 April 1840, London Evening Standard

1840 – House of Commons, 8 April - China: Sir James Graham then rose and said that when he considered the magnitude of the subject which he had felt it his duty to bring under the consideration of the House, and when he considered the immense national interest which were at stake, and when he thought of the perilous position in which those interests were placed at that moment, he confessed that he shrank from the task which he had imposed on himself— not so much on account of the inability which he felt to do justice to the cause, but from an apprehension that any inadvertent expression or imprudence of his should place those great national interests in a state of greater jeopardy than they were at present. But he thought it impossible, considering the present state of our relations with China, as evinced in the papers laid on the table of the House, that the House, though not invited by the Crown to express any opinion on this subject, could, with advantage to the public interest, any longer delay the expression of their opinions. (Cheers.) He, therefore, conceived that he was discharging a public duty when he brought this question under the notice of the House, and that he should most faithfully discharge it if he gave expression to the feelings and impressions which a careful and attentive consideration of the subject had produced on his mind. He feared he should not be able to command the attention of the House during the length of time he must occupy in bringing under their notice the details of this great question. But at all events he should best deserve their patient forbearance if he at once proceeded to the subject-matter to which he called their attention. And, in the first place, he would beg to call the serious consideration of the House to the magnitude of the interests which are involved in our relations with that country. He was guilty of no exaggeration when he stated that one-sixth of the whole united revenue of Great Britain in India was dependent on our relations with China and India. In the last year the revenue paid into the Exchequer on account of tea in this country amounted to no less a sum than £3,660,000. Besides that there were several receipts arising from imposts upon other imports from that country, making the British revenue derived from her intercourse with China no less a sum, annually, than £4,200,000. Now, with respect to India, where our difficulties are principally financial, he would beg to call to the attention of the House how large a proportion of the revenue of that country was remitted from China. The gross income of India may be stated at £20,000,000 annually, and, unless he was mistaken, the income derived from China was no less than £2,000,000 annually; and the difficulty of our connection with India being the difficulty of remittance, China had afforded this remarkable facility in its intercourse with India, that year by year, for the last five years, since the opening of the trade, there has been an annual influx from China into India of specie averaging £1,300,000, and in the last year yielding no less a sum than £1,700,000. He had already related enough to the House to fix its attention to this subject as a most important one, considering that at the present moment, whether at home or in India, our difficulties are principally financial. But he should not do justice to the subject if he did not for one moment ask permission of the House to call attention to the peculiar character, the vast importance, and the great strength of the Chinese empire. Unhappily, we were on the verge of a rupture with that
country, and there was nothing less wise than to despise our enemies. (Hear.) And it would be well to consider what were the resources of the country with which we were about to engage in war. Now, he must say he thought a very general fallacy prevailed in this country respecting China. (Hear, hear, hear.) Our notions of that country generally were derived from the intercourse with a single port, to which alone British subjects were admitted, and the public opinion was formed from intercourse with Canton alone. And if he wished in the plainest manner to illustrate the extent of this error, he would say it was exactly as if a foreigner were permitted to anchor at the Nore, and after a time to land at Wapping, and when there, placed in close confinement during his residence, and under such circumstances were to pronounce a deliberate opinion upon the resources, genius, and character of the British Empire. (Hear, hear.)

He would now just call the attention to what was the real truth with respect to the Chinese Empire. It was inhabited by three hundred and fifty millions of human beings— all directed by the will of one man— all speaking one language— all governed by one code of laws— all professing one religion, and all actuated by the same feelings of national pride and sympathy. They date their origin not by centuries, but by tens of centuries, transmitted to them in regular succession, under a patriarchal government, without interruption; and boast of education, of printing, of civilisation, of arts, and of all the conveniences and many of the luxuries of life as enjoyed by them when Europe was still sunk in barbarism, and when the light of knowledge was obscured in this our western hemisphere. But not only to their numbers— not only with regard to that unity which was strength— but he would call the attention of the House to their great means. They possess an annual revenue of £60,000,00, regularly collected— they have no debt— they inhabit the largest and fairest portion of Asia. Nearly one-third of that, which was in the finest climate, they cultivate; a most fruitful soil, which was watered by the finest rivers, and intersected by a canal 1,200 miles in length, which was one of the wonders of the world; and in every portion of this immense empire there is one uniformity of system— one jealous suspicion of strangers, evinced both on the shores of the yellow sea and along the confines of India, and the boundaries of Ava, Thibet, and Nepau. Surely, then, he may ask the question whether it was not wiser to trade than to quarrel with such a nation as this?— (hear, hear) — would it not be more prudent to conciliate such a people by the arts of peace, than attempt to treat them with the cruelties of war? (Hear, hear.) There was one remarkable characteristic of this people to which he had already alluded— their extreme jealousy and suspicion of strangers. This was their general policy; and, as to Great Britain, it was with more than ordinary caution maintained. He would glance for one moment at a natural cause of that jealousy. They have only to look across the Himalaya, and they see Hindostan prostrate at the feet of Great Britain. (Hear.) They are not so ignorant as not to be perfectly aware of the policy that led to this conquest. Hardly a century has past since our empire, by small beginnings, arose; and how did it arise? It arose under the pretence of trade and the semblance of commerce. Scarcely a century has elapsed since our first factory was established in that country. We began by building a warehouse; we surrounded it with walls; we added a ditch; we armed our workmen; we increased the number of Europeans; we formed a garrison; we treated with the native powers; we soon discovered their weakness; that garrison marched out; Clive appeared; Arcot was seized and defended; the battle of Plassy was won; what Clive commenced the Wellesleys concluded. Seringapatam was taken, the Mysore was vanquished, and the Mahratu war was terminated by the battle of Assaye, and India become ours. (Cheers.) Nor was this all. The Indus and the Ganges no longer bound the limits of our empire; the Hydospes has been passed, Cabool and Candahar have witnessed the advance of our armies, Central Asia trembles at our presence, and almost acknowledges our dominion; and on the borders of such an empire was it not natural that the Chinese, seeing what had passed, should feel the utmost jealousy at the settlement of any of the British within their territories. (Hear.) Their whole policy was fixed upon two cardinal points— the exclusion of strangers from residence, as of right, within their territories, and from direct communication with the vice-regal authority. Now, we have carried on commerce with that country for two centuries. A great change took place in the manner of conducting it when it was taken from the direct control of the East India Company. He hoped the House would permit him to read some passages from an admirable letter written in the year 1832, by the directors of the East India Company to the superintendent resident at Canton the letter was written in answer to a communication received from the superintendent during the preceding year stating the circumstances of a misunderstanding which had occurred between the superintendent and the authorities at Canton. He would not enter at length into the points of that misunderstanding, but would merely state to the House that it arose out of a want of proper attention to the prejudices of the Chinese, and to the regulations which they had established respecting the admission of British females to the factory at Canton, and from the enlargement of the esplanade in front of that factory by a few feet. He quoted this letter with the greater confidence because he knew that the matter of it was the subject of great deliberation to the
Ministers, and he believed that it was submitted to the head of the Government at that period, and met with his entire approval. At all events, it was a document which, at the present time more especially, was well worthy the attention of the House. (The Rt. Hon. Baronet then read a despatch from the Board of Directors to the British superintendent at Canton, dated the 13th of January, 1832, in which the board stated that the trade to China had originally been sought by themselves, and that the advantages which it yielded them were great, and that, notwithstanding the attempts which had been made to adopt a belligerent policy, they were convinced that a pacific course was best to be pursued in their intercourse with the Chinese, and that they could not refuse to China what our own country claimed—the right exclusively to regulate the grounds on which any intercourse would be permitted with other countries. They impressed on the superintendent the fact that China was perfectly free to regulate her own affairs without the intervention of any other persons. They regretted that any misunderstanding should have taken place, and stated that it was their desire that the superintendent should sedulously avoid entering into any discussion with the Chinese Government except when absolutely necessary, and that in such a case the discussion should be carried on with temper and moderation, and closed at the earliest possible period. The directors stated further their desire to correct a dangerous notion, which was but too common with the merchants who inhabited Canton, which was, that nothing was to be gained from the Chinese by attention to their laws, but that everything was to be gained by their intimidation.

You may, for a moment, said the court of directors, set the Government of China at defiance, but not only do they take the first moment to assert their dominion, but may take also the first moment to deprive you of some advantage which either tacitly or openly you have heretofore enjoyed. They stated that they were borne out in this opinion by the events of 1829, and state that they are struck with the contempt exhibited by the superintendent for the authorities of China, and his unwarrantable freedom in commenting on the laws and institutions of that empire. (Hear, hear, hear.) The real and sound principle of the management of our intercourse with China, and of our trade with that country, had been laid down with explicit strength and truth in this document. Two hundred years of experience and of a policy which ended in the most successful manner bear testimony to the wisdom of those views. In the same paper a reference was made to the opinions of a revered Noble Friend of his now no more. Application had been made to Lord William Bentinck by parties who sought for certain demonstrations against China, and his answer to them was that it was quite impossible to doubt that the discontinuance of trade with China would be one of the greatest calamities which could befall the East India Company and the nation. He added that it was the bounden duty of the company to give their best aid to the establishment of so great a source of revenue and commerce to this country. He thought that the measure of intimidation could only be justified by the proceedings of the Chinese Government, and that he could not lend himself, without the sanction of a superior authority, to any change in the pacific policy which had been hitherto invariably and successfully followed towards China.) He (Sir James Graham) would not detain the House by reading any more of those documents, the publication of which preceded the change in our trade with China. He had the honour of being a servant of the Crown, and a colleague of the Noble Lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, when the Chinese Trade Act was introduced. He was therefore, responsible for every portion of the Act and responsible also for the instructions issued by the British Government at that time, as well as for everything which then took place with reference to China, although it was his misfortune to differ at present with those who were then his colleagues on other grounds. It would be vain to dissemble the motives which then induced him to believe it politic and necessary to make a change in our intercourse with China. It must, however, be admitted that that change was attended with considerable danger. It was so felt at the time; and those who had the greatest knowledge and experience of China—of the character of its people and its trade expressed in the most marked and decided manner the dissent from the course which Lord Grey's Government adopted at the time. He knew not if he could refer to any authority on the subject more entitled to weight and respect than that of the Honourable Baronet, the Member for Portsmouth. Upon the discussion of the renewal of the East India charter, and before the China trade was thrown open, but immediately upon its being notified that that trade would be thrown open, Sir George Staunton moved several resolutions, which were put on record, as an amendment. He must say that those resolutions were not treated with so much attention as they deserved. (Hear, hear.) He did not know whether upon that occasion the Hon. Member for Bridport made his usual motion for adjournment (Laughter)—but this he did know, that one of the then sheriffs of London took the occasion to count out the House, and in consequence Sir George was defeated in his intention on that first occasion of putting those resolutions upon record. But the Hon. Baronet persevered, and he moved those resolutions which now stand upon the minutes of the House as a memorial of his sagacity, of his knowledge, and of the wisdom that dictated them—(hear, hear). With the permission of the House he would read one or two of those
resolutions, which bear so closely upon the present state of affairs. (The Right Hon. Baronet then read the 6th and 7th resolutions, which were to the effect that the trade with China would not be carried on without the previous sanction of the Imperial Government at Pekin, and that any attempt which might be made to appoint a national officer for the protection of trade must be liable to compromise of the honour and dignity of the Crown, and that any attempt to establish such an office must be premised by a successful embassy to Pekin.) The House would see that Sir George Staunton states as preliminary matter, it must be a primary object to obtain the sanction of the Government of Pekin before establishing any officer at Canton; and he goes on to recommend that the English should constitute an Admiralty Court at Canton for the cognizance and punishment of homicides, &c. To the latter portion of his advice attention was paid in the Act which was introduced; but to the former no attention whatever was paid, no attempt to negotiate with the Government of Pekin was made preliminary to the establishment of the superintendent at Canton. Now he thought it better, as a very considerable portion of this case turned upon one clause in the China Trade Act, if the House would pardon him—it would lead them to understand more clearly what he should think it his duty to say before he sat down—if he should read the clause which was inserted according to the recommendation of Sir George Staunton for the trial of British subjects, even in the waters of Canton. He might appeal to his Hon. and Learned friend the Judge of the Admiralty Court if this clause was not at least a straining beyond the international law? But it was under the peculiar circumstances recommended by Sir George Staunton, and adopted by Lord Grey's Government. He prayed the attention of the House to the very large powers which were given by that clause. [The Right Hon. Baronet then read the clause, which was to the effect, "That it may be lawful to her Majesty, by an order in Council, to give to the superintendents, or any of them, power over the trade and commerce of her Majesty's subjects in any part of the Chinese dominions, and to make regulations for the government of her Majesty's subjects in those dominions."] Thus not only were the very large powers for regulating the trade and commerce of her subjects, but the Chinese dominions were given to the superintendent; but it was also enacted that he should certainly have the power to impose penalties, forfeitures, and imprisonments, and to make such regulations as might be necessary in the manner specified by the order in council, and that it might be lawful to her Majesty in council to establish Courts of Judicature in those dominions, or in the ports, harbours, and havens thereof, and in the seas beyond one hundred miles of the Chinese coasts. I think I am not misrepresenting that clause when I say that it was not possible for any terms to be larger than the terms there employed. It gave to her Majesty's Council (so long as she chose to exercise it) an arbitrary power over her subjects in the dominions of China, and on the waters of that empire, limited only to 100 miles from the coast. This brings me to Lord Napier's mission, and I beg to state that I hold himself strictly responsible and am not shrinking in the slightest degree from my share in the instructions to Lord Napier. I shall point out to the House the points upon which I think previous warning and subsequent experience proved that those instructions were wrong. One part of the instructions was defective, but the remainder was well adapted to meet the circumstances of the case. The clause in the instructions which I thought erroneous was the order in page 2 of the printed papers. It was this—"In execution of the said commission you will take up your residence in the port of Canton, in the dominion of the Emperor of China; and you will discharge the several duties confided to you by the said commission and orders in Council respectively at Canton as aforesaid," &c. (Hear, hear.) The House would perceive that these orders were peremptory, and that there had been no previous communication to the Court of Pekin. The House would observe that nothing was said in his instructions with respect to a passport on the spot, but the order to Lord Napier was to proceed and establish himself as of right at Canton. The next point which I think was erroneous is to be found at page 4, where Lord Napier was ordered to announce his arrival at Canton by letter to the Viceroy. In the course of what I have to address to the House, I shall show that the noble lord and I agree that there was a defect in the original orders in council. The point where the instructions were defective arises as to the mode in which the power was exercised by the 6th Clause of the China Trade Act, whereby a transfer was made of the power enjoyed by the supercargoes of the East India Company to the superintendent. It subsequently came to the knowledge of the Noble Lord, as is stated in the despatch to which I shall hereafter refer, that there was an error in that. When the China Trade Act was passed, the power vested in the supercargoes had ceased to exist under an act anterior to it. The power vested in the supercargoes was the power of withdrawing the licenses from those who traded on the waters of China. An absolute and arbitrary power of withdrawing the license gave, therefore, unlimited power to the supercargoes; it was an ample power, and the attempt to convey to the superintendent the power exercised by the supercargo was an entire failure of the power, inasmuch as the authority which was sought to be conveyed had been rescinded by an Act of Parliament anterior to the China Trade Act. Now the portion of the instructions to which I wish to call particular
attention is to be found in the third page in which there is that most solemn direction to the superintendent to the utmost of his ability to protect British subjects. Now, observe these words, not in all their commercial speculation, nor in their trade in general without limitations, but in the peaceable prosecution of all lawful enterprises in which they may be engaged in China (loud cries of “hear”) – and it then tells the superintendent that he is to observe all possible moderation, “cautiously to abstain from all necessary use of menacing language, or from making any appeal for prosecution to our military or naval forces, unless in any extreme case the most evident necessity shall require that any such menacing language should be holden, or that ant such appeal should be made; and we do further command and require you, in the general discharge your duties, as such superintendents, to abstain from, and avoid all such conduct, language, and demeanour as might needlessly excite jealousy amongst the inhabitants of China; and it goes on “we do require you constantly to bear in mind, and to impress, as occasion may offer, upon our subjects resident in, or resorting to China, the duty of conforming to these instructions. Now, his first allegation against the government was, that they committed two errors, as demonstrated by experience; and foretold, by competent authority, first by directing the residence of a British officer at Canton; and next, by holding a communication with the viceroyal government. The last charge he had to address was this, that part of the original instructions, which he thought admirable, which directed the superintendent to watch over and protect the interests of the British subjects resident in China, etc., had not been carried into execution; nor had they, up to the present moment, been enforced by her Majesty’s ministers. He wished to pass lightly over that part which related to Lord Napier. That he was a gallant and upright honest man, who executed with fidelity the instructions with which he was charged. He committed grave indiscretions, by which eventually his life was forfeited; for that reason, as an English gentleman he (Sir James Graham) would avoid all harshness or unkind feeling. (Hear, hear.) Without, then transgressing that rule which he had prescribed, he would state that there were two or three palpable errors committed by that Noble Lord, and the first was, that he put himself forward, on his arrival at Canton, as being charged with high political functions. Such announcement was the cause of considerable alarm to the Chinese. Unhappy disputes eventually led to violence. Lord Napier took up his residence at Canton, when he should have withdrawn until proper passports were obtained. There was another important stage of the proceedings. Warning had been given as to the principles upon which Lord Napier was to conduct himself— that he should on his arrival, and before his establishing himself in Canton, communicate with the Imperial powers with regard to a passport, whereas no step in that matter had been taken. (Hear, hear.) The consequence of this was, that Lord Napier's mission was a complete failure. (Hear, hear.) There was an extraordinary memorandum which was addressed by the Duke of Wellington in March, 1835. It had been the good fortune of that great man; the Duke of Wellington, to leave upon record what would be the foundation of his future fame— these secret springs of his conduct, actuated by motives the most pure and most worthy of imitation. (Hear, hear.) Upon this occasion his conduct was most remarkable; it was upon the eve of his leaving office, and the memorandum which he had then made he intended to submit to his Cabinet. Some Ministers would not wish to be committed upon so difficult a question— (hear, hear)— but the Noble Duke, knowing the national interest to be at stake, and knowing the critical emergency of the trade of the country with China, did not hesitate to express his opinion, nor did he avail himself of any subterfuge. He left this memorandum, the monument of his wise policy, at the Foreign Office, showing what were his opinions upon the subject, and showing that he was ready, had he remained in power, to meet the difficulty, and giving to his successor the advantage of his knowledge and his advice. (Hear, hear.) Let the House observe how the Duke of Wellington dealt with these difficult points— how, with that vigour of sense and that grasp of mind which seizes the strong points of the difficulty, he saw the errors of Lord Napier's conduct and placed his finger upon the two cardinal defects: — March 24, 1835.

The despatches and proceedings of the commission of Superintendents in China have given us all the information that we can acquire, up to the end of October, 1834; and as it is quite obvious, from the reports and proceedings, that the attempt made to force upon the Chinese authorities at Canton an unaccustomed mode of communication with an authority, with whose powers and of whose nature they had no knowledge, which commenced its proceedings by an assumption of power hitherto unadmitted, had completely failed; and as it is obvious that such an attempt must invariably fail, and lead again to national disgrace; and as it appears that, as soon as Lord Napier had withdrawn from Canton to Macao, the trade had been opened, that pilots had been allowed to take British ships up the river to Whampoa, and that the trade was flourishing as ever when the accounts came away; it appears that the time is come when the Cabinet may take into consideration the means of managing and regulating this affair in future."
But he did not state the grievance without applying the remedy: —

"It is quite obvious that the pretext for the jealousy of Lord Napier and his commission, stated by the Chinese, was his high-sounding titles; the reality, was his pretension to fix himself at Canton, without previous permission, or even communication, and that he should communicate directly with the Viceroy.

"It does not much signify, as far as the Chinese are concerned, what we call our officer in our language. He must not go to Canton without their permission. He must not depart from the accustomed mode of communication."

These acts of Lord Napier were in direct violation of the known laws and prejudices of the Chinese people and Government. But up to this day the Noble Lord opposite had strictly adhered to the original instructions, and directed his superintendent, Captain Elliot, to fix his residence at Canton and strictly adhere to his (the Noble Lord's) "pin" point. ("Hear, hear" and laughter) Up to the 13th of June, 1839, the date of the last despatch, the Noble Lord adhered to his "pin" point— (Laughter)— and directed him on no account to have recourse to the accustomed mode of communication. (Hear, hear.) The Duke of Wellington pointed out the defects, and said that the whole plan of amelioration might be made by an order in Council without a repeal of the Act. The machinery suggested by the Noble Duke was simple as it was important. He said that if his Cabinet would adopt his plan he would give directions for the draft of the order in Council to be made, and he (Sir J. Graham) had it from the highest authority to state that forthwith an order in Council would pass, granting the necessary jurisdiction to the superintendents. (Hear, hear.) The Duke of Wellington recommended that, until the trade between this country and China was placed upon a firm foundation, means should be employed to avoid all suspicion. He (Sir J. Graham) was unwilling to detain the House at great length, but the House would pardon him if he stated them as fully and frankly as he was able. (Hear, hear.) There were some incidental points, however, which were of considerable importance; but before he proceeded further he would state that the Duke of Wellington had reserved ad referendum the communication to the Court of Pekin. His object was not to lose the enjoyment of the advantage which the country possessed, but to obtain the additional advantages, if practicable. The papers which had been presented to the House were so voluminous that he had a difficulty in condensing his views of the subject. The documents which had been furnished were labyrinths of inextricable confusion, without a clue, without a table of contents, without an index, or any chronological arrangement— (Hear, hear)— so that it was hardly possible to unravel the web of inextricable intricacy (Hear, hear.) He would first deal with that part of the subject which related to Pekin. The Hon. Baronet, in the resolutions already alluded to, and Lord Strathallan recommended that Lord Napier should not leave this country without an autograph letter from the King of England to the Emperor of China. It could be shown from extracts of despatches that Mr. Davis, Sir G. Robinson, Captain Elliot, all insisted upon the necessity of some communication being made with the Emperor of China. (Hear, hear.) In the correspondence, which overspread a period of five years, with the Noble Lord, there was not the trace of an answer to these representations. (Hear, hear.) In one part of the despatches from the Noble Lord to Captain Elliot the Noble Lord said — "With respect to the plan proposed by you in your despatch of the 19th of November, for sending a special commissioner to Tchusan, to endeavour to effect some arrangement with the Chinese Government about the opium trade, her Majesty's Government do not see their way in such a measure with sufficient clearness to justify them in adopting it at the present moment." (Hear, hear.)

These were the only documents for five years that were seen to emanate from the Noble Lord upon this important matter. (Hear, hear.) He would next refer to the residence in the Imperial dominions in Canton and to the channel of communication. It was sufficient to say that the Noble Lord did not recede from their instructions— that Mr. Davis and Sir G. Robinson could not execute their orders - that they did not apply for permission to reside at Canton— they remained in the outer waters for two years and a quarter, and during that time were unable to execute the Noble Lord's instructions. During that time the trade prospered everything went on peaceably and quietly, and before the last accession to power by the Noble Lord the experience of two years and one quarter ought to inform him of the impotency of these orders. (Hear, hear.) These gentlemen urged the Noble Lord for fresh instructions. Sir G. Robinson said that he could not even guess the intentions of the Government-(Hear, hear) - that he acted advisedly upon the very reverse of their original instructions — that he remained in the outer waters and made his communications through the Hong merchants. It was curious to ascertain the reasons for the dismissal of Sir G. Robinson – (Hear, hear) – of that dismissal no trace could be found in the despatches. (Hear, hear) If success in his official character justified permanency — that trustworthiness and that trust existed, and he ought not to have been
recalled. (Hear, hear) These facts were matters of history, but the reason for the recall was unknown. (Hear, hear) The Noble Lord did not furnish him with fresh instructions. (Hear, hear) At the end of a despatch Sir G. Robinson lets slip one of his maxims for conducting these affairs: "To use the common, but applicable maxim, of ‘letting that which is well alone.’ I shall carefully avoid all danger and risk of any change of a doubtful nature in its prospective effects.”

His agency in China succeeded by an adherence to that trite maxim of letting well alone, and by forgetting the instructions of the Noble Lord. (Hear, hear.) But Captain Elliot, upon his accession, adopted a different course; he persisted in giving effect to the instructions which after an experience of two years and a quarter were found ineffectual. (Hear, hear.) From the moment that Captain Elliot endeavoured to execute his instructions, from that time irritation, anger, and he would say agitation also, were transferred to that remote country. Captain Elliot became on bad terms with the Chinese authorities, and from that source of discontent the origin and riks of the existing discontent was to be traced. (Hear.) Captain Elliot soon found that his control over British subjects were impracticable, and he stated that in reply to a despatch from the Noble Lord. He called the attention of the Noble Lord to the importance of furnishing him with ample powers as strong as these:-

"I would in this place, my Lord, express a respectful but earnest hope that no time may be lost in the formation of adequate judicial and police institutions for the government of the King’s subjects in this empire; and I have no hesitation in assuring your Lordship that it is in my power to secure from the provincial authorities the most formal sanction to their operation. For several months in the year there are not less than 2,000 of his Majesty’s subjects at Canton, Whampoa, Macao, and the immediate adjacent anchorage; and your Lordship is aware that, except in cases of homicide, the Chinese Government do not interpose at all for the preservation of peace between them and their own people, or between his Majesty’s subjects themselves.

Again — "There is certainly a spirit in active force amongst British subjects in this country which makes it necessary for the safety of momentous concerns, that the officer on the spot should be known to stand without blame in the estimation of her Majesty’s Government; and it is not less needful that he should be forthwith vested with defined and adequate powers for the reasonable control of men whose rash conduct cannot be left to the operation of Chinese laws, without the utmost inconvenience and risk and whose impunity is alike injurious to British character and dangerous to British interests.”

In connection with these statements, he would refer to the opinion of the Duke of Wellington upon the original instructions in March, 1835. The despatch of January, 1839, was disregarded wherein Captain Elliot declared that no time was to be lost for the purpose of establishing a reasonable control over the Queen’s subjects in China. The Noble Lord could not state that his attention had not been called to the subject. There was also a despatch from Sir G. Robinson, wherein he asks for a remedy to these evils. It was not ignorance, then, on the part of the Noble Lord, because he states these facts himself, and at an early period, as early as November, 1836:-

"I have observed that in your minute of the 15th of Oct., 1835, relative to the case of Mr. Innes, you express an opinion that the power given by the Act 26 Geo. 111., c. 57, sec. 35, to the supercargoes of the East India Company, to arrest and send to England persons resident at Canton, Whampoa, Macao, and the immediate adjacent anchorage; and your Lordship is aware that, except in cases of homicide, the Chinese Government do not interpose at all for the preservation of peace between them and their own people, or between his Majesty’s subjects themselves.

"As a misconception on this point might give rise to much embarrassment, both to his Majesty’s Government and to the Superintendents personally, I have to state to you for your guidance that the clause of the Act of the 26th of George 111., upon which you rest your opinion, was repealed by the 146th clause of the Act of the 33d of George 111., c. 52; and further, that the only power exercised by the supercargoes was that of removing unlicensed persons. But as no licence from his Majesty is now necessary to enable his Majesty’s subjects to trade with or reside in China, such power of expulsion has altogether ceased to exist with respect to China."

It was incumbent upon the Noble Lord to inform Captain Elliot that the defects could be remedied by an order in Council; but there was nothing of the kind stated by the Noble Lord. (Hear, hear.) Captain Elliot, when he found the smuggling of opium to take place in the inner Canton waters, and when that smuggling arrived at the highest, issued
regulations for the maintenance of a police in the inner waters of Canton; and upon these regulations he acts, and sends them home, to which the following answer was returned by the Noble Lord:

"Your despatch of the 18th of April last, relating to certain regulations which you had thought it advisable to establish with a view of controlling the conduct of the crews of British merchant-vessels trading with Canton, has been submitted to her Majesty's law officers, with a request that they would take the same into consideration, and report their opinion whether those regulations are in any way at variance with the laws of England, or inconsistent with the territorial rights of China. The law officers have accordingly reported that the regulations in question are not in any way at variance with the laws of England, provided they be duly made and issued by her Majesty, according to the Act of the 3d and 4th William IV., chap. 93, sec. 6; but that you have no power of your own authority to make any such regulations. With respect to the territorial rights of China, the law officers are of opinion that the regulations, amounting in fact to the establishment of a system of police at Whampoa, within the dominions of the Emperor of China, would be an interference with the absolute right of sovereignty enjoyed by independent States, which can only be justified by positive treaty, or implied permission from usage."

Was not that a slight condemnation of the Noble Lord? Did he not know that the supercargo had no such power, though such a power ought to have been confided to him? The Noble Lord had given the superintendent instructions which were difficult to execute. The Noble Lord said:

"Under these circumstances, I have to instruct you to endeavour to obtain the written approval of the Governor of Canton for these regulations, and as soon as that approval is received in this country, the proper steps shall be taken for giving force to those regulations, according to the provisions of the Act of Parliament."

It was extraordinary that the Noble Lord had produced evidence to show that the Chinese expressed surprise at the absence of such authority (hear, hear). It would appear, from a perusal of an edict of the Emperor, issued by the high commissioners of Canton, that—

"Their Excellencies have received from Pekin an Imperial edict, which they insert, and of which the following is the substance:—' A memorial has been laid before the Emperor, representing that more than ten English vessels are constantly anchored outside the port, in the anchorages of Kap-shuy-moon and Kumsingmoon; that the illicit trade—the importation of opium and exportation of Sycee silver—depends entirely on these vessels; and that they form also places of refuge for proscribed smugglers. The Emperor accordingly directs that the resident foreigners be immediately required to send them away, and also that steps be taken to punish all natives engaged in the smuggling of opium.'

"The Governor and Lieutenant-Governor hereupon issue orders to the Hong merchants, to make it known, that no foreign vessels are allowed to remain anchored outside the port; and to call on the English superintendent to send away all the receiving-vessels now anchored in various places within a period of ten days."

It was rather inexplicable that, these boats having the command of the entire river, the superintendent should not have found it difficult to send them out again, because he had not the power. No doubt it might be urged by the Noble Lord that an application had been made to Parliament for an extent of powers. The Hon. Member for Lambeth would recollect the part he (Sir James Graham) took with him upon that occasion. The Bill was brought in by the Noble Lord in 1837, but was not proceeded with on account of the demise of the Crown. In 1838 the Noble Lord introduced a Bill upon the subject, and he (Sir James Graham), with the Hon. Member for Lambeth, resisted that Bill. The Noble Lord said, on its introduction, that the object of the Bill was to extend the sixth section of the China Trade Act to give power to the superintendent in criminal and Admiralty cases. The power sought by the Noble Lord was to extend to criminal cases beyond the limits of international law, giving power over the Chinese, and also for the trial of actions of debt between English subjects and the Chinese. Confirmed by the high authority of the Hon. Member for Portsmouth he had resisted that Bill. The Noble Lord might taunt him (Sir J. Graham), and remind him that he was a party to the China trade; but he (Sir J. Graham) would read the speech which he delivered upon that occasion, in which he stated that he never regretted the part he took in that measure, but experience convinced him—(Here the Hon. Baronet read an extract from his own speech in 1838, to the effect that the claims in the Bill were unnecessary;
that Lord Napier did not demean himself to the Chinese authorities in the manner that he ought to do; that the Chinese never allowed the British to force a residence in Canton; and that he had no doubt that the Chinese would not submit to the jurisdiction as defendants, but that they would avail themselves of the provisions of the Act as plaintiffs.) It was for that reason that he (Sir J. Graham) opposed the Bill, and his opposition was successful. In case the Noble Lord should rely upon this point, he would turn to a grave charge against the Noble Lord. He found that the application to the House for passing that Bill was founded on an extract from papers which were then before the House. He would not trouble the House by recapitulating the contents of these papers at any length; it was enough for him to say that, as the papers upon which the application to the House to pass a law were extracts the House could then compare the extracts with the whole of the original documents, and he would fearlessly say that the entire view presented by the Noble Lord as to the affairs of China on his application for parliamentary enactment was most unfair; and he would appeal to the Hon Member for Lambeth for the truth of the assertion that it was then stated by the Noble Lord that the relations of this country were stated to be amicable, and the civil jurisdiction sought to be established would be eligible; whereas at the very time the Noble Lord was acquainted with all the difficulties of the opium question, with the misunderstanding which prevailed in the intercourse between the two countries, and with the irritation that prevailed. They were by no means amicable relations, but they were seriously the reverse, of which the Noble Lord did not state one word to the House. (Hear, hear.) He asked for that Bill to be passed upon a partial view of the case but the real facts he did not disclose, and it was then for the first time that the opium question was presented to the House' (Hear, hear). It appeared that, so early as November 1834 warning had been given by the Imperial commissioner with respect to opium:

"Loo and his colleagues have made a report of the existing circumstances of foreign vessels selling opium, and of the measures taken for inquiring and acting with regard thereto. The Canton barbarian vessels which clandestinely bring opium chiefly dispose thereof in the outer seas having a race of native bandits hooked together with them, to afford them supplies and remove (their cargoes). Loo and his colleagues have given strict commands to the war vessels from time to time to urge and compel the barbarian vessels to get under weigh, and to prohibit the native vessels and tanka-boat people from holding intercourse with the barbarian; also with severity to seize the smuggling native vagabonds.

By that edict it was apparent that so early as 1834 the Chinese Government were resolved to put down opium trade. He (Sir J. Graham) would ask the permission of the House, now that he had opened the question of the opium trade as in the former case, with respect to holding menacing language to the Chinese, and the impolicy of using threats, in violation of the premonitory language recommended. He would say that there was a decisive warning given by the East India Company. A flagrant case of violence had been perpetrated by a captain in the service of the East India Company, who had landed seven of his crew upon the coast of China, and took more than one prisoner. An exchange of firing took place, several of the Chinese were wounded, and the entire was a case of extreme aggression. What had been the conduct of the supercargo on that occasion? They said that extreme caution was required in the conduct of British subjects, lest the East India Company should become involved with the Government and the opium ships. It was their policy as well as their intent to process themselves ignorant of all that passed without the Borgue, and not to interfere with the opium vessels in the outer waters; and he feared that the time was approaching when it would be incumbent on the East India Company, to put down the piratical proceedings which had been carried on under the pretext of non-intervention; that they could not be justified in allowing the authorities to be rendered useless. If they, the representatives of the East India Company, took no notice of their proceedings, it was impossible to calculate the extent to which these evils might be carried. Such was the substance of the warning of the supercargoes. It appeared by a despatch that Captain Elliot had interfered to stop the progress of opium ships into the port of Canton. On that occasion the Noble Lord recommended to the superintendent the advice given by the supercargoes in 1834, and not to interfere with the undertakings of the British merchants—"In the present state of the relations of this country with China be careful not to assume more power than you possess." (Hear, hear," from Lord Palmerston.) The Noble Lord cheered that remark, but what was the power that Captain Elliot did possess? The Noble Lord had not given him any power. In 1833 it was announced by the Imperial edict, and by the supercargoes, that if the illegitimate trade was not suppressed the legitimate trade would be endangered. He (Sir J. Graham) would allude to the warning also given by Captain Elliot to the Noble Lord as to the dangerous character of the opium trade. By the papers laid before the House there was reason to believe that communications had been made with respect to that trade, but there was not any proof that the Emperor of China receded from the prohibition of the drug. There was, however, proof that the Viceroy
connived at its introduction. In the Chinese Cabinet a long discussion took place whether a total prohibition or a protecting duty should be established. The question was ably discussed in that Cabinet, and it would be found there also there were lose divisions and small majorities. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) The proposition was carried by a single vote only, and the consequence was a marked determination on the part of the Chinese Government to exclude the opium trade by all the means in their power. Was the Noble Lord ignorant of that change? (Hear, hear.) In 1836 and 1837 edicts from the Government of China were forwarded in despatches to the Noble Lord enjoining the prohibition of opium, lest it might lead to an entire stoppage of the commercial intercourse. On the 15th of May, 1838, a despatch had been received by the Noble Lord. On the 19th November, 1837, Captain Elliot, writing to Lord Palmerston, says:

"The native boats have been burned, and the native smugglers scattered; and the consequence is, as it was foreseen it would be, that a complete and very hazardous change has been worked in the whole manner of conducting the Canton portion of the trade.

"The opium is now carried on (and a great part of it inwards to Whampoa) in European passage boats belonging to British owners, slenderly manned with Lascar seamen, and furnished with a scanty armament, which may rather be said to provoke or to justify search, accompanied by violence, than to furnish the means of effectual defence.

"I have no certain means of judging to what extent the shipping at Whampoa may be implicated in this new mode of carrying on the trade, but I am not without reason to believe that they are so, and possibly in an increasing degree. And as your Lordship is probably aware that the Hong merchant who secures each ship, and the captain and consignee, join in a bond that she has no opium on board, it is needless to dwell upon the very embarrassing consequences which would ensue if the existence of a different state of facts should nevertheless be established.

"I am disposed to believe that the higher officer, of the provincial Government are perfectly sensible of the extensive smuggling of opium carried on in the European passage-boats, and from some motive, either of interest or policy, or probably of both, they oppose no immediate obstacle to such a condition of things.

"But the continuance of their inertness is not to be depended upon. Disputes amongst themselves for the shares of the emoluments, private reports against each other to the Court, and, lastly, their ordinary practice of permitting abuse to grow to ripeness, and to rest in false security, are all considerations which forbid the hope that these things can endure.

"Setting aside, however, the interference of the Mandarin, it is not to be questioned that the passage of this valuable article in small and insignificantly armed vessels, affords an intense temptation to piratical attack by the many desperate smugglers out of employment, and by the needy inhabitants of the neighbouring islands. And another Ladrone war directed against Europeans as well as Chinese is a perfectly probable event.

"In fact, my Lord, looking around me, and weighing the whole body of circumstances as carefully as I can, it seems to me that the moment has arrived for such active inter- position upon the part of her Majesty's Government as can be properly afforded; and that it cannot be deferred without great hazard to the safety of the whole trade, and of the persons engaged in its pursuit.

"Now, this despatch was received on the 18th of May, 1838, and he (Sir J. Graham) wished to call the attention of the Honourable Member for Lambeth to this fact, and also to the fact that this despatch was in the hands of the Noble Lord at the time they were discussing the question of the Chinese trade on a former occasion. Again, on the 18th of April, 1838 (received Dec. 10 of that year) Captain Elliot writes:

"I trust it will be considered that I was justified in taking the particular occasion in question to establish these regulations. Every season since the opening of the trade had been marked by constant scenes of disgraceful and dangerous riot at Whampoa, and my own personal attention could not at all times be given without public inconvenience." There was also a further communication, stating that many British boats were employed in the traffic, and that the whole question was daily assuming a most serious aspect. These warnings were all given between the commencement of 1838 and April, 1839, by Captain Elliot to the Noble Lord. From this period fresh warnings were received. Captain Elliot stated in a subsequent despatch, dated Jan. 2, 1839, the following facts:
"It had been clear to me, my Lord, from the origin of this peculiar branch of the opium traffic, that it must grow to be more and more mischievous to every branch of the trade and certainly to none more than to that of opium itself. As the danger and the shame of its pursuit increased, it was obvious that it would fall by rapid degrees into the hands of more and more desperate men; that it would stain the foreign character with constantly aggravating disgrace, in the sight of the whole of the better portion of this people; and lastly, that it would connect itself more and more intimately with our lawful commercial intercourse, to the great peril of vast public and private interests."

He had now gone through the distinct warnings which had been given to the Noble Lord, and he must say that they were as clear and decisive intimations as ever were given to any Government—(hear, hear). And now let him ask, were any additional instructions, or any fresh powers, after these repeated warnings, afforded—(hear, hear). Nothing of the sort. (Hear, hear.) And were the powers, such as they were, which were possessed by Captain Elliot exercised by that officer? Captain Elliot did make most, vigorous efforts to restrain the opium trade within the waters of Canton, and whatever purposes he effected he effected by means of a police which he established. But if the Noble Lord did not give any additional powers for the suppression of this traffic, did he give any intimation to the British traders as to showing more respect to the Chinese laws? (Hear, hear.) All that the Noble Lord ever said on the subject of the opium trade was contained in a short despatch to Captain Elliot, dated June 15, 1838 in which he said:

"With respect to the smuggling trade in opium, which forms the subject of your despatches of the 18th and 19th November, and 7th December, 1837, I have to state, that her Majesty's Government cannot interfere for the purpose of enabling British subjects to violate the laws of the country to which they trade. Any loss, therefore, which such persons may suffer in consequence of the more effectual execution of the Chinese laws on this subject, must be borne by the parties who have brought that loss on themselves by their own acts.

"(Hear, hear, hear, from Lord Palmerston.) This was as much as to say that he would not give any countenance to this violation of the laws of China by illegal traffic, but that he would not do that which would amount to an absolute discountenance of it. And the Noble Lord now cheered him when he read that which showed that when his own officer announced to him the dangerous character which this illegal traffic was assuming with respect to the interests of our own commerce with China, all he did was to tell the parties engaged to it that which they knew before. (Cheers) But there was another remarkable fact to which he was anxious to refer, viz., that he could find no order issued by Captain Elliot for the suppression of the opium trade, nor any discountenance of it as carried on in the outer waters. On the 17th of December, 1838, Captain Elliot gave notice to warn, all British subjects that it was a lawless act to carry on the opium traffic within the Bocca Tigris. But let this be contrasted with a public notice given by that officer to her Majesty subjects there, on the 22nd of March, 1839, in which he spoke as follows:—

The chief superintendent of the trade of British subjects in China, having received information that her Majesty's subjects are detained against their will in Canton; and having other urgent reasons for the withdrawal of all confidence in the just and moderate dispositions of the provincial Government, has now to require that all the ships of her Majesty's subjects at the outer anchorages, should proceed forthwith to Hong Kong, and, hoisting their national colours be prepared to resist every act of aggression on the part of the Chinese Government."

Having now got through all the prominent points to which he had referred at the commencement of his observations, he now came to that which, in his opinion, was a very material part of the question, viz., the absence of a naval force. (Hear, hear.) It would be in the recollection of the House that it was the recommendation of the Duke of Wellington that there should be at all times a stout frigate and a small vessel of war at the command and disposal of the resident British superintendent in China. (Hear, hear.) He found in the papers that had been laid on the table a despatch from the Noble Lord, dated from the Foreign Office, Sept. 10, 1837, in which the Noble Lord stated the objects of such a force in the Chinese waters as follows:

"The purposes for which such ships would be stationed are—first, to afford protection to British interests, and to give weight to any representations which her Majesty's superintendent may be under the necessity of making, in case any of her Majesty's subjects should have just cause of complaint against the Chinese authorities; and secondly to assist the superintendent in maintaining order among the crews of the British merchants and frequent the port of Canton."—(hear, hear).
Now, nothing could be more accurate than the reasons here given for the presence of this force; but he must ask the Noble Lord how the reasons were which existed in 1835 with those which existed on the 17th of August, 1839? The Noble Lord was not at all unwilling to describe the powerful effect of a naval force for he (Sir J. Graham) found that he had stated in a despatch of March 23, 1839, that he expected that the appearance of a British admiral in the port of Canton would have produced a settlement of all the unfortunate disputes that prevailed at that time. The memorandum of the Duke of Wellington was dated the 24th of March, 1835: the order of the Noble Lord to the Admiralty, in which he expressed a wish that a ship of war should be constantly present in the waters of Canton, was dated December 6, 1836, and the instructions to the Admiralty which he had just read were dated in December, 1837. Thus the orders of the Duke of Wellington were never executed till Dec, 1837. (hear, hear). But were there no urgent communications made to the Noble Lord with respect to the necessity of a naval force being maintained in the Chinese seas; (Hear.) He held in his hand a number of representations that were made at different times from the superintendents there, knowing the great danger resulting from the absence of a naval force from that station. He knew that it would be said that while the trade was in the hands of the East India Company a standing order existed as to the prudence of prohibiting ships of war from entering the Chinese seas. That was he was ready to admit, most politically right because, from the character of the East India ships, no additional force was necessary so far as they were concerned; and the introduction of a naval force into the Chinese waters at that time might have led to a divided authority, and might have produced the very opposite consequences from those which it was the object to secure. Sir George Robinson himself spoke of the marine forces of the East India Company in the following terms:

“This may be considered as the most essential point of difference between the officers of the King's commission and the late select committee of the East India Company, which with so powerful an engine in their hands as the company's independently of the influence, they consequently derived over the country and trade, were regarded by the Hong merchants with extreme deference and consideration; to which may be added, their having at their disposal, during the period when difficulties were likely to occur, a well-ordered, disciplined fleet, affording, in cases of need, a display of officers, men, arms, and boats, unexampled in any other country or service, and surpassed only by the Royal Navy. The commercial character of the company's factory rendered their residence at Canton, and familiar and constant intercourse with the Hong merchants, necessary, during the season of business. But in all cases of discussion and difficulty, that intercourse was in a degree suspended and, in some cases, an untoward circumstance failed of all adjustment, till after the withdrawal of the factory, and even shipping from the river.

“Captain Elliot too, writing to Lord Auckland in 1837, said that it seemed to him to be absolutely necessary that there should be a small naval force kept in the Chinese seas for the protection of British interests. This was in December, 1837, and the same necessity was shown in 1838. They had, then, all this clearly pointed out— the necessity that existed for the force, the importunity with which it was asked for—and what was expected to result from its presence? From the month of March, 1835, to December, 1839, fifty-three months elapsed, and out of that number of months there never was a ship of war in the Chinese waters, with the exception of eight months. (Hear, hear.) The Right Hon. Baronet here stated the periods during these eight months at which certain ships of war arrived in these Chinese seas, and went away again, and said, moreover, that the orders to the Admiralty on this subject were given thirty-one months after the Duke of Wellington was out of office. There was one thing which, to his mind, he must say, spoke volumes. It appeared from something yet to be explained that Captain Elliot complained of the fact that Captain Blake did not remain in the waters of Canton at the difficult period when he was confined. Could anything more clearly mark the difficulty in which British subjects were placed than when they found Captain Elliot writing to the Noble Lord, after the departure of the Larne, expressing the satisfaction with which he had heard that two ships of war had arrived? (Hear, hear. Hear) After the warning which had been given by the Duke of Wellington in 1835 - after the neglect of that warning in 1837— at last, in the hour of utmost need, the only hope of her Majesty's subjects in China was placed in two ships of war. (Hear, hear, hear) But was this all? How notorious this destitution must have been—and he attached much importance to these collateral circumstances— was very apparent from the terms in which Captain Elliot described his gratitude to Captain Douglas, who commanded a merchant ship, the Cambridge, and who put into Singapore and purchased guns there at his own expense, for the protection of Captain Elliot and the British traders. (Hear, hear) This was to be found in a despatch from Captain Elliot to Lord Palmerston dated Sept. 5, 1839, in which he said:
"The only casualty I have to report on this occasion is a flesh wound in the arm to Captain Douglas, of the ship Cambridge, in a gallant attempt to carry one of the junks at the close of the day; and two of his boat's crew also wounded rather more severely. I am greatly indebted to this gentleman for his public spirit in purchasing, at his own charge, at Singapore, on his way up, twenty-two 18 lb. guns, hearing of our desperate condition at Canton. And I have no doubt that the sight of this imposing vessel, manned with a manned with a strong crew of Europeans, has discouraged attempts upon this fleet for the last two months." (Hear, hear, hear.)

Here they had it stated that an armed merchant ship had absolutely protected the British interests in the Canton waters for two months. (Hear, hear.) Captain Elliot went on to say—

"I should hope that her Majesty's Government will be pleased to pay the expenses of this ship during the time he has performed these very valuable services in the absence of any ship of war, and reimburse him for the expense of the guns, and otherwise reward him as may seem right to your Lordship. Meritorious public impulses and pecuniary risks of this description will not be lost upon the Queen's Government. And the ship is still performing the useful service of guarding one of the entrances into this harbour against the fire rafts and war junks with which we are menaced. "(Hear, hear.) He (Sir J. Graham), too, hoped that so just a claim as this had been under the consideration of her Majesty's Government—(hear, hear)—for he thought that if ever there was a claim worthy of consideration it was that of this young man—(hear, hear)—and that if ever there was a Government that ought to consider that claim, it was the Government of which he had made so great a sacrifice. He was now bound to say that, looking at the whole of these complicated circumstances, and at the extreme difficulty in which Captain Elliot was placed, without instructions how to act, and not even the power to act, he thought, that up to the time at which he (Sir J. Graham) was now arriving he (Captain Elliot) had acted with great energy and very considerable distinction—(Hear)—and he would not attempt to pass any censure upon his conduct up to that period. (Hear, hear.) But he could not, with reference to the period he was now about to deal with, think that the conduct of the superintendent was commendable. (Hear.) With respect to the subject of the surrender of the opium that question was submitted to a committee of the House, and he would not, therefore, call for any statement with respect to the circumstances under which that surrender was made. (Hear.) Upon that point he should not touch. He would go at once to that important part of the question, viz., as to losses which this country would have to sustain in consequence of what had occurred? (Hear.) With respect, first, to the attack on the war junks, he must say that he considered that circumstance to have been a peculiarly unfortunate proceeding. (Hear, hear.) Captain Elliot admitted that he tired the first shot. He admitted that he considered himself insulted, but, at the same time, he stated his regret, on mature consideration, that he had taken the step he had taken. He had converted his visit into a hostile one, and he (Sir J. Graham) must say that he considered the first effect of this hostile appearance- to be of very material consequence. Captain Elliot fired the first shot; but he would use his own words upon this part of the subject:

"They returned to me with this intelligence, and greatly provoked, I opened fire from the pinnace, the cutter, and the other vessel upon the three junks. It was answered both from them and the battery, with a spirit not at all unexpected by me, for I have already had experience that the Chinese are much under-rated in that respect. After a fire of almost half an hour against this vastly superior force we hauled off from the failure of our ammunition; for I have already said, anticipating no serious results, we had not come in prepared for them." (Hear, hear.) There was evidence, also, in these papers of an attempt made to board these junks. (Hear, hear.) On the following morning, however, he brought up the Volage, and, though that might have been rightly intended, he thought that nothing could possibly have been more unfortunate than not to have renewed the attack, as, having commenced a hostile course—although he blamed him for having been the first to fire—he believed there was nothing left for him but to follow up that course. (Hear, hear.) But what was the next step. One more unfortunate still. On the grounds he had already stated, nothing appeared to him to justify what had been done. A decidedly belligerent step was the next that was taken by Captain Elliot, for it was to declare a blockade. (Hear.) The Noble Lord and himself would not dispute the right of a country to declare a blockade, as they knew that such an act was legal without a declaration of war. But it was contrary to the law of nations, under such circumstances, to exclude neutral ships. But Captain Elliot, having fired the first shot, did this. (Hear, hear.) Now the Noble Lord had not read, he feared, although he had asked him about it, a document that seemed very important, viz., a remonstrance of the American merchants resident at Canton upon this subject. (Hear, hear.) This remonstrance contained a solemn warning, and stated that these American merchants, having heard that it
was the intention of Captain Elliot to blockade the river and port of Canton with the Volage and other ships, begged leave most respectfully to represent to him that he was about to do that which could not be recognised by them, and that any injury to them would be considered by them and their country as an infringement of their rights, and contrary to the law of nations; and they, therefore, entered their solemn protest against any such blockade, and thereby gave notice that they would hold the British Government responsible for any loss of life that might take place; and that they should further hold Captain Elliot and all acting under his authority personally responsible for any loss of person or property that might ensue. (Hear.) This remonstrance was delivered on the 11th of September, 1839, and the blockade commenced on the 5th. Here, then, they had a blockade solemnly declared. The notoriety of this blockade at Canton was remarkable, and the protest necessarily followed. The moral effect of this proceeding was to produce great misconstruction in the minds of the Chinese, and to lead to increased violence and boldness on their part, and they attacked soon afterwards the vessel in which the Lascar was killed and several men were wounded, and which Capt. Elliot thought he could trace to some one of the Chinese authorities at Canton. But be that as it might, he contended that a blockade was imposed, and then withdrawn, and that that circumstance led to the impression—a foolish one, he acknowledged—that violence was intended, and, in his opinion, whatever violence ensued was chiefly to be attributed to that circumstance. (Hear, hear.) He must now refer to the action fought with the Chinese vessels; and he must say that he considered that the whole of that proceeding was unjust, and unjustifiable by any danger that was contemplated as likely to happen to the British ships there. It was in the harbour in which the Chinese ships always anchored that this took place. The junks were seen to get under way, and on Captain Elliot's being requested to retire he did so, and the junks immediately anchored. Upon this, however, Captain Elliot called upon them to retire. But suppose that there should be a squadron of French ships at St. Helen's, and they got under way and sailed to Spithead, and on being called on to retire they should do so, and return to their former station would it be endured that they should be attacked after this? (Hear, hear, hear.) He must say that he could not conceive anything more unjust than this. He must also refer to the great satisfaction that was felt at the renewal of the trade—a satisfaction, however, that was very short-lived, for he saw by the accounts received that very day that the trade was put an end to for ever. (Hear, hear.) But what was the fact with respect to the trade? Why, that on every 100/. worth sold a toll of five per cent, was levied under the American tariff, to the great loss and injury of British merchants. He could not conceive a state of affairs more disastrous, or a greater evil than this. Thing must, indeed, have come to a sad pass when the presence of American frigates was regarded as the grounds of safety, and, when carrying on our trade at five per cent, in American vessels, within forty miles of Canton, was considered as a gratifying circumstance. There was one curious point at which Captain Elliot rejoiced, and the recommendation which he offered in a former despatch to the Government, but which had not been attended to, though it was said it would strike at the root of the evil, was, that no ship should enter the Canton waters without the production of a manifest, signed by a Chinese authority. He besought the House to pause and deliberate upon the circumstances which he had laid before them. He might be deceived, but, at the same time, he was strongly persuaded that this was no little war, that it was not a war which could be conducted with a peace establishment, or terminated without credit to this country. (Hear, hear,) His opinion was, that it would be attended with circumstances no less formidable than the magnitude of the interests which were at stake. Let the House well consider before they gave their sanction to such a proceeding. They should remember that, if this war should really take place, it must be carried on in the remotest part of the habitable globe—at a point where the monsoons would interrupt all communications for a considerable period between the forces employed and those who were to direct their operations—at a point far distant from our ports and arsenals, and where our squadrons would be liable to all the vicissitudes of severe hurricanes—at a point accessible only by a long voyage, and where our troops must arrive in crowded vessels, endure all the effects of a burning climate, and suffer from the sea; which, to a large portion of these troops, it was well known, was a matter of absolute abhorrence. Now, if he could be persuaded that this was an inevitable evil—if he could believe that the Government, with these precautions and that foresight which they ought to have used to prevent it, had exhausted every means in their power to avert this evil—if he could believe that they were called upon to vary their policy, not as a punishment for neglect or imprudence, but as a matter necessary for the defence of the national honour, then he would not hesitate to say that the bold martial spirit of this country would gird itself for the conflict and meet the danger without anxiety; but, on the contrary, when he saw on the part of her Majesty's present adviser's the most pertinacious adherence to an erroneous course—a course repudiated alike by experience and by reason—when he saw that they had attempted to force upon a crowded and powerful nation a line of conduct which even a weak nation would not fail to resent—
when he saw the advice of one of the greatest, one of the most prudent statesmen that had ever lived—himself a warrior—disregarded—not he hoped because that advice had proceeded from him—when he saw the solemn and repeated warnings of the confidential servants of the Crown, some of whom had formed part of the late Administration—when he saw a trade that had been confidently declared to be piratical not put down by the Government—when he saw nothing done or attempted to be done to put down this trade; and, finally, when he saw the British superintendent left not only without power or instructions or a force sufficient to meet the exigencies which might arise—he said when he saw all this, that he could not help asking that House whether the people of this country would patiently submit to the additional burdens which this Parliament would find it necessary to impose in consequence of such a ?? of things. (Cheers.) Could they believe that the people would repose confidence in an Administration who, during their mismanagement for five years, had thus destroyed a trade which had flourished for centuries, and, in addition to the loss which had been sustained by our merchants, had plunged this country in a war in which success would not be attended with glory, and which indeed could only redound to our ruin and our shame? The Right Hon. Baronet concluded by moving:—

"That it appears to this House, on consideration of the papers relating to China, presented to this House by command of her Majesty, that the interruption in our commercial and friendly intercourse with that country, and the hostilities which have since taken place, are mainly to be attributed to the want of foresight and precaution on the part of her Majesty's present advisers in respect to our relations with China, and especially to their neglect to furnish the superintendent at Canton with powers and instructions calculated to provide against the growing evils connected with the contraband traffic in opium, and adapted to the novel and difficult situation in which the superintendent was placed."

The motion having been seconded and put from the chair, Mr. Macauley said that if the Right Hon. Baronet had felt himself overpowered and oppressed by the importance of the question under consideration, it was not to be wondered at that the individual who followed him should participate in the same emotions. It was only natural and becoming on their part that her Majesty's Ministers should feel a becoming anxiety as to the judgment of the House on this subject; but he must say that their fears were greatly allayed by the terms of the motion with which the Right Hon. Baronet had concluded. It was impossible to doubt the power of the Right Hon. Baronet or his willingness to attack the present Administration, and it was, therefore, a source of congratulation to them to find that the charges arising out of circumstances so serious—out of transactions so complicated and disastrous—resolved themselves into an assault such as a resolution of this kind was calculated to sustain. (Ironical cries of "Hear, hear.") He would explain. (Laughter.) In the first place it was purely retrospective, and had relation to no time more recent than a year and a half ago, for it referred to no despatch later than March, 1839, there being none later in reference to the interruption of the friendly relations between this country and China. He therefore considered this resolution as having relation to past transactions. He did not dispute the right of the Right Honourable Baronet to censure the Government for their bygone misconduct—(Hear, hear)—but he (Mr. Macaulay) was gratified to think that this censure did not apply to their present policy, because the Right Honourable Gentleman had not thought fit to raise that question by his motion, inasmuch as he confined their attention to the crisis which occurred prior to March, 1839. In the second place, the Right Honourable Baronet's motion charged the Administration with no offence of commission, imputed to them no acts of injustice or indiscretion; and if he did not charge them with having lowered the national honour, made unworthy submissions, and violated the law of nations, it was quite evident that all his motion imputed to them was an act of omission, in not having entrusted the superintendent with adequate powers, and given to him proper instructions. Now such allegations as these were easy to make, but then they ought not to be made without the fullest proof, because of the great difficulty of disproving them. There never were long transactions which were not open to ingenious objections, and nothing was more easy to be said than if what was done had not been done it would have been better, and this remark applied most peculiarly to the question now before the House. The charge was that Ministers had not sent out sufficient powers and instructions to her Majesty's representative in China; but it seemed to have been forgotten that China was 15,000 miles from this country, and that there was not the same means of communication as if that country was less remote. (Hear, hear.) He admitted that if similar papers were laid before the House relative to a negotiation with a neighbouring country—Paris, for instance—between which and this country a courier might pass to and fro in thirty-six hours, it might, with truth, be alleged against the Foreign Secretary that his instructions were too scanty and too meagre for a responsible member of the British Government to have given. (Cries...
of "Hear, hear," from the Opposition side of the House.) This might be only a proper interference under such circumstances; but when the same rule was attempted to be applied to a place at so remote a distance from this country as China, it became in his mind neither more nor less than an idle and farcical meddling from which no advantage could result, and on this point he could confidently appeal to Hon. Gentlemen on either side of the House acquainted with the administration of the affairs of our Indian empire. India was much nearer to England than China, and the Government at home were much better acquainted with the circumstances of India than of China; and yet it was the universal sense of all persons acquainted with the subject that India could only be governed in India. The authorities at home merely traced out general lines or laid down general principles of policy, but they left the authorities in India to carry out the details of every measure which was deemed necessary to be adopted (Hear, hear.) Indeed, any other course would have been absurd, when it was considered that during the progress of communication affairs might assume a very different position from that in which they were when the despatch was transmitted. They had some experience of the inconvenience of such a course, and it was seriously felt in the instance of Bengal, and again in that of the Carnatic. It was well known that both Lord Clive and Lord Hastings had treated the instructions they received as so much waste paper; and if they had not this country would not now have an Indian empire The case of China was even stronger, for China was at a still greater distance, and they could have little or no knowledge of that country, except, perhaps, from the glimpses which were obtained of it from Canton, and which were calculated to mislead as much as to afford information. As well might a foreigner, landing at Wapping, be presumed to know the nature of our institutions, and the state of society in this country, as for a person residing a short time at Canton to be acquainted with the actual condition, feelings, and habits of the people of China. The Chinese had no literature to afford help to foreigners, and in every point those who were anxious to acquire a knowledge of the laws, customs and social relations of that nation were met on the threshold with difficulties. Under these circumstances it was not to be expected that the Government could know as much of China as they did of the United Kingdom. The fact was that they knew just as much about the internal condition of that country as they did respecting the central parts of Africa, and this it was that rendered it necessary for them to invest the functionary there with discretionary powers. (Ironical cries of "Hear, hear") In spite of the jeers of the Hon. Gentlemen opposite, he must be permitted to say that communications of this kind were not to be looked upon in the same light as if they occurred under other circumstances. This was the feeling of the Government of Lord Grey—a Government for the acts of whom the Right Hon. Baronet had expressed his willingness to be responsible. The instructions of Lord Grey's Government were not given in detail, they merely laid down the general principles upon which the representative of this country in China was to proceed. They told him that he was to avoid menace— that he was not to interfere with the prejudices of the Chinese people; but with respect to precise directions, they contained scarcely any. When the Duke of Wellington was in office he adopted a similar course. That eminent man in his despatch, contented himself by referring to the instructions which had previously been sent as the guides which were to regulate the proceedings of the superintendent. Now, what he (Mr. Macaulay) wished to impress upon the House was, that the Government were charged with having by omitting to empower and instruct their officer at Canton, produced a great and formidable crisis in the friendly relations between this country and China; and when such a change was made, had the Government not a right to expect that it should be substantiated by the fullest proof and that it should be shown that their omission was the cause of the rupture which had unfortunately taken place. But that proof the Right Hon Baronet, in his long and elaborate speech, had signally failed to furnish. (Ministerial cheers, responded to by cries of "Hear, hear") He would out of much that was uninteresting, and much that was inapplicable in that speech, attempt to select the points upon which the Right Hon. Baronet rested his motion His motion was in the nature of a censure upon the Government, for not having empowered and instructed her Majesty's representative at China. Now, what were the omissions of which the Right Hon. Baronet complained? He read a despatch of the East India Company in 1832, and then he discussed the subsequent conduct of Captain Elliot, but neither the one nor the other was the question with which the House had to deal. Having brought forward such a motion, it was the business of the Right Hon. Gentleman to have stated what acts the Government ought to have done and what they ought not to have done, and then to have proved in terms that they had been guilty of an omission which had caused the present posture of affairs. Now, the omissions on the part of the Government which the Right Hon. Baronet imputed were these—First, that they had omitted to correct that part of the orders in Council which directed the superintendent to reside at Canton; secondly, that they had omitted to point out a new channel of communication between him and the Chinese authorities; thirdly, that they had omitted to place a naval force in the neighbourhood of Canton; and, fourthly, and that was the most
important point, that they had not given the superintendent powers to put down the illicit trade. These were the only omissions charged against the Government. Now, with regard to the first, his answer was simple. It was quite true, as the Right Honourable Baronet had stated, that that part of the order in Council which related to the residence of the superintendent at Canton had not been reversed by the Government, for no dispute whatever had arisen on that subject; and, in fact, it had nothing whatever to do with the unfortunate outrage which occurred, the whole dispute having at that time been accommodated. In support of this statement the Right Hon. and Learned Gentleman read an extract from the correspondence, and then contended that this particular charge turned out to be without any foundation at all. It was clear, then, that this omission could have had nothing whatever to do with the interruption of the friendly relations between Great Britain and China. The second charge was, that the Government had not corrected that part of the orders in Council which directed the superintendent to communicate directly with the Chinese Government at Canton, that they had not directed those communications to be made through the supercargoes and the merchants of the Hong; but that was a point which the Chinese Government had fully conceded: and as to the question about the word "pin," that was a matter which he would not discuss. Here again the omission attributed to the Government had no connection whatever with the present state of things. The third charge was that the Government had not placed vessels of war conformably to the recommendation of the Duke of Wellington near Canton for the protection of our trade; but there was not a syllable in that recommendation which supported the charge of the Right Honourable Baronet. The Duke of Wellington never contemplated that the superintendent should act contrary to the views of the Chinese, or that any naval force should be kept at Canton which could excite their jealousy. The fourth charge was the most important of all, and he thought he should be able sufficiently to meet it as he had done the other three. It was that the Government had omitted to send the superintendent power to suppress the illicit trade, and that this had also been a cause of rupture. Neither Lord Grey's Government nor that in which the Duke of Wellington was Foreign Minister, had sent out any such powers; and in May, 1838 there were obvious reasons why no instructions of the kind were transmitted, because it was then believed that the Chinese Government contemplated legalising the trade. (Cheers.) Tang Tzee, an able and reflecting man, who he regretted had been dismissed from his office, had considered the prohibition against the importation of opium unwise, even though it had been abused. He thought that the restriction should be removed, and that it would be better for the morals of the people, as well as more advantageous to the revenue, if a duty were imposed upon it; but, on the other hand, Chow Foo, like certain parties with whom he was familiar, wished to carry severe laws by making them more strict. In 1837 Capt. Elliot said, and it was generally expected at Calcutta that the trade would be legalised, and it was not until 1838 that a contrary disposition was manifested by the Chinese Government. At that period it clearly was not desirable to send out any such instructions, and if such a power had been sent out and exercised he thought that his Noble Friend would have been called to strict account in that House for his conduct. Nothing but absolute necessity could justify a British Minister in giving such a power to any functionary; and it was idle to expect that a contraband trade of this kind could be put down by a mere order, when it was found impossible in this country to prevent smuggling, notwithstanding the efficient means which were adopted for the purpose. No less than 60,000 gallons of brandy were smuggled into this country in the course of a year, and he believed that one-half the whole quantity of tobacco consumed was obtained by means of the contraband trade. Did Hon. Members imagine that a prohibitory order would be sufficient of itself to stop the trade in opium? Did they, then, know so little of the daring minds of men excited by a desire of gain; or were they so little aware of the desire of the Chinese people to purchase that drug which, in the words of the Chinese functionary, was dearer to them than life? Were those people so anxious to purchase the drug, and was the dealer with a profit of cent. per cent, before him to be prevented by a paper signed Charles Elliot? ("Hear, hear," and cheers, from the Ministerial benches.) If the prohibition even of the Chinese Government were sufficient to put an end to the trade, they had an evidence that the strongest measures were adopted to put it down by the Chinese Government. Nothing could be stronger than the order on that subject issued in March, 1829, by Commissioner Lin. ("hear, hear," from the Ministerial benches.) If the prohibitory measures of the Chinese Government were sufficient to put an end to the trade in opium it must have been stopped by that order, and they would not then have adopted the course of taking up British subjects without ascertaining whether they were innocent or guilty, and keeping them as hostages, in order by that means to suppress the trade in opium. (Hear.) Did Hon. Members believe that an order signed by Mr. Elliot would have the effect of putting a stop to the trade in opium, when the whole preventive service of China had not been found; sufficient to put an end to it? (Cheers.) He was quite confident in saying that an order would not be sufficient to put a stop to the passage of opium into China. If an order
to that effect had been issued by Mr. Elliot he did not mean to say that it would have no effect. It would have scattered the opium fleet along the coast of China, in order to carry on the contraband trade far from Canton; and the trade, instead of remaining in the neighbourhood of that port, where the dealers were almost under the eye of the English, subject to the influence which must thereby have been produced, and so close to the superintendent, where they were under the feeling that for any offence they might commit in the furtherance of that trade they would be subjected to be brought to answer for that offence before an English Court. Instead of being so situated, where the presence of English society would operate as a check upon the opium-smuggler; if, he said, instead of that, they sent a lawless trade along the coast making those engaged in it constantly subjected to collision with the local authorities, they would soon have mala prohibita converted into mala in se, and then, indeed, smuggling might become changed into something like piracy. ("Hear, hear," from the Ministerial benches.) If under the eye of English society, and in a place from which the evil report of an Englishman was almost certain to reach England, if there the trade had been such that it was said almost to amount to piracy, what would be the effect under the other circumstances which he had described, where the captain would be himself the sole judge of the propriety of the course he might think proper to pursue when all the annoyances to which he would be subjected might, in his mind, give something like the appearance of "wild justice" to offences? Suppose a ship was refused provisions—suppose that in pursuance of opposition the fountains were poisoned—suppose that four or five sailors having tasted the water were seized with violent tortures, and soon after died—suppose that their comrades, having heard of this left the ship and proceeded with their cutlasses and fire-arms to the next village, and burnt and sacked it, would the case have been improved? (Cheers from the Ministerial benches.) Were not the circumstances which he had described almost the natural effects of such a trade proceeding without any check upon it? (Hear, hear, hear.) They had all the experience of what should be expected to take place in the results that had followed from the old commercial system of Spain and her colonies. That system was very like the system which had been adopted in China. What had been the result? The enterprising men of other countries resolved on sharing the advantage offered by the New World—the exclusive system made them smugglers, and then they became buccaneers ("Hear.") A contraband trade had followed that exclusive system like which under similar circumstances, might have been produced at Formosa and the Yellow Sea. He (Mr. Macauley) certainly thought that the best chance of preventing the ill consequences that might arise from the smuggling trade in opium was to make it remain at Canton. He believed that the smuggling trade was calculated to produce great evils, but those evils would be greatly aggravated if the trade were carried on along the coast, far from Canton, and removed from the observation of English society (Hear, hear.) Thus much he would say with the greatest confidence, that if the trade were driven along the coast instead of remaining at Canton, hostilities with China would have been the inevitable consequence. (Hear, hear, from the Ministerial benches.) What had there been in the conduct of Commissioner Lin to induce them to think that in such a case he would not be likely to confound the innocent with the guilty in his measures for the suppression of the trade? ("Hear, hear," from the Ministerial benches.) Had his conduct not shown that he was unscrupulous in his measures for the suppression of the trade, in inflicting hardship and privation on men who had not been found guilty of any offence; nay on men who had not been suspected? If the trade then had been scattered along the coast, did they think that he would be found over scrupulous in his conduct? Would it not be easy for him to form a proclamation stating that the trade was going on in despite of all prohibition and saying that Elliot had dared him; that the English foreigners were continuing their smuggling, that the red headed barbarians were still along the coast, carrying on the trade in the drug; that they were now burning the towns and inflicting injury on the inhabitants; that they ought to prevent this. And would not the English residents blameable or blameless, be held hostages until the crews of the opium vessels were given up, and the wrongs of empire redressed. ("Hear," and cheers, from the Ministerial benches.) Was not the course he had described, were not the allegations he had supposed in a proclamation, quite in the style of Commissioner Lin? Did they believe the injustice of the opium trade would be adequate to put it down without the assistance of physical force. Or did they imagine that the British Government was bound, in order to put down that traffic, to maintain a preventive service along the whole coast of China? ("Hear, hear, and cheers, from the Ministerial benches.) If the course he had described had been taken in order to put an end to that traffic he had no doubt it would only aggravate the evils, and cause a rupture still more calamitous and degrading. (Ministerial cheers). He had now disposed of four omissions of which the Right Honourable Baronet opposite (Sir James Graham) had accused the Government, and he declared most solemnly that to any of those four omissions could not in his opinion be interpreted the interruption of our friendly relations with China. If he believed that Honourable Gentlemen would vote on that question according to their opinions of the
motion— If he could believe that they would give their "aye" or "no" according to their conviction of whether or not the terms of that motion had been borne out— he (Mr. Macaulay) should have no apprehension on the subject; but he could not refrain from expressing his apprehensions that some persons, for whose feeling of humanity he had the highest respect, might imagine that in voting for the motion they were voting for the suppression of an improper trade. ("Hear, "hear") from the Opposition.) He regretted that such an unfounded argument had been used. It had been said, over and over again, that the Government of this country were going to war with China in support of a contraband trade. ("Hear, hear, hear," and cheers, from the Opposition.) God forbid that a thought so absurd and so atrocious ever should enter the mind of a British Minister. (Ministerial cheers.) The case as regarded the proceedings with respect to China was perfectly clear. They might doubt whether it was wise to refuse a drug which, if administered judiciously, was capable of the most advantageous effects— which was most powerful in allaying pain— which, when applied with judgment, checked some diseases and tended to prolong life, because that drug, like many other gifts of a bountiful God, was abused by men; they might doubt whether it was wise to attempt, by the means which had been adopted, to stop the efflux of precious metals from China. They had learned by history, and from the experience of former times and of other nations, that no machinery, however powerful, would be able to afford the remedy which was desired, or to keep the precious metals in a particular place when the force of trade called them elsewhere. (Hear, hear.) What Spain in the height of her greatest power had failed to do — what Great Britain, with the greatest marine, and with the assistance of the best public servants in the world, had failed to effect — could not, he believed, be effected by China through the means of her ill-constructed war-junks, and her venal Mandarins. (Loud cheers from the Ministerial benches.) He (Mr. Macaulay) would admit to the fullest extent that China had a perfect right to keep out opium, and to keep in silver, and that the Government of that empire had a right to impose prohibitions which were not opposed to public morality or to public laws; and if, after giving a fair notice that the importation of opium would be held to be contraband, they had proceeded to punish the contraband traders, the English Government would have no right to complain. But when they found that just and lawful measures were not depended on for the purpose of carrying those prohibitions into effect — when unlawful measures were resorted to against the subjects of this country— when we saw them confounding the innocent and the guilty, without any distinction — when they proceeded to insult our Sovereign in the person of her representative — then a new duty devolved upon the Government — (Loud cheering from the Ministerial benches) — the question then was no longer, whether the opium trade was injurious or not, or whether China had acted properly and wisely in imposing prohibitions? (Cheers.) Another question then arose, and a very different duty, under those circumstances, devolved upon the Government of this country. (Hear, hear, hear.) Take a parallel case, take the case of one of the most revolting and abominable crimes that could be imagined, namely, the African slave trade. We had done everything to suppress it — we had made it a misdemeanour — we had made it felony — we had made it piracy — we had used every exertion to induce foreign Powers to aid us in the suppression of the illegal traffic — we had paid large sums to foreign Powers to induce them to comply with our regulations for its suppression; and yet, notwithstanding all those exertions, notwithstanding the sums we had paid away to obtain their concurrence, the slave trade had been carried on under foreign flags; under those flags vessels with slaves on board had cruised round the world, and brought slaves into the Mauritius. If we could have been able to capture any of those slave traders, there was no doubt that we should be fully justified in inflicting condign punishment on them. But supposing we were unable to capture them; supposing that our Governor of the Mauritius saw a ship under French colours cruising off that island, and that he and all those who saw her were satisfied that she was a well- known slaver, having a cargo of slaves on board; supposing there was no doubt that she was awaiting an opportunity in the night of running her cargo, and that we had not a naval force sufficient to capture her — if, under those circumstances, the Governor went and seized upon the persons of thirty or forty French gentlemen residing in the colony, some of whom might be suspected of a connection with the slave- trading vessel, but others against whom there was not the slightest suspicion; supposing he seized the Consul of France at the Mauritius, and locked them all up in prison, keeping them in privation and giving them no food until he got possession of the vessel which was off the coast. Supposing all that had happened, would not France have a full and perfect right to make a demand for reparation; and if we refused to accede to her demand, would she not have a right to seek for reparation by war? ("Hear, hear," and cheers, from the Ministerial benches). Would it be sufficient justification for us in such a case to say, "This is a monstrous trade, the introduction of slaves into Europe; it has been a curse to Africa, and it has kept the whole island of Madagascar in a state of barbarism?" Would not the answer to us have been, "You may support that great principle as much as you please, but you have no right to make use of one
great principle in order to enable you to trample on all other great principles? (Cheers.) Had not her Majesty's Government a much stronger right to demand reparation from China for the proceedings which had taken place; and had not every event which had taken place since fully proved the propriety of such a determination? What had been the course of proceeding by China since the first act with reference to this subject? They had acted as might naturally be expected under the circumstances from a people whose only force was in their arrogance, and who were innocent of the relative positions which they held as compared with us. They began by extorting property, and now their demand is for blood. (Ministerial cheers.) A riot occurred, in which a native of China was slain; there were Americans as well as English present at the time, and it was quite impossible to say who was the person that had killed the native of China. What had been the conduct of the Chinese authorities with respect to that affair? They had caused it to be notified to the English that, innocent or guilty, some subject of the Queen should be given up. The representative of the Queen could not consent to be guilty of so foul a murder, and the consequence of his refusing to give up some British subject was, that all the British subjects had been driven from Macao; women and children at the breast had not been made an exception; our innocent Lascars were flung into the sea; and an English gentleman was stabbed, and his body most barbarously mutilated. The English, be it remembered, not having done any act which even required a demand for reparation on the part of the Chinese, were assailed with all the fury of a ferocious and uncivilised warfare. England was possessed of such power as placed her amongst the nations in a position which did not require that she should require redress for every petty slight from such a nation as China, which derived its force from its arrogance alone. Conscious of her power, England could bear that her Sovereign should be called a barbarian, and her people described as savages, destitute of every useful art. When our Ambassadors were obliged to undergo a degrading prostration, in compliance with their regulations, conscious of our strength and power, we were more amused than irritated. But there was a limit to that forbearance. (Ministerial cheers.) When the time came to show what ought to be known before in all countries, however remote, that every harmless Englishman is, to the end of the globe, under the protecting eye of England. (Ministerial cheers.) He (Mr. Macaulay) was much touched with aaligery of such a determination. He (Mr. Macaulay) was much touched with a

Sir W. Follett felt that he ought to apologise to the House for rising so soon after the Learned Gentleman who had just sat down; but he could not help thinking the effect of that speech was to draw off the attention of the House from the real gist of the question before them. (Hear, hear) He fully admitted that the topics touched on by the Right Honourable and Learned Gentleman had been well chosen, and when he enlarged as he had done upon what he called the barbarity of China - when he had spoken of their interference with the national honour of England, and of insults to the British flag and to the Sovereign of the country - he (Sir William Follett) agreed that it was calculated to excite
attention amongst an assembly of Englishmen. (Hear, hear.) Amongst no portion of our countrypeople could statements be heard with apathy or indifference of cruelties to Englishmen or insults to our flag, but the question which the House had before it was a different one; and if it were true, a. as would seem be implied, that we were involved in a war with China and that our trade with that country was likely to be put an end to or diverted into other channels, the question then for the House to consider was what was the cause of the unfortunate state of our affairs in that quarter? (Hear, hear and cheers.) The Right Hon. and Learned Member had complained that the resolution of his (Sir William Follett's) Right Hon. Friend (Sir James Graham) was retrospective. He (Sir W. Follett) would say that the House had a right to inquire into the causes which had produced the existing state of things as regarded China, and ascertain if they had arisen from inevitable circumstances. But it they found that it had not arisen from unforeseen circumstances, but had arisen from the unjustifiable neglect of her Majesty's Government, then the House of Commons was bound to say so. (Loud cheers.) He (Sir W. Follett) would undertake to demonstrate to the House of Commons that, from the opening of the trade of China up to this hour, there had been most unjustifiable neglect on the part of the Government—with the exception of a period during the Administration of his Right Hon. Friend, which gave rise to a most valuable remonstrance; but, with that exception, there was no instance that the affairs occupied the attention of her Majesty's Government sufficiently. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) The Right Hon. and Learned Member for Edinburgh appeared to have misunderstood the charge which had been made by his (Sir W Follett's) Right Honourable Friend (Sir James Graham). They were charged with not having allowed sufficient powers to the superintendent in China—that they sent out a representative of this country without sufficient power—that he was kept there without sufficient powers, and without sufficient instructions or authority, although that want of authority had been remonstrated against. (Hear, hear, hear.) The complaint was not that her Majesty's Government did not prohibit the trade in opium, or compel the ships to go along the coast of China; but the charge was that the alterations in the circumstances when the trade with China was opened—notwithstanding the state of things was such that there was a danger, if proper means had not been adopted, that the result would be a great loss, not only to the smugglers of opium but also to the trading community in general—notwithstanding all that they did not give sufficient power to their officer, and they absolutely left him without instructions. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) The Right Hon. and Learned Member for Edinburgh said that if a despatch could be sent to China as easily and as quickly as to Paris or Brussels, such meagre instructions would have been inexcusable; but that the case was different when they had to send instructions to so great a distance. (Cheers.) He said that India could only be governed in India; and perhaps he thought that British trade could be better regulated in China than in Downing-street. (Cheers.) It was not required that her Majesty's Government should have given orders with respect to every petty dispute. What they meant to say was, that if the Right Hon. Gentleman had stated, India was to be governed in India the party upon whom the Government devolved should be armed with sufficient authority. (Hear, hear, hear.) If the party in China were enabled to act without waiting for instructions from England it might be in his power to carry any negotiations he might commence into effect. (Hear, hear.) The House would pardon him for calling attention to the situation of affairs in China at the period of the opening of the trade. The Right Honourable and Learned Gentleman who had just sat down had called the Chinese a barbarous and half-civilised nation. He (Sir W. Follett) did not believe that they deserved that description; but, whether they did or not, whether they were civilised or barbarous, this much must have been known, that they did not acknowledge our ordinary international laws; that they would not enter into any commercial treaties; and it must have been well known that our intercourse with them had always been of a most delicate description; that the trade was subject to sudden stoppages, after which it was again renewed, and that if the Chinese jealousy was aroused by any occurrence such as a collision between sailors and the authorities, it could not take place without the danger of an interruption to our trade. (Hear, hear, hear.) If it were shown that power was essential to our officers in China—if they found that her Majesty's Government neglected to give sufficient powers to our officer, and that the absence of those powers was a main cause of the present state of affairs with respect to China—if all that were shewn to the House, then he felt that the resolution of his Right Hon. Friend (Sir James Graham) would be fully borne out. ("Hear, hear," and loud cheering.) Before opening the trade, and during the monopoly of the East India Company, it had been always found necessary to have resident in China a board or council of officers, possessing power over our merchants and seamen trading to China. (Hear, hear.) There was a committee and council of supercargoes, and that committee had an absolute power and control over all the shipping, residents, and sailors in China. How did the committee get that control? They acted in their capacity of merchants; they did not act as representatives of the Sovereign of this country. (Hear, hear.) It
would seem that the Noble Lord, at the time of writing one of his despatches, was not aware how the council of supercargoes acted. The East India Company’s ships were bound to obey the orders of the council, but there was another class of persons who required much more control than those of the East India Company's vessels—those were the country ships trading to China from different parts of India; and, as it happened, the very ships that brought the opium to China. But no ship could frequent any port in China without a license from the East India Company; and that license was rendered void if the ship, or officers belonging to her, did not obey the orders of the council. If any ship trading to China had her license revoked, she might be seized and the crew imprisoned. By the Act of Parliament any person resident in China without license might be arrested by the supercargo—might be sent a prisoner to England, and might be tried and imprisoned for being there without a license. The House would observe that the supercargo exercised the entire control, whether rightly or wrongly it was not now necessary to inquire. Now, if that control was necessary before, the trade to China was doubly necessary when that trade was thrown open, and when ships from all quarters were allowed to trade there. His Right Hon. Friend (Sir J. Graham) had quoted a part of a despatch to show that the supercargo exercised a power not only over the ships trading to the port of Canton, but that he exercised a control over the ships engaged in smuggling, so as to be able to prevent any act likely to injure the regular British trade with China. Now, what he and those who concurred with him complained of was this, not that the Government had not put down the smuggling trade, but that they allowed the smuggling ships to proceed in such a manner as to injure the regular and legitimate trade; that they allowed these smuggling boats to pass the Bocca Tigris, and to carry their contraband trade into the city of Canton. It had been shown that the supercargo always exercised power over the ships engaged in the opium trade, and over the sailors and captains engaged in that trade. Now, they had left the superintendent without that power. It was perfectly clear that if the superintendent possessed that power, that during the years of anxiety with which he had to contend with peculiar circumstances, he would, if he possessed that power, have exercised it. But during all that time her Majesty's could exercise. An order in council, to which his Right Hon. Friend had referred, was made, under the provisions of the Act of Parliament that had been alluded to. At the time that the trade of the East India Company was abolished a deliberate Act of the Legislature was passed, to meet one of the objections that was made at the opening of the trade, namely, the possibility of some collision arising between the persons engaged in that trade and the Chinese authorities Government had allowed him to remain without any authority or any power whatever, or, in fact, without any instruction as to what were the powers he objections that was made at the opening of the trade, namely, the possibility of some collision arising between the persons engaged in that trade and the Chinese authorities. It was determined by that Act that it should be in the power of the Government, by the issuing of an order in council, to give to the superintendent such authority over the ships engaged in the China trade as might be necessary for the furtherance of the duties he had to exercise. The order in Council began by stating "Whereas by a certain Act of Parliament, made and passed in the third or fourth year of his Majesty's reign, entitled 'An Act to regulate the trade of China and India,' it is among other things enacted that it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, by any such order or orders, as to his Majesty in council shall appear expedient and salutary, to give to the superintendents in the said Act mentioned, or any of these, powers and authorities over and in respect of the trade and commerce of her Majesty's subjects within any part of the dominions of the Emperor of China" The order in Council went on to state that "whereas the officers of the Chinese Government, resident in or near Canton in the empire of China, have signified to the supercargoes of the East India Company at Canton the desire of that Government that effectual provisions should be made by law for the good order of all his Majesty's subjects resorting to Canton, and for the maintenance of peace and due subordination amongst them; and it is expedient that effect should be given to such reasonable demand of the Chinese Government." Now, here was a distinct recognition of this as a reasonable demand, and an admission that it was desirable to give effect to this reasonable demand of the Chinese Government. The order in Council went on to state, "And therefore, in pursuance of said Act, and in execution of the powers in his Majesty in Council in that behalf vested, it is hereby ordered, by and with the advice of the Privy Council, that all the powers and authorities, which, on the 21st of April 1834, shall by law be vested in the supercargoes of the United Company of merchants trading to the East Indies over and in respect of the trade and commerce of his Majesty's subjects at the port of Canton shall be, and the same are hereby vested in the superintendents for the time being appointed under and by virtue of the said Act of Parliament." Now he would ask, what power did this confer? Why it conferred no power at all. The power of the supercargoes ceased with the termination of the East India Company's trade; and, in point of fact, on the 21st of April 1834, the supercargoes had no power at all. (Hear, hear) The order in Council then went on to state, “That all regulations which, on the said 21st
of April, 1834, shall be in force touching the said trade and commerce, save so far as the same are repealed or abrogated by the said Act of Parliament or by any commission and instructions or orders in council issued or made by his Majesty in pursuance thereof, or are inconsistent, shall continue in full force and virtue and that all such forfeitures, penalties or imprisonments as might on the said 21st of April 1834 be incurred or enforced for the breach of such then existing regulations, shall thenceforth be in like manner be incurred and enforced for the breach of the regulations as far as the Same are hereby continued in force as aforesaid." Why, at the same time there were no regulations whatever in force. The only regulation that was in force was, that the ships should obey the orders of the supercargo. But it might be said on the other side that the order in Council to which he had now referred, was only intended as a provincial order and now the mistake arose from the state of the law at the time. Why, that might be so. But he (Sir W. Follett) would be able to show that the Noble Lord's attention was immediately called to this, and he was informed as to the state of the law. He was told repeatedly that the superintendents were without power, and that it was necessary that they should have powers to enable them to fulfil their functions. Now, with respect to the regulations established by the Noble Lord, he would just now refer to a despatch addressed by Sir G. Robinson to the Noble Lord, and which was dated July 1, 1835, and which would be found in pages 95. It appeared that Sir G. Robinson had attempted to exercise power over an English resident, who he thought had been guilty of injustice to a Chinese, and he endeavoured to oblige the English resident to make reparation. The English resident told Sir G. Robinson that he had no power, and he set his authority at defiance; and Sir G. Robinson thus wrote to the Noble Lord:

"In the Act of Parliament to regulate the trade to India, and China, it is, amongst other things, enacted, "That it shall and may be lawful for his Majesty, by such an order as to his Majesty in Council shall appear expedient and salutary, to give to the superintendents in the said Act mentioned, or any of them, powers and authorities over, and in respect of, the trade and commerce, and for the direction of his Majesty's subjects within the dominions of the Emperor of China." In the first order, passed by his Majesty in Council on the 9th December, 1803, it was thereupon ordered, 'that the superintendents should be clothed for these purposes with the powers and authorities heretofore vested in the supercargoes of the East India Company, save so far as the same were repealed and abrogated by the Act of Parliament.' In the same order it is then set forth, 'that all the regulations which were in force on the 21st of April, 1834, were thereby confirmed; ' and it was further directed, 'that they should be compiled and published.'

"Now my Lord, it is respectfully submitted that there were no regulations in existence of the nature contemplated in that order in Council; the supercargoes had been accustomed to interfere in commercial disputes between the very few private traders here; and whenever affairs involving either political or commercial difficulty with the Chinese presented themselves they possessed abundant means of doing as much as was needful. No English subject was here without a license from the Company, and the committee, in any case of emergency, had it in their power to apprise the Chinese authorities that the license had been suspended, and that they would in no respect interfere tor the adjustment of any debts the parties complained of might contract subsequently to the date of that notice. The British shipping which resorted to China was under the complete control of the committee; they either belonged to the Company, or were chartered by it; and the country ships were furnished with licenses by the Indian Government, withdrawable at pleasure, either by these authorities or, in cases of exigency, by the committee itself. There had been no need, therefore, for anybody of regulations, having respect to the general direction and control of British subjects in China.

"When difficulties presented themselves, the committee acted according to the best of their judgment in the circumstances of the case, and it is plain that there was no lack of means to give effect to their resolutions.

"It has certainly been the anxious desire of this commission, upon every ground of consideration, to interfere as little as was possible till further instructions should reach them from England.

"Now this letter was written so far back as the 1st of July, 1835, and, notwithstanding this, no instructions of any kind had been sent either to Sir George Robinson or the other superintendent. (Hear, hear.) And let him ask, was it fair to Sir George Robinson or to Captain Elliot that they should be left in this way without power, or any definition if what powers they were to exercise? Was it fair to those officers that they should now be told what powers they possessed—that by the order in Council the Government pretended to vest in the superintendent extraordinary powers.
and yet they never told them what the powers were with which they were invested. (Hear, hear.) Up to the moment when Captain Elliot delivered up the opium to the Chinese authorities he (as we understood) never pretended that he had sufficient powers. Now, though the letter of Sir George Robinson was dated so far back as July 1, 1835, it was not until several months that the answer of the Noble Lord was sent out to Captain Elliot in a despatch dated the 8th of November, 1836, and the Noble Lord took no notice of the defect of the order in Council— he did not tell the superintendent what his powers were — he gave him no further instructions. In his despatch of Nov. 8, 1836, addressed to Captain Elliot, the Noble Lord said—

"With reference to my despatches or this date, containing the opinion of his Majesty's Government upon the case of Mr. Innes and Mr. Keating, I think it right to state to you that his Majesty's Government are fully aware of the inconvenience arising both from the undefined state of the jurisdiction of the superintendents in China, and from their want of power to enforce decisions to which they may come, in matters submitted to them by members of the commercial body in China.” The letter went on to state —

"The general question as to the nature, extent, and powers of the future establishment in China, is now under the consideration of his Majesty's Government; and I am in hopes that, at no distant period, some effectual remedy may be provided for the inconvenience to which I have more particularly adverted.

"Was this question under consideration at the time that these unfortunate events took place? Up to that time, they had not found that this declaration of the Noble Lord had been followed up by any definition of the powers of the superintendent, or by investing him with adequate powers. With respect to the powers exercised by the superintendent, he (Sir W. Follett) should say, from the papers before the House, that the Noble Lord was not only aware of the defects of the order in Council, but of the serious inconvenience arising from that defect. (Hear, hear.) In his first despatch to Lord Napier the Noble Lord told him that he had no power or authority to prevent vessels trading with the northern coast of China. It appeared from the order in Council that the supercargo had the power of arrest, but Lord Napier had no power to arrest anybody. Now, was the House aware of the importance which the Chinese attached to the circumstance of a steamer having passed, up the Bocca Tigris. They would find the fact stated at page 122, in a letter from; Superintendent Elliot, an extract from which he would read: —

"I hear it very generally reported to-day that the steam-boat Jardine, now at Lintin, is to proceed to Canton on Tuesday or Wednesday next. The disquietude of the provincial Government upon the subject of this vessel had already been manifested in an edict, desiring that she should leave the country; and I am informed a request to let her ply in the river as a passage-boat has just been negatived. In the present state of circumstances I feel it my duty to advise that a public letter should be forthwith addressed to the commander of the steam-boat, enjoining him, under the King's authority, by no means to proceed up the river at present. I would further recommend that a letter should be addressed to the consignees of the vessel (covering a copy of the communication to the commander), to the effort that such a step at this period, appeared to the commission to be extremely imprudent, and it had therefore been determined to require that the intention should be abandoned. The port of Canton is now full of shipping waiting for cargoes to proceed to England, and I confess the moment appears to me so peculiarly unfavourable for any experiment of this description that I found the greatest difficulty in crediting the report upon the subject; it is repeated, however, in so many quarters, that I feel compelled to believe it is well founded. If it be true that any attempt has been made to secure the consent of the Foo Yuen, and that his refusal has been signified, the risks of very serious difficulties are vastly enhanced. We have been specially warned, and the Chinese officers well know the advantage that particular circumstance will afford them for the vindication of ant measures which our scornful disregard of their authority may lead them to pursue. If this steam-vessel goes up the river at this moment I feel a persuasion that some grave public inconvenience will ensue. That the persons on duty at the forts in the Bogue will be fully justified in stopping her (by force, if needful) is plain; and that any opposition upon this part of the vessel would be both utterly lawless and futile is quite as clear. But it may happen that they will suffer her to pass the forts with just so much of evidence to prove that it is a forced passage (by firing a few shot wide of her) as will serve to justify proceedings of another complexion; in this case, it is my strong opinion, that the Chinese will resort to some general measure in assertion of their powers and independence as a Government, involving the interruption of this trade, till some required concession shall be made. No Government can afford, if I may so express it, to be reduced to utter contempt in the sight of its own people by a handful of heedless foreigners; the sacrifice, in point of public estimation, is far too considerable.
"Now, quite independent of the circumstances that had more recently occurred, he begged to ask the House were the Government justified in leaving their officer at Canton without the power of stopping a vessel of that sort from going up to Canton under circumstances that might lead to the stoppage of the British trade, and which might be productive of the most serious public inconvenience? (Cheers). Now this was known to the Noble Lord at the time when, in a despatch dated July 22, 1836, the Noble Lord gave his advice to the superintendent:—

"In the present state of our relations with China it is especially incumbent upon you, while you do all that lies in your power to avoid giving just cause of offence to the Chinese authorities to be at the same time very careful not to assume a greater degree of authority over British subjects in China than that which you in reality possess.

The Right Hon. Gentleman opposite had quoted that advice in vindication of the Government. Now, nobody found fault with that advice; but what Honourable Members at his (Sir W. Follett's) side of the House found fault with was that the Government had not told their Superintendents what authority in reality he possessed, or what ships he was entitled to control. (Hear.) If he had not the power to prevent that vessel violating the Chinese authority, he ought to have had that power, or to have been informed of what power he was to exercise. If the Government had intended to have given that power by the order in Council, it appeared that that order in Council was defective which it was found to be upon consultation with the law-officers of the Crown. But the Noble Lord had done nothing for the purpose of conferring the necessary powers. Now it was easy to see the inconvenience that must arise from leaving the Superintendent with this undefined understanding of his powers. Now, he would ask, had no serious inconvenience arisen from this state of things? (Hear, hear.) He was desirous to call the attention of the House to the tone of the letters that had been laid on the table of the House, as many Members had not, perhaps, gone through the whole book. On the 2d January, 1839, Captain Elliot wrote to the Noble Lord opposite:-

“The difficulty which remained to be removed before the trade could be opened, was illicit traffic in opium carried on in small craft within the river, a considerable number of which were stationary at Whampoa, receiving their supplies from time to time in other vessels of a similar description from the opium ships at Lintin or Hong Kong.

“The senior Hong Kong merchants, on the evening of my arrival in Canton (the 12th ultimo), complained in bitter terms that they should be exposed to cruel and ruinous consequences which were hourly arising out of the existence of this forced trade, not merely at Whampoa, but at the factories themselves, of which they were the proprietors and, therefore, under heavy responsibility to the Government. And they insisted that they would not carry on the lawful commerce (having the Governor's sanction for their conduct), till effectual steps were taken for the suppression of this dangerous evil.”

The letter went on to say—" It had been clear to me from the origin of this peculiar branch of the opium traffic that it must grow to be more and more mischievous to every branch of the trade, and certainly to none more than to that of opium itself. As the danger and the shame of its pursuit increased, it was obvious that it would fall by degrees into the hands of more and more desperate men, and that it would stain the foreign character in the sight of the whole of the better portion of this people ; and, lastly, that it would connect itself more and more intimately with our lawful commercial intercourse, to the great peril of vast public and private interests. Till the other day, I believe there was no part of the world where the foreigner felt his life and property more secure than here in Canton." Now this was opinion of a gentleman who was at the time suffering under peculiar circumstances; and when the Right Honourable Gentleman opposite told them that they were dealing with barbarous foreigners, let him bear in mind the testimony given by this gentleman. (Cheers.) He would proceed with the remainder of the paragraph:-

"Till the other day, my Lord, I believe there was no part of the world where the foreigner felt his life and property more secure than here in Canton; but the grave events of the 12th ultimo have left behind a different impression. If the case had been otherwise her Majesty's Government and the British public would have had to learn that the trade and peaceful intercourse with this empire was indefinitely interrupted by a terrible scene of bloodshed and ruin. And all these desperate hazards have been incurred, my Lord, for the scrambling and, comparatively considered, insignificant gains of a few reckless individuals, unquestionably founding conduct upon the belief that they were exempt from the operation of all law, British or Chinese."
He would ask the Noble Lord what was the cause of the last rupture? The Chinese refused to allow the British trade to continue unless the captain of every ship coming to Whampoo should give to the Chinese authorities a bond that in case of any charge being brought against him, he would hold himself amenable to the Chinese laws. Well, Captain Elliot, the British superintendent, would not agree to this, and, according to his despatch, the Chinese Government were on the point of giving way, and about allowing the trade to be opened, when an English vessel, the Thomas Coutts, came from India. It appeared that the captain had taken a legal opinion in India, and had been advised that the superintendent had no power to prevent his entrance into Canton. The captain of this ship, preferring his own private interest to the good of the commercial community at Canton, disregarded the authority of Captain Elliot, and went to Canton, and gave the bond required by the Chinese authorities. The negotiations were in consequence interposed with, and the Chinese authorities refused to give way. Now, did this show that the superintendent had no power prevent the entrance of this ship? Now let the House observe what he said in his despatch “I am informed that the captain of the Thomas Coutts adopted this proceeding in consequence of legal advice taken in India.” Now, what could this advice have been more than that he might have asked, whether if he went to Canton he was bound to obey the orders of the superintendent? Captain Elliot, referring to this transaction proceeded to say, that though technically considered, this advice might be true, yet that it was contrary to common sense that the captain of an English ship was to be at liberty to disobey the orders of the superintendent and carry on trade, at discretion. Captain Elliot said that this was contrary to common sense. Why, so it was. (“Hear,” we be from Lord Palmerston.) The Noble Lord cheered but whose fault was it? The Noble Lord was not present and the defect of the order in Council was referred to. If the Noble Lord was present he would have heard it stated that even when the Government were informed of the defect by the order in Council, they took no steps to remedy that point. Captain Elliot said that if every commander of a merchantman was to have the power of concluding a separate negotiation on subjects of importance, the British trade in China must soon cease to exist. Now, the Noble Lord must be aware that any master of a vessel had full power to do as he pleased to go up the river at Canton, and that which Capt. Elliot declared to be contrary to common sense. Now, why had the Noble Lord been so long a time without having done anything to remedy this evil? Why had not the defect of the order in Council been reinstated (Hear, hear.) Independent of the question arising from the opium trade, he (Sir William Follett) would ask, why in the new and various circumstances arising from the opening of the Chinese trade, and from the appearances shown the opening of that trade produced, why had they left their officer without powers adapted to that new state of things. Why had they left him without instructions, and without advice. The Right Honourable Gentleman the Member for Edinburgh had stated that at one time it was supposed that the trade in opium was to be legalized. But from the papers before them there was nothing to justify that supposition. It was very true that the proposition of that kind had been made to the Government, but the British superintendent had not ample notice of what were the intentions of the Chinese Government on this subject. He wrote to the Noble Lord. He remonstrated and asked for advice; but got no advice and no instructions. The Hon. and Learned Gentleman referred to edicts which were issued in 1834 and 1836, on the subject of the opium trade, and to a letter of Sir George Robinson in May, 1836, asking in plain and explicit terms for definite instructions from the Government. In a letter, dated July 27, 1836, in which Captain Elliot called the attention of the Noble Lord generally to this subject, this passage occurred—

“Sooner or later the feeling of independence, which the peculiar mode of conducting this branch of the trade has fallen upon the part of our countrymen in China, will lead to grave difficulties. A long course of impunity will beget hardihood, and at last some gross insult will be perpetrated that the Chinese authorities will be constrained to resent; they will be terrified and irritated and will probably commit some act of cruel violence that will make any choice but armed interference impossible to own Government. The immediate effect of the legalization of the opium will be, I should suppose, to simulate production at Bengal; there, is some notion here that it will encourage the growth of the poppy in China, and that home-produced opium will thrust our own out of the market; eventually, perhaps it may, but results of that kind are of slow growth.”

This was so far back as the 27th July, 1836, but there was another letter, in which, at page 155, Captain Elliot wrote this—

In few weeks the produce of the first opium sales of the year in Bengal must arrive here, and then, if the restrictions continue, this trade will, in all probability, immediately assume a different character. From a traffic prohibited in point
of form, but essentially countenanced, and carried entirely by natives in native boats, it will come to be a complete smuggling trade."

The Noble Lord was here made aware of the consequences of this edict, and Captain Elliot went on to tell the Noble Lord that—

The opium will be conveyed to parts of the coast previously concerted in Canton, in British beats, and thence by the natives; thus throwing our people into immediate contact with the inhabitants on shore, and certainly, in other respects, vastly enhancing the chances of serious disputes and collision with the Government officers."

Then at page 234 would be found the edict which was addressed to Captain Elliot, and which he forwarded to London and then followed the letter of that gentleman, dated November 19, 1837, in which letter, after describing the great uncertainty of the trade, and the increasing difficulty which was experienced in carrying it on, he said:—

“In fact, looking around me at the whole body of circumstances connected with the case, I think the time has come for the active interference of Government, and that cannot be delayed without peril to the safety of the whole trade. Thus Captain Elliot told the Noble Lord that the time has come in which something should be done; and at page 345 recited the course which, in his opinion, should be adopted. He said:—The time has come when her Majesty’s Government should give its own counsel, or be prepared to take the alternative.” Could the Right Hon. Gentleman who had preceded him (Sir W. Follett) suppose that the Government had not received full notice that the trade was in such a state that it was absolutely necessary that some decisive steps should be taken? (Hear, hear.) But this was not the whole case. In page 250, December, 1837, Captain Elliot writes:—

“Perhaps your Lordship may be of opinion that the measures to stop the regular trade and to expel me from the empire, involved in this edict, strengthens the reasoning submitted in the memorandum inclosed in my despatch of the 19th ult., in the advocacy of immediate and earnest approaches to this Court by her Majesty's Government.”

And then he goes on to say—

"The whole state of circumstances, however, connected with the opium question is in a condition of such uncertainty, that it is impossible to divine what is meant; and, indeed, it is not difficult to conceive that the Government itself does not know what it means, but is, in point of fact, wandering without fixed purpose, from project to project, it might more properly be said, from blunder to blunder."

(Ministerial cheers.) Hon. Members might cheer that, but was yet to learn that the blunders of the Chinese were to be made the excuse for the blunders of her Majesty's Government. (Cheers.) He was reading that despatch for the purpose of enabling the House fully to appreciate the fitness of the Noble Lord's answer, and of showing what attention he paid to matters so important. It mattered little whether or not the Chinese Government intended to enforce the edict: Captain Elliot told the Noble Lord he could not say, but he tells him that the trade was now in such a state as to render it absolutely necessary that the Government should take some step to suppress the contraband trade to prevent the total stoppage of the whole of that which was lawful. Further on he says:—

In the midst of all this incoherent conduct, it seems to me to be highly necessary, for the protection of British interests that a small naval force should immediately be stationed somewhere in these seas."

What then was the Noble Lord's answer to this on the 5th of February? He (Sir William Follett) was but little acquainted with the correspondence of the Foreign Office, but he must confess that he thought the answer of the Noble Lord strange, considering that he was then in possession of the whole of the despatches of Captain Elliot. On the 5th of February, 1838, Captain Elliot says—

In my judgment, the interruption of the trade is less likely ensue from the commands of the Court than from the grave disaster arising out of collision between the Government craft and our own armed boats on the river.

Loss of life in a conflict of that kind would at once compel the Government to adopt the most urgent proceedings; and the actual condition of circumstances certainly renders; to a catastrophe probable in the very highest degree.”
That was Captain Elliott's opinion; it was there the danger pointed and what was the Noble Lord's answer? The Noble Lord says—(Here the Right Hon. Gentleman read Lord Palmerston's letter of June 15, 1838, already quoted in the speech of Sir J. Graham). Would any Honourable Member assert that that was a proper letter for the Secretary of State to one of our representatives in a distant country as China? (Hear, hear, hear). If the despatch had been written in relation to some smuggling bringing trading on the coast of France it might have been a proper answer, but when they considered that the question was so important as the state of the opium trade, and when the Noble Lord had been informed of the great dangers of that trade, they must confess that the Noble Lord should have said something more than that Government was not prepared to uphold those who violated the law. (Hear, hear.) Captain Elliot did not demand any protection for the trade; all he asked was means to prevent collision. Had the Noble Lord meant that Captain Elliott was to do nothing—that he was to remain an idle spectator of such stirring events? (Hear, hear.) If the Noble Lord meant to have Captain Elliot act on his own responsibility, he should, at least, have said so. (Hear, hear, hear.) The Noble Lord had not done this, but when Captain Elliot told him of the danger, when he asked for instructions and powers he merely told him that he would do nothing to enable British subjects to violate the laws of China. (Hear, hear.) What answer was that to give to the British merchants whose trade was stopped, to the persons who were suffering loss, to those who had been expelled from Canton, and on whom barbarities had been practised? (Hear, hear.) It was not for the purpose of getting such an answer that Captain Elliott had called the Noble Lord's attention to the subject. He would venture to assert that on this point the Noble Lord was greatly open to censure for giving such an answer, and for neglecting to give the superintendent proper instructions. (Hear, hear hear.) Would the House believe that, after all that had been said about the opium trade, except in this despatch, there was in the whole mass of documents not a single allusion by the Noble Lord to that traffic? (Hear, hear). Was the House prepared to say that Government were not open to censure, that they had not been guilty of great and culpable neglect in conducting our affairs with reference to China? (Hear, hear.) But the Right Honourable Baronet the Member for Edinburgh had admitted that this was an improper despatch, that it was both meagre and improper, that it would have been censurable if it had been written to Paris, but that it was not censurable having been sent to China, so many thousand miles away. (Cheers.) He (Sir W. Follett) should like to know what there was in that fact to make it less censurable than if written to Paris? In fact, in his opinion it was more censurable for that reason. If a wrong despatch were sent to Paris the fault might be corrected by the next courier, but here was a despatch between which and any further instructions at least four months must intervene, and that while affairs were in so critical a state. (Hear, hear.) He did not mean to censure Captain Elliot for his conduct; on the contrary, he thought that that gentleman's despatches displayed considerable ability and discretion; and it was no wonder that in his peculiar position, waiting for instructions and getting no advice, he should have taken the steps which led to the present unhappy state of affairs. (Hear, hear.) The censure should not be applied to Captain Elliot. (Hear, hear.) Why did not the Noble Lord instruct him as to the course he was to pursue? Why was he left without instructions in such extraordinary circumstances—circumstances which he had long before pointed out as likely to arise? (Hear, hear.) Aut the matter did not rest here; the noble Lord received further information in a letter, dated April 20, 1838, stating "That the Chinese Government are now in earnest, and whatever vacillation they may have exhibited before are determined to put down the trade, having executed a Chinese under the walls of the factory, for the purpose of striking terror into the opium traders" He read this to show that the danger was known in London previous to the next letter of the Noble Lord. There was another letter, dated December, 1838, page 323, in which he says:—

"I am concerned to report that the trade is at this moment cast into a state of critical difficulty by a circumstance which, so far as it has reached my knowledge, I have now the honour to detail. It appears that the Governor has lately incurred the severe displeasure of the Court, upon the ground of a lax execution of the orders concerning the more effectual prevention of the traffic in opium. A remarkable increase of activity has ensued, and on Monday last, the 3d instant, a seizure of opium was made by the Custom House officers at Canton, immediately in front of the foreign factory inhabited by Mr. James Innes. The two native coolies who were landing the boxes were apprehended, and are said to have confessed (I am very much afraid under the infliction of cruel punishment) that they were that gentleman's servants; that the opium was his, and that it had been brought from a ship at Whampoa.

"Then in another letter he alluded to the stoppage of the boats, and in that of 27th January, 1838, he calls for "some adequate power to control men whose rashness renders them amenable to the Chinese laws." In a letter of 21st January, 1839, Captain Elliot alludes to a conversation he had held with a native on this subject, of whom he says—
"He referred me with earnestness to the requests which had been made before the Company's monopoly was abolished to make provision for the Government of her Majesty's subjects; and he desired to know what more was wanted, and how it was possible to preserve the peace, if all the English people who came to this country were to be left without control? He further entreated me to remind 'my nation's great Ministers' —

Meaning of course the Noble Lord and his colleagues. — (A laugh)

"That this Government never interposed, except in cases of extreme urgency, upon the principle that they were ignorant of our laws and customs, and that it was unjust to subject us to rule made for people of totally different habits, and brought up under a totally different discipline. I must confess, my Lord, that this reasoning appears to me to be marked by wisdom and great moderation; and at all events, convinced as I am that the necessity of control, either by British or Chinese law, is urgent, I would most respectfully submit these views to the attentive consideration of her Majesty's Government. My own anxiety on this subject will be more explicable, when I inform your Lordship, that till I am differently instructed, I should hold it to be my duty to resist to the last the seizure and punishment of a British subject by the Chinese law, be his crime what it might; and crimes of the gravest character have lately been of everyday probability."

After this it could not be said that Government were ignorant of the state of the case, or of the necessity for protection. But there was another letter, in which Captain Elliot informed the Noble Lord that an indictment had been issued against the consumer as well as the dealer in opium, and this letter was received before the letter of the Noble Lord at page 344 could have been despatched. It was true that the letter of the Noble Lord could not have arrived in China until after the unfortunate events which had been alluded to. He did not mean to attribute those events to the letter of the Noble Lord; he merely wished to show the sort of attention the Noble Lord had paid to the affairs of China, and the mode in which he had thought fit to answer Captain Elliot (Hear, hear.) The answer of the Noble Lord informed Captain Elliot that: —

"Your despatch to the 31st of December of last year, and to the 30th of January of this year, have been received and laid before her Majesty's Government.

"With reference to such of these despatches as detail the circumstances which led to an interruption of the trade for a short period in December last, and the steps which you took, in consequence, with a view to the re-opening of the trade, and to the re-establishment of your official communications with the Chinese authorities, I have to signify to you the entire approbation of her Majesty's Government" of your conduct on those matters."

Was that a sufficient answer to all the propositions and statements made by Captain Elliot. (Hear, hear, hear.) Was that an answer to his remonstrance and his demands for fresh instructions? This was the time for the Government to act, and what did they answer? "We approve of what you have done for the re-opening of the trade." (Hear, hear). The Noble Lord continued —

"But I have at the same time to instruct you not to omit to avail yourself of any proper opportunity to press for the substitution of a less objectionable character than the character "Pin" on the superscription of the communications which you may have occasion to address to the Viceroy."

The Noble Lord's letter contained not a single allusion to the various letters he had received, but merely a caution to avoid adopting the objectionable word "pin" (Laughter.) These two letters were the only letters sent out by the Noble Lord. These were all the instructions he thought proper to give in his extraordinary position. (Hear.) After such conduct he contended that it would be impossible to come to any other conclusion than that the present state of affairs in China was mainly attributable to the neglect of her Majesty's Ministers. (Hear, hear.) The Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Macaulay) had admitted that this was the most important part of the change, but he had also very carefully avoided any attempt to grapple with it. (Hear, hear.) He (Sir W. Follett) could not remember that the Right Hon. Gentleman had made any answer to the charge, except the discovery for which the House was indebted to him, that China was further off than Paris. ("Hear," and cheers.) If a Member of the Government could make no better defence than that, he thought it was conclusive as to the culpability of the Government. (Hear, hear.) The Right Hon. Gentleman had also contended that no part of the consequences had been entailed by the attempt of Captain Elliot to
establish himself at Canton, seeing that he had permission to do so. It was true that he had permission after a certain time, and it was also worth knowing, that he succeeded in establishing himself by departing from the course pursued by Lord Napier, and styling himself merely the supercargo to the East India Company. The circumstances which had occasioned the ill-success of Lord Napier were well known. The Chinese Government would not permit the residence in that country of any person calling himself the representative of any foreign Power, nor would they suffer him to correspond with any member of the Chinese Government on terms of equality. Now, that was the point which the Noble Lord had so often pressed in opposition to the opinion of the Duke of Wellington, and it was with that point that he concluded his extraordinary letter. Well, what had been the consequence? It was predicted at the time the trade was opened that some collision would take place, which would destroy the trade altogether. That trade had now been opened five years, and ever since been in a constant state of disturbance. (Hear, hear.) That state of things had never occurred before, but now matters were worse than ever, for trade has been entirely stopped, and war was actually declared. The Government were going to send our soldiers and sailors to fight with a half civilized, perhaps a barbarous, but at all events an unwarlike people. To carry on an inglorious war which, even if successful, would add no lustre to our arms. (Hear, hear.) The Right Hon. Gentleman had not contended that it was a wise or a politic war, but he had said that it was a just one. If the Governor of a French island had imprisoned a British subject for the crimes of another it might be just cause of offence, but he had very grave doubts whether, considering the peculiar manners of the Chinese we could apply the conventional rules of European nations to justify a war with that country. (Hear, hear.) When they spoke of Macao they should recollect that there was no maxim of international law better understood than that which told us that foreigners residing in a country were amenable to the laws of that country. (Hear, hear.) But Hon. Gentlemen opposite would not recognise that law; and, if they refused to allow a European to be tried by the Chinese laws, and that afterwards the Chinese took steps which by the laws of Europe would not be justifiable, such as imprisoning an innocent person, still he entertained very grave doubts whether under the circumstances, they were not justifiable. (Hear, hear, hear.) We violated her laws ourselves and yet if the Chinese violated them in the slightest degree we considered it a just cause for war. He confessed that he was nor fond of war under any circumstances, but if this country did embark in a war he would wish it to be such a one as could not be censured. (Hear, hear.) He did not like to see it embark in a war with a people who, according to Captain Elliot, were only seeking for justice. He confessed that he was very reluctant to let loose against that people all the horrors of European warfare. (Hear, hear.) But be the war just or not, of this he was sure, that it must be attended with injurious results. That it must increase the burdens of the people; and when Hon. Gentlemen told him that the feeling out of doors was in favour of this war he would say that he knew not what the feeling was, but he could tell the Government that there was a growing uneasiness out of doors respecting the foreign transactions of this country. (Hear, hear.) He believed that feeling to be that, in the present critical state of the world, our foreign relations and affairs were not to be trifled with. (Hear, hear.) Whether this war was just or unjust, it was quite clear that it had been brought about by neglect and by the conduct of the Government. It was impossible to foresee where it would end for whilst in hostility with China, we would have a stoppage of trade and the danger of collision with other nations. In fact we could not hope that the war would be confined to the country against which it had been waged. (Hear, hear.) He would not further detain the House, except by declaring that, after the most careful consideration he could give the subject, he felt bound to vote for the motion of his Right Hon. Friend, because he was fully satisfied that the charge of neglect and misconduct against the Government had been completely made out. (Hear, hear.)

Sir George Staunton said that he had no intention of following the legal arguments of the Right Hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, as that would be more ably performed by others; but he thought that the many years he had resided in China, almost in a diplomatic capacity, entitled him to the privilege of saying a few words. He felt that he was further called on to do so by the exaggerated statement of the Right Hon. Baronet with respect to certain resolutions he had proposed to this House some time ago—(Hear, hear)—and all he could say of those resolutions was, that he fully adhered at that moment to every word they contained. (Hear, hear.) He rose under considerable difficulty, as the complicated difficulties of this question might well puzzle a more practised debater. He appealed, however, to the indulgence of the House. (Hear, hear.) Before he entered on the general question of the debate, he ought to allude to something like a personal allegation against himself, which he found in the papers upon the table upon this subject, and which submitted that the China Courts Bill was mainly arrested in its progress by the objections which he had made against it. He had the satisfaction of knowing that the course which he had taken (so we understood the Honourable Gentleman, who was not very distinctly heard) had met with the approbation of the Hong merchant
Howqua. His only wish was, that in establishing a British Court of Justice in China they should have the guarantee of the Chinese Government for the exercise of its powers. But he could not wish to see the establishment of a Court of Justice left entirely to the approbation of the Chinese, and therefore he had opposed the Bill. Coming to the immediate question before the House, and looking at the motion of the Right Hon. Baronet, he thought that it omitted entirely any reference to the great question which now, as it were, agitated the country, viz., whether the vote of confidence the House was about to be called upon to give was a righteous and a just vote or not. (Cheers.) He could not then consider that he would be doing his duty if he confined himself simply to the motion of the Right Honourable Baronet. When he considered that the Noble Lord (John Russell) three weeks ago told that House that the object of the armament fitting out for China was for the reparation of the injuries and insults sustained to procure indemnity for the losses of British merchants, and to obtain satisfaction on that head, he must say that he felt great surprise that, at the end of three weeks, when there was a great field night with respect to China, not one word should have been introduced into the motion as to the precise position of that part of the subject. (Hear, hear.) When he saw the language of those journals which favoured the politics of the Right Hon. Baronet’s party describing the war in China as a dishonour to this country, and using the most disgraceful epithets upon that subject, he could not but rejoice that no party in that House had risen to give its sanction to such opinions. (Hear, hear, hear.) Feeling as he did, though with considerable reluctance, that the war which was threatened was perfectly just and necessary, and, under the circumstances, politic, he did rejoice that it had received the tacit approbation of that House. ("Hear, hear," from all parts of the House.) At the same time he did not share in the sanguine feeling which many entertained as to this war. He was wholly prepared for its being a protracted struggle; and therefore he thought that it was the bounden duty of those who considered that it was an unjust and impolitic war to interpose their protest against it before it should be carried into effect. (Hear, hear, hear.) He was not at all in the confidence of her Majesty’s Government upon the subject, and knew nothing of the course they intended to pursue beyond what was publicly announced in that House, and therefore in expressing his approbation of their course, it was only an approbation of the general principle of it, and he should reserve himself for any details that might come before him. It was with reluctance he gave his consent to any war. His wish had ever been to act on the principle that, whatever might be our opinion of the laws established in China, yet he had no right to impugn them. He felt it to be his duty to say that the trade out of which these proceedings had arisen was injurious to both parties, and it might have been suppressed. Some time ago an opinion prevailed that the honour of this country demanded that some investigation should take place upon the subject. For his own part he sympathised with the fate of Lord Napier, and felt that his first step was a wrong one in going up to the Chinese city without a passport. (Hear.) The able administration of his successor, Mr. Davis, restored the prosperity of our trade with China, and this prosperity continued for two years, when Captain Elliot succeeded Mr. Davis at a very unfortunate period—at a time when the Chinese Government took more vigilant measures than before for the suppression of the trade (Hear.) The conduct of the British subjects as to that traffic had by many excellent and amiable persons been considered such a provocation of the Chinese Government that we had no cause whatever for entering upon a system of such violent and unjust outrages against them as we were now guilty of. With regard to the morality or policy of this trade, he yielded to no man in his detestation of it. He had offered to second the motion of his Noble Friend the Member for Liverpool whenever he brought it forward, but though he could trace from the resolutions of the committee of 1832, which declared against relinquishing the revenues of the opium trade in China, the whole of the subsequent mischief that had ensued, he felt that he had no right to feel surprised that her Majesty’s Government had not adopted that principle. Even the Noble Lord (Sandon) had conceived it to be most expedient to take further time with regard to his motion, seeing that the evil consequences of the opium trade were evident on every side. But the question between this country and the Chinese Government as to the opium trade was not a question of morality or of policy, but whether there had been any breach of international right or international law. (Hear, hear.) When the law against the opium trade was in abeyance, when the Viceroy prohibited the trade one day and the next lent his own name and vessels to bring opium up to Canton — (Hear)— he did not feel surprise that respect should not be paid to resolutions which were not regarded by the Chinese themselves. The policy of the Chinese had ever been that all crimes but that of murder should in the first instance be punished upon the Hong merchants, and if that would not do they suspended the trade with the country to which the offenders belonged, and their ultima ratio was expulsion from China. Any opium that was found on shore was confiscated, and equally so if found in vessels within the limits of Canton; but there was no law against opium in ships outside the river of Canton. This was the state of the law up to the time when the Imperial commissioner arrived at Canton, who brought with him
a very severe law, announcing death against any one trading in opium, and also confiscating his property. Still, severe as this law was, they were bound to submit to it or to abandon the trade. But to attempt to punish by a new law those who bad arrived in China under the old law must be admitted by every one to be an act of flagrant injustice. (Hear, hear, hear.) He considered that we were justified in exacting reparation for this, and ultimately to resort to hostilities in case it should be refused. Mr. King, an American merchant, had described the Commissioner Lin, and said that he treated the English as the Chinese treated refractory villages or fortresses — he put them to the sword. He (Sir G. Staunton) conceived that the interests of the merchants in China was not the only thing affected. Our proceedings in the East were altogether founded on the force of opinion; and if we were to submit to any degradation in China, the time would soon come when our political ascendency in India would be undermined. (Hear.) The course which he hoped her Majesty's Government were about to pursue was to make a rational proposition to China. (Hear, hear, hear.) But considering the character of the people of that country, and what their conduct had been, any such proposition must be supported by a competent force. (Hear, hear, hear.) He was convinced that if ever the opium trade was put down it could only be by the co-operation of the Chinese Government and our own, by means of a treaty; and he looked forward to the measure now in pursuance as affording the only prospect of this traffic being put down. (Hear.)

To come, however, more immediately to the motion of the Right Hon. Baronet, its object seemed to be to show that other policy ought to have been pursued than that which had been adopted by her Majesty's Government — (Hear, hear) — but he confessed he could not trace from the terms of that motion what that policy ought to have been. (Cheers.) If they had been told in distinct terms that the policy of the Government ought to have been to put down the opium trade he could understand its meaning. — (Cries of Hear, hear, hear). They might then have met it with the answer, "that they were all very wise after the event." (Hear, hear, hear). But he did not think that the Right Honourable Baronet was so. (Hear, hear, hear.) He did not say what he proposed. He (Sir George Staunton) thought it unjust to visit on her Majesty's present Ministers a system which had been previously adopted by that House. It was now too late to blame them when they were aware of the results of that system. Looking at the despatches of the Noble Lord the Secretary of State he could not in any way connect them with the unhappy issue which had arrived. Although he (Sir George Staunton) entertained as strong an opinion as was possible against the opium trade, he could not condemn his Noble Friend for not having put it down after it had increased to such an extent as it had in 1837, when it formed so large a branch of the British trade with China. With respect to the immediate and ultimate cause of the rupture, the conduct of the Imperial Commissioner Lin, he did not think that either his Noble Friend or any other person in China could have anticipated that conduct. For two hundred years that we had commercial intercourse with China there was no instance of a similar outrage. The memorandum of the Duke of Wellington had been referred to, and there was much in that memorandum which corresponded with high character of that Noble Duke, and with his well-known sagacity (Hear) — but what were his orders to Lord Napier? His orders were that he should pay strict attention to the instructions which he had received from the Noble Lord the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. (Ministerial cheers) So far as the Duke of Wellington's orders were concerned, they were in conformity with those previously given by the Noble Lord. Much had been said of the want of power of the superintendent. But it was singular that in his letters he did not complain of any such want. He (Sir G. Staunton) felt great sympathy for the difficult position in which the superintending captain had been placed, and was sensible that he had displayed great gallantry and anxiety under the circumstances in which he found himself. Whether the course of conduct pursued by the superintendent was right or wrong he was not prepared to say, but it in great measure arose from his anxiety to meet the exigencies of the case. Therefore, although he entertained a strong opinion against the opium trade, and wished that it had been put down at an earlier period, he could see no reason for fixing on the present Ministers the late unhappy rupture, and therefore he would give a decided negative against the motion.

Mr. Sidney HERBERT after the able and clear case which had at length been laid before the House, would not feel it necessary to refer to further documentary evidence and should apply himself to one or two observations made by the gentlemen opposite. With respect to the Honourable Baronet who has just sat down, and whose authority ought to be high on the subject of China, he had listened to him with great attention, and could only wish that he could possibly understand by what means he arrived at the conclusion he had from the views which he professed on the opium trade. Having given his opinions to his (Mr. Herbert a) side of the House he had reserved his vote for his friends. (A laugh.) The Right Honourable Gentleman the Member for Edinburgh asked why had they made their censure on the Government retrospective? He should ask him, could they make their censure on their future conduct when it was not known what it was? (Hear, hear). It was not the custom of gentlemen on his side of the House to harass the
Government on subjects—(Ironical Ministerial cheers)—upon which they knew they were to blame, if in the discussion of them it was apprehended that any information would be extracted detrimental to the public service. (Opposition cheers.) The Right Hon. Gentleman the Member for Edinburgh held an opposite opinion to the Noble Lord the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, for he stated that the Duke of Wellington never meant that ships of war should be kept permanently on the China station, and that whenever difficulties arose with that country, then alone should ships go on the emergency. But the Noble Lord was not of that opinion, for he wrote in September, 1837, and suggested that one or more ships should be frequently on the Chinese station. He wished the necessity of two. This was what he called new remarks from us will be necessary, that men who have talent and character cannot sit for the dockyard boroughs in the nomination of the present Ministers and execute such tasks as that situation may occasionally impose, if talent is never to be prostituted and character never degraded.

On the motion of Mr. BROTHERTON, the debate was adjourned to this day.

1840 – The speech of Sir George Staunton on Tuesday night is extolled by the Ministerial party as the most successful defence of the conduct of the British Government in relation to China.

That Sir George Staunton has a claim to be regarded as an authority upon some subjects connected with China we do not deny; and, had his speech consisted of information as to the manners and habits of the Chinese people, or the established policy of the Chinese Government— or had it revealed to us any details not already generally known of the system by means of which the East India Company had for so many years been enabled to carry on a beneficial commerce, uninterrupted by war, with this extraordinary nation, nobody would have been more ready than ourselves to acknowledge its value, or have imbibed its instruction with greater gratitude and satisfaction.

But, unfortunately for the cause in which Sir George felt himself bound to engage, and still more unfortunately for his own reputation, these topics it was necessary to avoid, since any allusion to them would have contributed to the condemnation of Ministers, whom it was the office of the Honourable Member for Portsmouth to defend. Hence a speech which should have been a valuable one, on account of the addition to our previous stock of information to be expected from the speaker, proved a mere display of parliamentary tactics—how humiliating a display cannot be depicted more strongly than when we say that it degraded Sir George Staunton for the moment to a rank (as an inferior practitioner in the same line) below that of Mr. Babington Macaulay.

The public scarcely required this new proof, and will regret that it has been afforded them, that men who have talent and character cannot sit for the dockyard boroughs in the nomination of the present Ministers and execute such tasks as that situation may occasionally impose, if talent is never to be prostituted and character never degraded.

We will reprint here those passages of Sir George Staunton’s speech to which the Ministerial journals most triumphantly refer, as authoritative and conclusive in defence of their patrons. Few remarks from us will be necessary to show that they are conclusive of nothing, except it be that Sir George Staunton laid aside upon this occasion the
character of an authority, assumed that of a partisan, and wretchedly damaged the case he was set up to support. This venerable attaché to Lord Macartney's embassy said —

"The motion now before the House entirely evades the question of whether the contest upon which we are about to enter with China is a righteous and a just one, or an unrighteous and a cruel one." Now to us this language intimates an utter forgetfulness on the part of the speaker of the question before the House, or a settled determination to misrepresent it. The motion before the House expresses the opinion that "the interruption in our commercial and friendly intercourse with that country, and the hostilities which have since taken place, are mainly to be attributed to the want of foresight and precaution on the part of Ministers, and especially to their neglect to furnish the superintendent at Canton with powers and instructions calculated to provide against the growing evils connected with the contraband trade in opium," etc. Sir G. Staunton must be one of the slowest reasoners that ever attempted to put two ideas together if, as his language imports, he had failed to perceive that the origin of the contest being such as the resolution describes and the contest being an unrighteous and cruel one, are identical propositions. We believe that few Members, even of the present House of Commons are likely to be convinced by the Hon. Member for Portsmouth that a contest can be a righteous and just contest on the part of this country which is mainly to be attributed to the want of foresight and precaution of her Majesty's advisers, and their neglect to furnish the representative of the British Government in a distant part of the world with necessary powers and instructions.

Sir George then proceeds to say: —

"He should not do his duty if he confined himself to the narrow view of the subject, when he considered that the Noble Lord the Secretary for the Colonies (Lord John Russell) had three weeks ago announced to the House that the object of the armament notoriously fitting out for China was to obtain a reparation of the injury and insult which British subjects had sustained—to obtain an indemnity for the losses; that had been imposed upon them, and to re-establish our trade with that country on a more secure and satisfactory footing — he must say he felt great surprise, that at the end of three weeks, when a field day was appointed for the discussion of the Chinese question, not one word should be introduced into the motion having reference to this expedition.

"Sir George Staunton does not deny that the injuries and insults have been reciprocal — he does not even pretend that the first insult or injury proceeded from the Chinese — neither does he attempt to dispute the correctness of the proposition contained in the motion that the interruption in our commercial and friendly intercourse with China has arisen from the misconduct of the British Government — and yet he is the advocate upon whom Ministers mainly rely, because he will not perceive that the resolution which censures the misconduct of Ministers does in effect censure the expedition for which that misconduct had occasioned the necessity. To have been twice at Pekin is an invaluable advantage to a Member of the House of Commons, if it confers the privilege of a hearing for such reasoning as that of Sir George.

"For his own part (he continued) he thought that the war in which it was supposed we were about to engage was perfectly just and necessary, and he rejoiced that it had at least received the tacit approbation of the House. At the same time he was fully prepared for many difficulties — fully prepared for its being a protracted war, and therefore he thought it was the bounden duty of those who thought it was an unjust and impolitic war to interpose their protest against it before it was carried into effect."

As to the probable difficulties and the protracted duration of the war, Sir George Staunton may, we suppose, be regarded as an authority, since he has had better opportunities than most men of acquiring the information upon which any correct opinion in reference to these questions must depend. But how those who think the war unjust or impolitic should have interposed their protest before the war was carried into effect it is difficult to imagine, since the expedition is to be on the coast of China in May, and the earliest opportunity that the House of Commons could take to commence the discussion of the subject, unless, indeed, it had discussed it without evidence of any kind in its possession, was the 7th of April. Sir George, indeed, when taunting those who think the war unjust or impolitic, on account of the absence of any express reference to the expedition, in this resolution of censure against Ministers, is reported to have said that a swift sailing vessel might even now be in time to prevent actual hostilities. How great an
authority Sir G. Staunton is upon the subject of the present debate is shown by this assertion. It is one upon which none but an authority of the first magnitude could have ventured.

One or two more specimens of the twaddle of Sir George Staunton, and we have done:—"Much as he disapproved of the trade in opium, he could not condemn the Noble Lord for not having violently put a stop to a trade which formed three-fifths of our Indian commerce."

And who does condemn the Noble Lord for not having violently put a stop to it? The Noble Lord is condemned, and justly, for not having empowered and instructed the superintendent to check it when repeatedly admonished of the mischievous consequences to which it must inevitably lead. And this just condemnation is not mitigated, but rendered more severe, by the importance to which the illegal traffic had attained.

Again—

"The orders given by the Duke of 'Wellington to Lord Napier were precisely that he should pay strict attention to the instructions he had received from the Noble Lord, so that here was a strong confirmation of the propriety of the instructions which had been so issued."

"The orders of the Duke of Wellington were a distinct censure of Lord Napier for having violated his instructions. And this order, which coincided completely with the memorandum of the illustrious Duke, Lord Palmerston did not sustain; but by the whole tenor of his own official correspondence with the Chinese superintendents, entirely and effectually reversed. 9 April 1840, Morning Post

1840—CHINA—(ADJOURNED DEBATE). The order of the day for the adjourned debate on China:

It has been remarked by honourable baronet the member I for Portsmouth (Sir George Staunton), that he was disposed to vote against the present motion in consequence of the course pursued by the Chinese government upon the question of opium. The honourable baronet said, that there had been great vacillation; that long the long forbearance which had been shown the persons engaged in the trade might have considered it equal to a sanction that the greatest cruelties had been committed by the Chinese; that punishments had been dealt out which had never before been applied to the trade in opium; and the honourable baronet added, that he could not sanction any such proceedings, and that he should, to mark his dislike, vote against the present motion. He (Mr. Thesiger) could see no such vacillation on the part of the Chinese government; he saw nothing but certainty and dedication on the part of the emperor to put an end to the trade; from the time of the edict of November, 1834, down the appearance of the high commissioner, he found that the emperor’s attraction and anxiety were directed to the reception of reports from his high officers. He believed that orders which he sent to Canton were duly executed; and it was not till his attention was called to the year 1838, that he sent down a special commissioner, armed with ample powers to put an end to this odious traffic. Where was there anything like vacillation — where was there anything like cruelty — where was there anything like the changeableness which had tamed the honourable baronet from these who had supported his motion, and had induced him to give his support to her Majesty’s government! He could see nothing whatever that could justify the observation which the honourable baronet had made upon this part of the motion. He confessed too, that although he for one did not approve of the application of extreme punishment for trifling offences yet, the house must realise that they had to deal with what the right honourable gentleman the member for Edinburgh (Mr. Macauley), had called a nation half barbarian and half civilised, and as such they ought to be allowed to execute their own laws in their own way on their own way on their own people (cheers), without giving any arcreality for interference. This, then, was the state of things which had brought on the unhappy position in which this country was now placed. According to their own usages and customs the Chinese, the thought, were Justified in the course they took. He would not pursue that branch of the argument into which his honourable friend had entered, founded an fact that the first hostility or that the first aggression was on the part of Captain Elliot. He had no doubt that there had been cruelties on the part of Chinese, but these had been much exaggerated, and there was at any rate no proof on which they could be attributed to the Chinese authorities. We were, however, now plunged into a war, the issue of which it was to foresee; the expense of the contest must be enormous; with the known state of our public revenues, it would be calamitous to add to the burdens of the people even for necessary measures; but he said that it was a still greater calamity to impose these fresh burdens
for the support of a war which was not necessary, and which was brought about by a series of impolite, improper, and negligent measures on the part her of her Majesty’s government. And when honourable gentlemen opposite asked them (the Opposition) to point out the course which they would have paraded, gave at once for an answer that they would have pursued a totally different course in every respect from that which had been adopted, and they have given definite instructions to our superintendent (cheers), to enable him to act with all authority on every branch of this subject, and instructions which would, be believed, have been the means of preventing this fatal war—fatal by but a right to call it, for its effects would be felt from one extremity of the empire to the other, and from the highest to the lowest class. He felt so satisfied that the evidence, when calmly considered would fully bear out the terms of the motion of the right honourable baronet, that motion would found entitled to support. In every respect; and, for himself, he had no hesitation in giving for that motion his hearty, his cordial vote. After thanking the house for the attention with which they had listened to him, the learned gentleman resumed his seat amidst much cheering.

Sir GEORGE STAUNTON rose to explain. He had stated that the grounds on which he opposed this motion were that he could see no connection between the rupture with China and any act of omission or of commission on the part of her Majesty’s government (cheers). The honourable and learned member had also misunderstood him relative to the conduct of the Chinese government. He did not object to the sanguinary laws to be administered by Mr Commissioner Lin generally, but he did object to such sanguinary laws being acted upon retrospectively against those who had come to China on the faith of the old law. The honourable and learned gentleman had also stated, in reference to the British subjects, that they had always been under restraints or restrictions, whilst he believed that there had been no instance of such restriction for at least two hundred years.

1840 – The House of Commons has been engaged, during three long evenings of debate, in considering the character of the war in which the government has committed itself with China; and by a majority of nine only has the vote of censure, for such it must be called, been warded off. But, though the ministers have obtained this trifling majority, they are condemned by two hundred and sixty two of the people's representatives, and by the nation at large the principle of the war is all but universally condemned. During the debate, the great, and indeed only, effort of the ministerial speakers has been to mystify the real question at issue. A thousand trivial, though collateral, points have been seized upon, while the great cause of the contest has been left untouched. It is not contradicted that from 1796 the Chinese government has endeavored to prevent and destroy the traffic in the vile drug, for the production of which the finest lands in India are reserved. But it is urged that the Chinese authorities at Canton have connived at the infraction of their own laws! but can such profigacy and betrayal of the trust reposed in them by their own government, be adduced as a justification of our participation in the fraud? The Globe denies that the introduction of a contraband article into another country is smuggling, if the government injured is unable to keep up a sufficient preventive force to intercept the smuggler — by which rule, of course, the success of a run of brandy in this country at once changes its character. And this kind of sophistry is but the reflection of the ministerial portion of the debate. With a similar disregard of fairness, the ministerial apologists say that— giving up all defence of the trade in opium, still the manner in which the Chinese authorities have, at the eleventh hour, attempted to enforce the stoppage of the forbidden traffic has deprived them of all right to consideration from us — that we are not to make allowance for just resentment or ignorance of the European law of nations — but that, having first commuted an illegal act ourselves, the illegal acts that have in consequence been committed by the party first injured are to be resented to the death — the very absurdity of the claim affords its own refutation.

But Lord Palmerston, being in one of his happiest moods, declared, at the close of the debate, that the charges made by Sir James Graham did not require an answer. Let us take a summary view of them —

"Sir James accuses the Queen's ministers of having first insisted on forcing the superintendent of the English factory o the Chinese as a resident at Canton, instead of at Macao, which to the suspicious Chinese was an annoyance of no small magnitude. The superintendent, instead of confining himself, as the supercargoes of the East India Company had done, to intercourse with the Hong merchants, had been encouraged to thrust himself into direct communication with vice-regal authority. The ministers had, instead of protecting, by fitting demonstrations, our trade with China, in these critical circumstances, left it without protection. The ministers had revolutionised our Chinese trade, outraged the prejudices and offended against the customs of China to an extent never attempted before, and having done so our ministers exposed all British residents in China, and traders to her ports, to dangers against which they provided no
shadow of security. Ministers committed this atrocious folly, not merely in defiance of the suggestions of ordinary prudence, but in utter disregard of the express recommendation of the Duke of Wellington on the subject. That Illustrious man, when in office in 1835, expressly laid it down that to force our superintendent upon the Chinese at Canton, and to seek to communicate directly with the vice-regal authority, was a grievous error. He laid it down moreover that until our trade should be completely established on its new footing, "a stout frigate, and a smaller vessel of war" should always be kept at the disposal of the superintendent. During the fifty three months that immediately followed the introduction of our new system of trade, for eight months only was there a British vessel, and that of very insignificant force, in the seas of Canton. Again, while ministers were fully aware of the growth of a smuggling trade in opium, and that the Chinese were justly jealous, Captain Elliott the superintendent, was left utterly without power to repress or, limit the obnoxious traffic. Under the old system the East India Company withdrew licenses from owners of vessels who might violate the law, of China, but that power was never extended to the superintendent under the new system Captain Elliott was, in fact, the representative at Canton of British interests, yet utterly destitute of all real power to uphold the dignity of England in the eyes of the Chinese authorities, or to watch over our legitimate trade with their empire. Captain Elliott in vain directed Lord Palmerston's attention to his own anomalous position- in vain did he require to be invested with the requisite powers - in vain demanded specific instructions for his guidance in circumstances so strange as those in which he found himself placed. To these remonstrances and solicitations Lord Palmerston paid not the slightest attention."

That the Foreign Secretary should regard such charges as undeserving of an attempt at refutation we do not believe — he, in fact, was unable to refute them, or the remainder of his speech shows he would have done so. His only approach to a defence was by a sneer at the vagueness of the motion of Sir James Graham, which he contended was less precise than even his own instructions to Captain Elliott. Sir George Staunton did not defend the smuggling of opium, but defended the war on account of its necessity — a necessity produced — be it observed by our own misconduct. Sir Robert Peel's reply to this disgraceful plea was killing! —

“It has been urged, moreover, observed the right hon. baronet, ” that while we ensure by our motion the conduct if ministers, we pronounce no opinion as to the necessity of the war with China. Now, it may be true, that the war with China may now be necessary ; and yet, it may no less be true, that that painful necessity may have been created by the misconduct of her Majesty's ministers. If the honourable gentlemen opposite want an illustration of my meaning, I can furnish them with one from high whig authority. I refer them to the conduct of Mr. Fox in 1793, who supported a proposition for carrying on the war against France with vigour, and yet, on the same night, moved a vote of censure on the existing government for having rendered a war with France necessary."

If it were not for the miserable dependents on official pay, the vote of censure would have passed — as it is, a majority of but nine, on a division of such momentous interest, adds to the load of disgrace which, though it may not crush ministers who are insensible to all considerations of honour, or of justice, at least deprives them of any sympathy from the country. The very remoteness of the seat of war renders its fearful importance less obvious to the public mind for the moment, but when its real character becomes more developed, and the immense drain upon the public purse, which it must entail, is felt in the shape of increased taxation, the nation will regret that the vote come to on Thursday night had not been of a character which would have arrested a contest, at once a burthen and a reproach to the British people.

11 April 1840. Hampshire Advertiser

1840 – Extract of a letter from an eminent British Missionary in China addressed to Sir George Staunton, and dated December 7th, 1839 – “It has been ascertained from the most authenticated sources which leave no doubt, that the Commissioners highly approved of the murderous attack upon the passage-boat Black Joke, and himself ordered the poisoning of the wells at Hong-Kong; and that he richly rewarded the mandarin who committed the atrocious assassination of the Joke's crew, as well as another who burnt the Spanish ship Bilbao, in the Harbour of the Tyra. Noble as is the object for which this grandee was sent to Canton, he is a man without the least principle, and of the most truculent disposition. Had he the physical power at his command, few Englishmen would have to tell the tale of their sufferings. The violent measures of Lin, have drained all the resources of the country. Piracy and highway robbery flourish throughout the province, and their smuggling is much worse than it was at any previous period.”

18 May 1840, Hampshire Telegraph
1840 – We have pleasure in recording that in addition to Sir George Staunton’ name as an Honorary Member, to the Portsea Island Cricket Club, they have boast of the names of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Edward Carter, Esq., and Major Travers; we are pleased at this, but we cannot too often repeat our wish that not only gentlemen connected with the town in the way are respected members are, should patronise the sport, but that those living in it, but who could if they would, twice a week, (Tuesday and Friday), take a walk to the Common, to look on, if not to play, should take an equal interest in the game. 18 May 1840, Hampshire Telegraph

1840 (20 May) - A Portrait of Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., M.P. for Portsmouth, F.R.S. etc., and engraved by William Overend Geller— is also a good specimen of modern engraving. Sir George Staunton accompanied Lord Macartney secretary on his embassy to China, and President of the Select Committee at Canton. This portrait, which must be valued all who admire long, useful, and consistent conduct in Parliament, is dedicated to his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex. It is nearly a whole length figure—a good likeness, and done in excellent taste. 26 May 1840, Hampshire Advertiser

1840 – House of Commons, (29 May) – Sir George Staunton presented a petition from Portsmouth, praying that the Port might be selected as a mail-packet Station. 30 May 1840, The Sun (London)

1840 – House of Commons, (15 June) – Sir George Staunton presented a petition from Lymington, against Church extension. 22 June 1840, Hampshire Chronicle

1840 – The following noblemen and gentlemen presented addresses to the Queen at her Majesty’s Levee on Wednesday:- Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P. – of congratulation, from the clergy, churchwardens, and parishioners of the parish of Warblington, Hampshire. 3 July 1840, Morning Post

1840 – THE PLENIPOTENTIARY FOR CHINA. It was at first reported that Sir George Staunton had been appointed by the home Government to conduct the negotiations with China. Afterwards it was said, that no less a person than Earl Auckland would go in propria persona in the Hon. Company's steamer the Queen. The most creditable and natural report is, that Admiral the Hon. George Elliot, C. B., will conduct both the coercive and diplomatic business. The expedition is to direct itself against Canton. 8 September 1840, The Sun (London)

1840 – Horticultural Society (20 October) - The ordinary meeting was held yesterday afternoon. Dr. Henderson, vice-president, in the chair. The only presents announced were No. 120 of the Flora Butava, by the ex-King of Holland and a part of a new work from the Prince Salius, after which a short note was read from Mr. Scott, gardener to Sir George Staunton. Bart, on the cultivation of Nerimbium Speciosum, a flowering plant, of which specimen was exhibi- 

1840 – CHINA REVENUE. - According to Sir George Staunton the revenue is £66,000,0001. sterling, chiefly derived front a rent paid for the use of the land, (for the Emperor is sole proprietor, and is paid one-twelfth of the produce, and also from tie monopoly of salt,) and from the Customs and Duties, £48,000,000 is expended is the provinces wherein the revenue raised, for the expenses of the Governments, and £12,000,000 is remitted to Pekin for the expenses of the general Government. As a very large portion of the revenue is paid in kind, the collection and transit of the duties is very costly, for the transmission of the revenue to Pekin the Imperial or Treasury Canal was constructed. Formerly a capitation tax was levied, but this is now abandoned. 28 November 1840, The Sun (London)

1840 – England and China – The first appearance of an English fleet on the coast of China was in 1637, when the Dragon, Sun, Catherine, and Anne, commanded Captain Weddel anchored at the mouth of the Bogue. They were well received first, but the Portuguese at Macao having represented the English as “rogues, thieves, and beggars,” the Chinese secretly mounted pieces of ordnance with which they suddenly opened fire upon one of the ships’ barges. Captain Weddel, liked nothing better than fighting, hoisted the red flag, and opened broadside on the castle and the fortress right and left. Having in three hours silenced the Chinese guns, the crews manned the boats, seized the castle, burned the council house, and captured a junk laden with salt. The Mandarins this time discovered their mistake. They threw the whole blame of the affair on the Portuguese, and, to get peaceably rid of such troublesome customers, lost

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no time in supplying them with valuable cargoes. A trade was afterwards established at Formoss and Annoy, but in 1681 the East India Company there ordered their factories to be broken up, as they proved unprofitable. In 1689, about seven years after the ascendency of the Tartars was established over the whole of China, the British ship Defence arrived at Canton, and had a contest with the Hoppo about Customs’ duties. A compromise was effected, after which a sailor killed a Chinaman in a scuffle, and a riot ensued in which several of the crews lost their lives. A heavy fine was laid upon the ship, which was threatened to be detained until it was paid; but the Captain cleared for action, set the authorities at defiance, and forced the outward passage of the river. The Chinese revenged themselves by increasing the duties to an extent so enormous, that frequent attempts were made to remove the trade from Canton altogether. In this the English could not succeed, as the necessity of supplying the home market with tea obliged them submit to every impost that the most shameless and dishonest rapacity could hope extract from them. The firmness of Commodore Anson, when the Centurion appeared in the river off Canton, prevented a conflict, which had it taken place, would have terminated in the destruction not only of the fortresses the Boca Tigris, but of the city. With shame we acknowledge, that the pusillanimous conduct of Admiral Drury, in 1808, was calculated to increase the natural arrogance of the Chinese, although the spirited conduct of Sir George Staunton in 1814, and of Captain Richardson, in 1822, was sufficient to convince rational people that the English were not a nation to be bullied with impunity. In short, during upwards of two centuries that trade has been carried on between Great Britain and China, the Chinese government has had countless opportunities of observing that while it was easy to overcome us by chicanery, by falsehood, by base and servile appeals to our generosity, it was madness to dream of opposing us by force.

11 December 1840, Limerick Reporter

1840 – We publish this day an addition to the TOOKE controversy. It consists of two letters; one from Sir GEORGE STAUNTON, and the other from a correspondent, under the signature of "A Friend to Truth," who states that he is a member of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, and who has furnished us with his name.

The letter of Sir GEORGE STAUNTON calls for little in the way of remark. The honourable baronet states that till he entered the meeting room of the society he was totally ignorant of the question regarding Mr. TOOKE, and that he only rose to make the proposition of the previous question from a sincere desire to mediate between the contending parties, and bring the debate to a harmonious close.

Sir George adds, that "he conceived that the society having already some months before very properly exonerated itself from any participation in any use that might have been made of its name and influence for political purposes; and the question having been then considered as finally disposed of, it was equally inconvenient and unnecessary to re-open it." With all due submission to Sir George, the course proposed by him was very little calculated to promote the object he professes to have had in view. On the 16th of July the Secretary informs Mr. Duncombe that a sub-committee had been appointed to investigate the charge, and that the sub-committee had been summoned for the 21st July. Mr. Duncombe having attended at the time fixed, and produced his proofs, was clearly entitled to a decision one way or other. On the 5th of August the following resolution was communicated to him:-

“General Committee, August 5, 1840

“Resolved, That it is the opinion of the committee that no officer of the society, or member of the committee, ought to use his influence as such officer or member with any person employed by the society concerning any matter relating to elections, or otherwise, foreign to the objects of the society.”

In what manner could the matter be considered as finally disposed of by this resolution? Mr. Duncombe was invited to produce proofs in support of a specific charge against the treasurer of the society; these proofs he did produce, and, instead of deciding whether the charge had or had not been proved, the committee very gravely acquaint him that the influence of the society ought not to be used for election purposes. Why, that was assumed by all parties at the very outset of the proceedings. The issue was not to determine whether any officer of the society ought or ought not to be at liberty to pervert the influence of the society to election purposes, for the very entertaining the charge implied that such use of the influence of the society was improper; but, Mr. Tooke having denied the charge, to ascertain whether it could be brought home to him. What would be thought of a judge who, in the case of an indictment for felony, should, at the close of the trial, direct the jury not to acquit or condemn the prisoner, but to declare that no person
ought to commit a felony. How any man possessed of ordinary judgement could bring himself to believe that the enunciation of a general proposition like that in the resolution of the 5th of August could be deemed a final disposal of the question, is to us utterly incomprehensible. Without the positive authority of Sir GEORGE STAUNTON, we could not have for a moment supposed that the resolution was considered by those who adopted it, as disposing finally of the question. If, as Sir George affirms, the resolution was really framed with a view to get rid of an inconvenient charge at the twelfth hour, it appears that they soon became sensible of their mistake; for when Mr. Duncombe, having, no doubt, some suspicion of what Sir George has affirmed, observed on the 10th August, "In the truth of your resolution, as an abstract principle, every friend to the free and unbiased exercise of the election franchise must concur; but I wish to observe that, having brought under your notice a particular case, and having adduced evidence in support of that case, I consider it necessary, and beg, for the honour and credit of the society over which you preside, to be informed whether you sanction or condemn the conduct pursued upon that occasion by your treasurer, Mr. WILLIAM TOKE, “the Secretary of the Society, on the 12th November, stated that he had laid Mr. Duncombe’s letter before the committee, and that he was directed to inform him that they had it still under their consideration.

We would fain believe that some of the gentlemen who supported the proposition of Sir GEORGE STAUNTON were guided by more conclusive reasons than those which he has advanced, though it would appear, from his observing that he felt obliged to come forward with his statement, in consequence of our informing our readers that the part he took on the occasion would not raise him in the estimation of the public, that he really conceives it would raise him in the estimation of the public. What an idea, too, of an harmonious close he must have had, when he supposed that even if he could have carried the previous question, the other half of the meeting would have been satisfied by a course which merely screened a party believed by them to be guilty.

With respect to the other communication, there is an attempt in it to justify the society, which, not- withstanding, does not, we think, come very handsomely out of the affair. But we beg to direct the attention of our readers to a piece of important information in it, namely, that at the meeting of the committee of the society "the whole correspondence, and the minutes of former meetings, were read in detail, and that in addition to what has appeared in public papers one, if not two, written statements of Mr. Tooke were also read - statements which, though they perhaps denied the charge, or treated it as a trumpery affair, yet contained admissions sufficient to satisfy any mind that the sub-committee had acted with the sense and straightforwardness which might have been expected from such gentlemen."

We dismiss this business for the present, and would merely direct Mr. Tooke's attention to the invitation to him to place before the public the document or documents which he placed before the Society.

19 December 1840, Morning Chronicle

1840 – Sir George Staunton has kindly given £50 to the poor of Havant and Emsworth, which has been distributed in coal’s and other necessaries, very acceptable at this inclement season.

31 December 1840, Brighton Gazette

1841 – FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MISCELLANY CHINA.—THE LOWER CLASSES. Sir George Staunton, connected with the last British embassy in China, speaking of the results of Chinese government, says—" In the course of our journey through the Chinese empire, on the occasion of that embassy, I can recall to my recollection (the seaport of Canton, of course, excepted) but very few instances of beggary or abject misery among the lower classes, or of splendid extravagance among the higher; and I conceived myself enabled to trace almost universally throughout China the unequivocal signs of an industrious, thriving, and contented people.”

1 January 1841, Liverpool Standard and General Commercial Advertiser

1841 - Sir GEORGE STAUNTON presented a petition from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh against the bill on the subject of Medical Reform, which stood for a second reading that evening. The petitioners stated that the bill, so far from amending, would only injure the condition of the medical profession.

20 February 1841, Morning Chronicle

1841 - Sir George Staunton, Bart., as Patron of the of the Emsworth Literary Society, has during the past week has enriched the Library of that Institution, with 84 numbers of the coloured maps published by the Society for the
Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. The thanks of the managing body have been forwarded to their highly respected Patron, for this additional proof of his enlightened and generous support of a Society, which has for its object the extension of knowledge, and it is if the with great pleasure we record such an act, because we cannot but expect much future benefit will accrue to the Institution, from so noble and influential an example.

19 April 1841, Hampshire Telegraph

1841 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton presented a petition from Portsmouth, against the practice of employing dogs to draw carts.

1841 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton presented a petition agreed to at a numerous and respectable public meeting at Gosport, signed by many of the resident gentry, and nearly all the Principal Merchants and tradesmen of the neighbourhood, expressing their strongest disapprobation of the present Corn-laws, and praying that the ministerial measure of a fixed duty may pass into a law.

1841 – Portsmouth—Mr. Baring.— A meeting of the friends the Right Hon. F. T. Baring, M.P. and Sir George T. Staunton, M.P. took place on Thursday evening St Paul’s Rooms. St. George’s-square, for the purpose of taking measures to secure the return of those gentlemen to Parliament in the event of dissolution. The attendance of Reformers and Monopolists was extremely numerous, and the spirit which pervaded the meeting gave promise to the most active concert in support of both of the men and the measures now before the constituency of Portsmouth. Alderman Howard was in the chair, supported by Mr. Edward Carter, Mr. James Hoskins, Mr. Burbey, Mr. Herbert Allen, Mr. Ellyett, and a whole host of the old, staunch and tried friends of the people. The preliminary business - that of discussing the merits and qualities of our two members, Mr. Baring and Sir George Staunton, and their fitness again to represent us—was rapidly disposed of. Resolutions approving of their past, and expressing confidence in their future conduct, were carried in one the fullest meetings of the constituency ever known, without one single hand being held up against them. Monopoly got rough shake then. District committees, consisting of all the members who had served before, strengthened by a powerful infusion of new blood, were then appointed ; and these, divided into canvassing parties, have been hard and most successfully at work during the whole of yesterday and to-day (Saturday). The matter baa been taken in hand in thoroughly workman-like way, and the result will be the triumphant return (come who will against them) of Mr. Baring, once the child, now the champion of Portsmouth, and of his and our faithful ally and friend, Sir George Staunton.

1841 – House of Commons – Want of Confidence in Ministers – The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned Debate having been read:

Sir GEORGE STAUNTON said, the Noble Lord who had just sat down (Lord Charles Hamilton), blamed the Government with respect to their policy towards China. Now, he thought the conduct of the Government in that respect was worthy of, and entitled to, the confidence of the House and the country. The Hon. Baronet opposite said, he considered a war with China would be a protracted war. It was impossible, under the circumstances, that such difficult questions which had arisen could be settled without much negotiation. It appeared from the public papers of that very day, that the Emperor of China had refused to ratify the preliminary negotiations which had been entered into; but he (Sir George Staunton) could not see, after a careful review of the whole of the circumstances connected with the disputes with China, that her Majesty's present Government were at all to blame. It was not their fault that the war was not brought to a speedy termination. He wished to say a few words on the general question before the House,—that was, whether or not her Majesty’s Ministers were acting at variance with the spirit of the constitution, in retaining office after defeat? Now, it could not be denied that the present Government had brought forward and carried many useful and beneficial measures; and, instead of resigning office, in his opinion they were justified, and, in fact, bound to appeal to the country. They ought to dissolve Parliament, and then it would be seen whether they were supported by the people or not. Entertaining this opinion, he should vote against the motion before the House.

3 June 1841, Morning Advertiser
1841 – Portsmouth: There is at present no symptom of opposition to the re-election of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir George Staunton. A Tory for this place would not have the most distant chance of success.

19 June 1841, The Globe

1841 – ELECTION PROSPECTS (From our Reporters.) PORTSMOUTH, Thursday Evening. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir George Staunton arrived at the Fountain Hotel last evening. As no opposition to the re-election of these gentlemen is contemplated, and those public manifestations of political feeling and excitement which usually attend such occasions were dispensed with.

Early this morning the candidates commenced a canvass of their constituents, and about one o'clock they proceeded to the Crown rooms, where a number of the electors of the borough had assembled to receive them.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that although he understood that the usual opposition of his political opponents would not be offered to his re-election, and the re-election of his Honourable Colleague, yet he considered it necessary that they should give to the electors an opportunity of putting to them any questions they might think proper.

Mr. Levy, an elector, then asked the Right Hon. Gentleman whether, in case the Government went out of power Sir J. Campbell would be entitled to a pension as a retired Irish Lord Chancellor? To this the Right Hon. Candidate was unable or unwilling to give a direct answer. Mr. Levy and another elector then asked several other questions, in answer to some of which Mr. Baring stated that it was the intention of Ministers to bring forward the Administration of Justice Bill again next session. He likewise expressed his opinion that the ballot, if carried, would not answer the expectations of those who demanded it. Attacks having been made on the conduct of Ministers in reference to the new Poor Law, Mr. Baring had recourse to the old clap-trap assertion, that Sir R. Peel is a supporter of that Bill; but forgot to mention the various occasions on which the Right Hon. Baronet has demanded a mitigation of the more harsh enactments of that measure. The meeting having broken up, the candidates proceeded to canvass the remainder of the constituency.

25 June 1840, The Morning Post

1841 – PORTSMOUTH, MONDAY EVENING. The nomination of the candidates took place to-day. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir George Staunton, attended by their committee, arrived at the hustings In St. George's-square, Portsea, about half-past twelve o'clock, and shortly afterwards the Mayor, William Jones, Esq., came forward, and announced that the usual preliminary proceedings had been completed at the Town Hall, and he would now proceed to the election of two persons to represent the borough in Parliament. Mr. Alderman Barbey then came forward, and proposed the Right Honourable Francis Thornhill Baring, Chancellor of her Majesty's Exchequer, as a fit and proper person to represent the interests of the borough of Portsmouth in Parliament. Mr. Herbert Allen having seconded the nomination of Mr. Baring, Mr. G. W. Law proposed Sir George Thomas Staunton as a second candidate for their suffrages. Sir George's nomination was seconded by Mr. Griffin. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir G. Staunton having addressed the electors, The Mayor asked if there was any other candidate to be proposed, and, none appearing, he declared that the Right Hon. F. T. Baring and Sir George Staunton had been duly elected. Three cheers were then given for the candidates, and thanks having been voted to the Mayor, the electors dispersed.

3 July 1841, The Northern Star

1841 – TO ADMIRAL STOPFORD, K.C.B. The dinner in honour of Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, K.C.B. and his eminent services while commander of the Mediterranean fleet, took place on Thursday. No room in the borough being large enough adequately to accommodate the very numerous subscribers, a spacious booth was erected on the Grand Parade, and fitted with considerable taste and splendour. Shortly after six o'clock Major Travers conducted the distinguished guests, who had assembled at Messrs, Grant and Gidman's bank, to the pavilion, among whom were the gallant Admiral Stopford accompanied by Wm. Jones, Esq. (the mayor,) Dr. Quarner, the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Marquis of Anglesea. Earls Sandwich, March, and Hardwicke, Lord Henry Russell, General Pakenham, Admirals Codrington and Bouvierie, Commodore Sir Charles Napier, etc. The Mayor of the borough took his allotted seat as chairman amidst hearty cheers, his veteran guest being seated at his right hand. The banquet was served in excellent style by Mr. Sartain, of the Globe, the tables being actually loaded with venison and a variety of
other delicacies. Among the liberal contributors to the festive board was Sir George Staunton, Bart. M. P. who forwarded 400 ripe peaches the dessert.

1841 – Our worthy Member, Sir George Staunton, has been form weeks recreating himself on tile Continent, and returned to his London residence yesterday. He will spend his Christmas at Leigh Park, and will be at his post in Parliament on the opening of the session.

1842 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton presented two petitions praying for a total repeal of the present Corn Laws.

1842 – At the last meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, , held Saturday, it was stated by Sir George Staunton, Bart., that a magnetic observatory had actually been erected and furnished by the Chinese at Pekin, on the same principle as those recently constructed by the British Government at different parts of the world, according to the recommendations of the Royal Society.

1842 – Trade with China: Sir GEORGE STAUNTON said, he thought he should not be doing his duty if he did not say a few words upon the subject now before the House. If he had any bias on the subject when he was in China, he was rather opposed to Capt. Elliot's measure—he never gave it any support whatever. Still he thought that the warmest opponents of the opium trade might take an example from the course adopted by the British Parliament at the time of the abolition of slavery. The British Parliament considered that they were indebted to the holders of the slaves, and did not hesitate to give them 20,000,000 sterling. Upon the same principle, he (Sir G. Staunton) hoped the House would allow a compensation to those British merchants who had surrendered up so many chests of opium to Captain Elliot. The superintendents of trade that were appointed to China acted up to instructions given to them. The first two superintendents (Lord Napier and Mr Davis) did not think it their duty to interfere at all with the opium trade; but Sir George Robinson rather encouraged the trade, yet no part of his conduct received any reprobation. At length a different aspect of affairs took place. In January 1839, Capt. Elliot learnt that the Chinese Government intended to enforce a prohibition; under this state of things Captain Elliot ordered all the ships in the harbour at Canton then engaged in the opium trade. To sail away. Capt. Elliot certainly did not anticipate the violent act that was soon after put in force by Mr Commissioner Lin. Nor had he any right to anticipate such a proceeding. He knew that there was no law then existing in China by which those vessels could be seized. He (Sir G. Staunton) thought, therefore, that Captain Elliot could not be blamed for not having foreseen such conduct, heretofor unseen or un-thought of in civilised countries. Captain Elliot did, however, as a gallant officer, when the time came, give every support in his power to his countrymen in China, and in order to bring about an arrangement with the Chinese Government, he gave them a certain pledge, which, having given, he (Sir G. Staunton) thought he was bound to perform. The real nature of the transaction of the 6,000,000 dollars received from China would be understood from the papers which his Majesty’s Government had laid upon the table. In one of these were given at once the nature and character of the convention: it stated that the money was received in diminution of the just claim of Her Majesty's Government. (Hear, hear). He (Sir G. Staunton) thought this money was exactly a grant or instalment of the claim which Her Majesty’s Government had upon the Imperial Government. With this also the declaration of the Chinese themselves agreed. He could not, therefore, see the slightest reason why the money should not be paid to those just claimants who sought for compensation for the opium they had given up at the request of Captain Elliot. He thought the character of this country was at stake; and, admitting its superior condition in China, this was not the moment when the British Government should do anything calculated to shake the opinion entertained of its integrity. The losses sustained by British merchants in Canton were of a serious and extensive nature in seconding the motion.

1842 – House of Commons (2 June): Sir George Staunton presented a petition from the licensed victuallers of Portsmouth praying that the 42nd clause of the Metropolitan Police Act may not be introduced into the Public-house Act. The honourable member also presented two petitions from the Ministers and messengers’ of thirty Baptist churches, composing the southern association, against church rates.

1842 – CHINA. The Chinese folly appears to advancing to a denouement. Among the Parliamentary notices of motions for the next Session, which impatient Members of the House of Commons have already entered upon the
Notice-book, is one by Sir George Staunton, of certain resolutions pertaining to China. They affirm that military occupation of various stations on the Chinese coast has placed a population of several hundred thousand persons under British rule; that public pledgee have been given not to restore the positions except under certain conditions, and to provide for security of inhabitants if ever they are restored; that, therefore, a Bill ought to be introduced into Parliament authorizing the establishment of civil and criminal courts in China; and that the Legislature, although may be expedient that the native population should continue to be governed generally in the spirit those laws to which they have been accustomed for ages, and which are suited to their condition, ought nevertheless to interpose in the ease of many exceptions, such as slavery, etc. Sir George’s resolutions, if adopted, would sanction the foundation of British Empire in China, the counterpart of that which already exists in India, and would, moreover, proceed more boldly in the revolutionizing of the former country than the British Indian Government as yet dared to attempt. What reception these resolutions may meet with on the part of Government, it is not for us to conjecture; but, unless measures be immediately taken for putting an end to hostilities in China, something of the kind must ultimately be adopted. With an Opposition acting upon old Whig principles, even a Government willing to delude the national vanity into such a preposterous policy might have been checked; but with the swaggering tone at present fashionable among Liberals with respect to foreign affairs, a reluctant Government is more likely to be precipitated into it.

27 August 1842, Oxford University, City, and County Herald

1843 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton inquired if it was the intention of her Majesty’s government to bring any bill into Parliament, in the course of the present session, for the purpose of regulating the administration justice in the island of Hong Kong, and for determining the powers of jurisdiction of the British Consular agents, who are to be appointed at the several ports of trade in China, agreeably to the provisions of the treaty entered into with the Chinese government.

7 February 1843, The Globe

1843 – House of Commons, 7 February: Sir Robert Peel, in reply to Sir George Staunton, said it would be absolutely necessary that some legislative measure should be enacted for the regulation of English Courts of Law and other matters at the Island of Hong Kong, but that it would be advisable to postpone legislation on the subject till they had the opinion of Sir Henry Pottinger.

8 February 1843, Morning Chronicle

1843 – House of Commons, 14 February: Lord Stanley moved resolutions for thanks to the naval and military forces engaged on the coasts and on the inland waters of China.

Lord Palmerston seconded the motion with confidence and pleasure.

Sir Charles Napier, Sir George Staunton, and Mr. Hume shortly expressed their full concurrence in the motion

Sir Robert Peel was much gratified that the resolutions were received with unanimity by the House.

15 February 1843, Morning Advertiser

1843 – House of Commons, 14 February: Sir George Staunton was well aware that the present was not the proper opportunity of entering into any statement relating to the probable effects of the treaty with China; but that treaty must be a matter of great satisfaction and congratulations to the inhabitants of both countries. He fully concurred the eulogiums which had been passed on the splendid services of the British military and naval forces.

15 February 1843, Morning Chronicle

1843 – House of Commons, 14 February: Sir George Staunton expressed a confident expectation, that, though we, in the first instance, been compelled to inflict suffering on the Chinese, they would ultimately reap far more benefit from the treaty of peace than ourselves.

18 February 1843, Preston Chronicle

1843 – House of Commons – Ecclesiastical Courts Bill, 13 March: Sir George Staunton presented a petition from the magistrates of Portsmouth against several portions of the said Bill.

17 March 1843, Chester Chronicle

1843 – Prospects of the Returning Prosperity of the Country: In China, also, it is needless to speak of the enlarged trade which we may reasonably expect from the new facilities now afforded to us. “I have traversed China,” said Sir George Staunton, in the late debate in the House of Commons, “from north to south in two successive embassies, and
resided for some years in a public capacity under the Company at Canton; I am therefore enabled to give my testimony, that the Chinese, from the greatest the least, are willing to take, and are able to consume British manufactures to a very great extent, and that nothing is wanting but a careful and vigilant system of commercial intercourse upon our part. But we must have nothing to say to the opium trade; we must not offend the public opinion of that empire, and the determined purpose of the Emperor himself, by that odious and immoral traffic.

22 April 1843, Bell's Weekly Messenger

1843 – Portsea Island Horticultural Society: The first shew for the season will be held, as will be seen by the advertisement, on Wednesday, the 7th of June, and there will be a display of more than usual variety and beauty. Arrangements have been made for the attendance of Mr. Henry Cobbett, whose collection of roses always forms the principal attraction at the Chiswick shew. Sir George Staunton has also kindly consented to send a collection of greenhouse plants and flowers; and Mr. Godwin will attend with a great variety of rustic furniture.

27 May 1843, Hampshire Advertiser

1843 – House of Commons, 9 June: Sir George Staunton presented a petition from Charles Longcroft, Esq., one of Her Majesty's coroners for the county of Southampton, stating that, in common with the other coroners of the kingdom, he had performed the duties of his office with very inadequate remuneration, and frequently with serious loss and inconvenience, and praying, therefore, that the bill now before the house, providing for the payment of the expenses of coroners' inquests, and making other provisions respecting the duties and remuneration of coroners, may pass into it law.

10 June 1843, Morning Chronicle

1843 – Horticultural Society: The ordinary meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon. Sir George Staunton exhibited a large bunch of the fruit of the plantain weighing 132lbs, the plant never before fruited in this country.

11 October 1843, Hereford Journal

1843 – A Crying Nuisance: The activity and vigilance of our small, but efficient body of Borough police, have caused a marked diminution in the number of vagrants who infested the streets, and distressed the inhabitants by their doleful jeremiads, commencing with “my Christian Brethren,” and ending with psalm or hymn. A gang of these fellows, with their accompanying women and children, finding that they could not prosecute their vocations in the borough, are not scattered over the county, and have been very successful in levying contributions on the country gentlemen. Last week they visited Sir George Staunton, Bart., near Havant, and presented begging letters, which were benevolently responded to, and the result was that they repaired to the public houses in the vicinity, and spent the charitable donations from Leigh Park in strong beer. 21 October 1843, Hampshire Advertiser

1843 – Sir George Staunton M.P. will spend the winter in the Italian states. 21 October 1843, Hampshire Advertiser

1843 – To the Managing Committee of the Tuam Agricultural Society: Gentlemen…According to your instructions, we have inspected the several farms, houses, offices, fences, drains, crops, and manure heaps, entered for competition. The improvements in the cleanliness, order, and general appearance of the cottages of the small farms, are very apparent; and we beg leave to instance those on the estate of Sir George Staunton, at Clydagh, as the most striking. In that district there is scarcely a house that does not merit a premium.

27 October 1843, Kerry Examiner and Munster General Observer

1844 – A general meeting of the Governors and Supporters of the North London Ophthalmic Institution, New road, took place on the 18th instant. Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P, in the chair. From the report it appeared that 669 patients were relieved during the past year, of whom no less than 81 were poor needlewomen, whose vision had been impaired over exertion of their eyes at fine work. In many cases they it stated that they wrought from 15 to 20 hours consecutively, and in some instances even more, in order to obtain scanty subsistence. 20 January 1844, The Globe

1844 – House of Commons – Opium Trade, 2 February; Sir George Staunton gave notice that on Friday next he would ask whether English persons dealing in opium in China were to forfeit their right of protection as British subjects, and whether opium was to be allowed to be landed and warehoused at Hong Kong for exportation.

3 February 1844, Morning Chronicle
1844 – House of Commons, 10 February - Trade With China: Sir George Staunton said he had intended to put his question relating to their commercial relations with China on Monday, but understanding that it would be equally convenient to the Noble Lord the Secretary for the Colonies to answer it immediately, he would put it now. He begged to inquire whether British subjects, acting in contravention of the spirit, if not the letter, of our recent commercial treaties with China, by endeavours to introduce into that country the prohibited article of opium, are to be considered to forfeit, by such acts, the aid and protection of the British Crown; and if so, whether, in addition to such forfeiture of British aid and protection, they will be liable to specific pains and penal ties under British laws, or to any direct interference and obstruction on the part of the British authorities in China:—also, whether the article of opium will be allowed to be landed and warehoused at Hong-Kong for the purpose of re-exportation into China. He had been induced to put this question by the request of several merchants in the city connected with the China trade. Much difficulty and misunderstanding would be prevented if it was in the power of her Majesty's Government to state in answer what was the course intended to be pursued with respect to the opium trade with China, and also the nature of their commercial regulations generally.

Sir George Staunton begged to thank the Noble Lord for the information he had afforded, and to express his gratification at the purport of it. But he was still not without apprehension that the opium trade would be likely to disturb their relations—their amicable relations with China. He should therefore reserve himself for a future consideration of the subject. He thought the appointment of Mr. Davis was one that did honour to her Majesty's Government. 10 February 1844, _The Sun_ (London)

1844 – House of Commons – Pension to the Widow of the Rev. Dr. Morrison: Sir George Staunton, the accomplished Chinese scholar, is to move, on the 21st inst. in the House of Commons, for an address to her Majesty, recounting the eminent public services of the late Rev. Morrison, and his eldest son, the late John Robert Morrison, in China, the former for a period of twenty-six years, and the latter for a period of nine years, stating that they successively fell a sacrifice to their severe exertions in the performance of their public duties, and that Sir Henry Pottinger in a public proclamation declared the death of the latter to be “appositive national calamity,” and praying her Majesty to confer a pension on the widow of Dr Morrison and the surviving members of his family. 9 March 1844, _Leeds Mercury_

1844 – House of Commons, 19 March: Sir George Staunton presented a petition from the mayor, sheriff, clergy, and principal Inhabitants of Newcastle-on-Tyne, stating that they had heard with unmingled satisfaction that notice had been given in the house for a motion in favour of a provision for the widow and other surviving members of the family of the late Dr. Morrison, as a public testimony to the universally acknowledged merit of that extraordinary man and his deeply lamented son, that they could not but feel that an enlightened and patriotic government owed some tribute to the memory of such eminent and efficient public servants, who had employed their remarkable talents, and at length sacrificed their lives, in promoting the interest of their country and the well-being of mankind; and they begged especially to urge upon the sympathies of the house the case of Mrs. Hannah Pirie, sole surviving sister of Dr. Morrison, who, in consequence of the death of her brother and nephew, is now left altogether destitute, that, although aware that present exigencies demand the utmost economy in the national expenditure, they felt assured that the house, in making a suitable provision for the family of the late Dr. Morrison, would act in accordance with the dictates of an enlightened charity, and would meet the approbation, not only of England, but of all civilisations. Sir George having stated the above to be the substance of the petition, the Speaker said that being an application for money it could not, agreeably to the orders of the house, be received without the previous sanction of the Crown. The petition was, therefore, for the present withdrawn. 20 March 1844, _Morning Chronicle_

1844 – We have, for some time past, directed our attention to the singular fact of there being no Public Monument to the memory of the able and illustrious Captain Cook, the first of navigators. But knowing also that the subject was in able hands, we abstained from interfering until the plan should be somewhat matured, when every aid in our power will be cheerfully given, wipe off such a stigma upon the nation’s gratitude. Meantime, we commit the matter to the gentlemen already concerned, with the utmost confidence; and to show that such confidence is well based, we need only instance the names of Sir John Burrow, Mr. Robert Brown, the celebrated botanist, and Sir George Staunton, as among the foremost. 6 April 1844, _Naval and Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of the United Service_
1844 – Cricket: A meeting of the Portsea Island Cricket Club was held on Tuesday evening last, at the Rainbow Tavern, St. George’s-square, Portsea. A subscription was received from Sir George Staunton, Bart. Member for the Borough, and several other gentlemen. A good list to commence with was made up, and it was resolved to canvass for subscriptions.

13 April 1844, Hampshire Advertiser

1844 – The Royal Botanic Society: The first exhibition for the present year under the arrangements of this Society took place on Tuesday in the grounds in the Regent’s-park. These grounds are now in the best order, and notwithstanding the drought of the last five six weeks, the grass verdant and the trees are in a beautiful state. In addition to the very splendid show of Cape heaths, azalias, pelargoniums, calceolarias, cacti, and other rare plants, there were some very splendid specimens of orchidaceous plants, amongst which was a noble plant, the property of Sir George Staunton, which attracted universal admiration; was upwards of six feet in height, and was covered with blossoms and flowers. In the earlier part of the day, before the public were admitted to the grounds, her Majesty the Queen honoured the place with her presence, and expressed her high satisfaction at the numerous and brilliant appearance of the flowers and plants.

4 May 1844, Canterbury Journal, Kentish Times and Farmers’ Gazette

1844 – British and Foreign Institute: The first annual meeting of the members of the Institution was held at their house, George-street, Hanover-square, yesterday morning, the Right-Hon. Earl of Devon presided and was supported by Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., Sir H. Pym, Colonel Leicester Stanhope, W. Evans, Esq., M.P., W. Pendarve, S., Esq., M.P., Dr. Holt Gates, Greig Thompson, Esq., Sir George Staunton, MP., and several other members of the institute. The noble chairman having made some introductory remarks, called upon the secretary to read the report. It stated that the institute was founded May 31, 1843, and that during the first six weeks of its existence 150 members were enrolled, several noblemen and gentlemen being amongst its earliest friends. Finding that the institute was likely to answer the expectations of its founders, a house had been taken in George-street, Hanover-square, for three years, at a rental of £500 per annum. Since the opening of the new house, lectures had been delivered on Palestine, zoology, the writings of Shakespeare, fine arts, and others were announced on the comparative literature of France and England, the literature of Italy, painting, sculpture, &c. A member of the institute had presented to the library 150 vols. of books, the estimated cost of which was £100. Sir Charles Metcalfe had sent £100 as a donation towards the library, and 1,931 vols. had been presented by other members: 248 vols. had been purchased out of the funds, and 418 had been presented to Mr. Buckingham, the resident director, in token of their approbation of the course he pursued in Parliament. There were now in the library upwards of 4,000 vols. With respect to the financial condition of the institute, the report stated the receipts had been as follows:- From life contributors, £4,408 ls. 6d.; from entrance fees, £4,337 11s. 6d.; and from the annual subscriptions, £2,009 5s. To carry on the institute £2,500 annually would be required. There were at present 228 life members and 881 annual subscribers. The report was adopted. Mr. George Jones brought under the notice of the meeting a series of attacks which had been made on the institute by the Times; and Punch. In the latter publication a letter which was alleged to be his had appeared. It was a gross forgery. Even the autograph which followed, which was a fac simile of his own, was forged. The Earl of Devon remarked that the gentleman supposed to be the writer of the article in the Times had been expelled. He was now waiting below, and was desirous of being heard in self-defence. The sense of the meeting was taken, and the application war refused. Sir George Staunton, M.P., said he felt sorry that he had introduced the gentleman who had been expelled. That gentleman was a member of several literary and scientific societies, and had never misconducted himself before. Thanks were then voted to the Earl of Devon and Mr. Buckingham, after which the meeting dispersed.

8 June 1844, Morning Chronicle

1844 – Portsea Island Horticultural Society.— The first show for the present season took place on the lawn of the mansion of the Rev. G.W. Livesay, Castle Road, Southsea, on Wednesday, on which occasion the spacious and tastefully-arranged grounds of the Rev. Gentleman were thrown open to the visitors. The productions exhibited were in point of number perhaps scarcely equal to those of last year, but in quality they were certainly first-rate. Sir George Staunton’s exhibition of plants, was as usual unique, the beauty of the ericas in particular, could not be surpassed. Among the specimens contributed by the worthy baronet we noticed the fuchsia raeemiflora, the lechenaultia formosa, the gompholobium trinfolium, the alsroemaria pelegrina, the epacris grandiflora, and the following ericas:— cerenthoides, perspicua, tricolor, ventricosa superba, and ventricosa stillata. The whole of the foregoing- were
exhibited in a condition which testified to the skill and talent of Mr. Scott, under whose care and superintendence they attained a degree of perfection which could not fail to command universal admiration.

8 June 1844, Hampshire Advertiser

1844 – House of Commons, - Dissenters’ Chapel Bill, 13 June: Petitions against the Bill were presented by Sir R. Inglis, from Anglesea, and other places; by Sir R. Phillips, and Sir George Staunton, from Hampshire. Mr. COLVILE presented petitions from Derbyshire against the Gilbert Unions. — Mr. GREENE presented petitions from Hampshire to the same effect. Mr. BRIGHT presented several petitions against the Dissenters' Chapels Bill.

14 June 1844, The Sun (London)

1844 – Sugar Duties Bill - On the third reading of the Sugar Duties Bill: Mr Hawes cited the testimonies of Sir Stamford Raffles, Sir George Staunton, Mr Crawford, and others, to show that slavery did exist in Java and China, and that a considerable slave-trade is carried on in these areas, a great portion of the slaves being engaged in the cultivation of sugar. It would therefore be impossible for us to maintain the distinction established by the bill, nor could we import sugar from the east “free” from the taint of slavery.

Mr Gladstone repeated what he had said on several former occasions, that there was no predial slavery in Java, that the slaves were employed in domestic services, that there was no slave trade, and that the domestic slavery was a declining institution. The cultivators of the soil were as free as the agricultural population of this country. The amount of sugar from China was not considerable.

Mr P.M. Stewart, Mr Mangles, Lord Stanley, Mr Warburton, Mr Bright, Lord John Russell, Sir Howard Douglas, and Sir Robert Peel, having each shortly addressed the House, the conversation was allowed to drop. When the Bill was read a third time and passed.

6 July 1844, Glasgow Citizen

1844 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P. has been visiting the principal capitals of Germany, since the rising of Parliament, has arrived in Town from Berlin.

30 November 1844, Hampshire Advertiser

1844 – The Chinese Treaty: We read in the Augsburg Gazette, under the head of Munich, Dec. 4:—“Professor Noumann, having written to Sir George Staunton to know what he was to understand about the pretended falsification of the posterior treaty between Great Britain and China, Sir George has replied as follows: ‘I have spoken to Lord Aberdeen of the singular complaints made, as you say, in some of the journals against our distinguished friend, M. Gutzlaff. I am happy inform you that his Lordship regards these complaints as groundless. He adds, that the difference in the translation appears to be of little importance, and that in this respect M. Gutzlaff does not merit any blame.’ Let it remembered that the translation of this treaty has not yet been made public; the British Government has only published a succinct, analysis which appears to have been made, not by M. Gutzlaff, but by a subaltern clerk of our authorities at Hong-Kong.”

13 December 1844, Morning Advertiser

1845 – House of Commons, Hong Kong, 25 February: Sir George Staunton hoped that after the explanation that had been given on the part of the government his honourable friend would not press his motion. Nothing could be more calculated to retard the improvement and prosperity of our colonies, or could less tend to allay any differences which might exist, than premature discussions of the measures in progress for their settlement and improvement. He, therefore, trusted that such discussions would not take place at present. He had, by the last mail, received a communication, stating that the ordinance, obnoxious as it was supposed to be, was withdrawn. He concurred in the opinion, that a population, rapidly increasing, and situated as that of Hong Kong and its vicinity, required to be restrained by strict measures. At the same time, he acknowledged that the ordinance, however necessary it might have been for the general protection of the colony, had been a heavy blow and great discouragement to the trade of Hong Kong. It was not true, however, that the differences which prevailed took their origin from Mr. Davis’s arrival. Those who were most capable of judging from their opportunities of observation and experience, bore testimony to Mr. Davis’s merits, and that gentleman having no interest or connection to recommend him, had been selected for his well-known qualifications for the office. In the mist of the disputes on this subject, he found it stated that Mr. Davis had done more within the last two months to promote the prosperity of the island, than had been done in the preceding two years.

26 February 1845, Morning Chronicle
1845 – House of Commons – The Property Tax, 10 March: Our worthy members Sir George Staunton, and the Right Honorable Francis Thornhill Baring, supported the following amendment proposed by Mr. C. Buller, on Monday, on the order of the day being moved for bringing up the report of this bill, viz: “That the circumstances under which the renewal of the income tax is at present proposed are such as to render it extremely improbable that parliament will have the power of dispensing with its continuance at the end of three years; and it is therefore the duty of the House to take care that the tax be imposed in a form in which its operation shall be less unequal and inquisitorial than it now is.” Mr. Baring also, much to the satisfaction of his constituents, on Thursday night, Supported Mr. Cobden, in his motion for a committee on agricultural distress.

1845 – Nutritive Properties of Sugar: The nutritive properties of sugar are much under-rated in this country. As an ailment, Dr Rush of Philadelphia maintains that sugar produces the greatest quantity of nourishment in a given quantity of matter of any substance of nature. Horses and cattle, when fed wholly on it in St Domingo for some months, when the exportation of sugar and the importation of grain were prevented for want of ships, during the crop time the West Indies, all appear fat and flourishing. The cattle fed on the cane tops become sleek and in a fine condition. The negroes drink freely of the juice, and become fat and healthy. Sir George Staunton observes, that many of the slaves and idle persons in China hide themselves among the canes and live entirely on them for a time. In that kingdom the emperor compels his to guard to eat a certain quantity of sugar every day that they may become fat and look portly. Sugar and rice constitute the common food of the people, and every kind of domestic animal is fed on sugar. Plagues, malignant fevers, and disorders in the breast are unknown in the countries where sugar is abundantly eaten as food.

1845 – House of Commons: Sir George Staunton and Sir Charles Napier paired off in favour of Mr Hutt’s motion for the admission of Australian Corn.

1845 – House of Commons, 15 May: Sir George Staunton presented several petitions in favour of the Direct London and Portsmouth railway; and especially one agreed to at a very large public meeting at Portsmouth, with nearly 2,000 signatures attached to it.

1845 – British and Foreign Institute, 4 June: Proposed by Sir George Staunton, Bart, seconded by George Wilbraham, Esq.

4. That one of the most effective modes of making extensively known the nature and character of the literary proceedings of the Institute, will be to give the wildest possible circulation to the First Volume of its transactions, in which these proceedings will be fully and faithfully recorded: – and that as this will be well calculated to convey accurate information into circles where much misapprehension may prevail, it is strongly recommended to the members generally to promote its circulation accordingly.

1845 – House of Commons. Hong Kong, 16 June: Sir George Staunton, who was nearly inaudible in the gallery, said that having been absent when the subject was before the House on the former evening, he was anxious to take that opportunity of expressing his cordial concurrence in the motion before the House. He concurred with the honourable member who had just sat down as to the importance of the services rendered by the naval and military forces in the Chinese War; but still he very much doubted whether, without the skill and judgement exhibited by Sir Henry Pottinger, these services would have led to the speedy and important conclusion which had been put to the war. Before sitting down, he wished to express his entire concurrence in what the right honourable baronet at the head of her Majesty’s government had said respecting the gentleman who had been appointed to succeed Sir Henry Pottinger in China. He considered the appointment of Mr Davis a most excellent one. From the peculiar position of this country with regard to China, it was most necessary that a gentleman, not only of talents but of experience, should be placed over the new colony in that quarter, and he regarded it as a proof of the fitness of Mr Davis for the post to which he had been promoted, that the colony had progressed so favourably since his arrival there, and that perfect harmony and good understanding had been maintained with the Chinese authorities. He had only to add that he considered the present motion one which conferred great honour on her Majesty’s government.
1845 – Anti-Corn Law Meeting at Portsea: A public meeting, called by requisition to the Mayor was held in the Beneficial Society's Hall, Kent-street, on Thursday evening, tor the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of memorializing her Majesty in favour of the free importation of corn and provisions. James Hoskins, esq. Mayor in the Chair. The Town Clerk (John Howard, esq.) having read the requisition, The Mayor rose and said, having received the requisition which has just been read, and recognising, as I do, the unquestionable right of the people of a free country to meet together in a legal and constitutional manner, to discuss any subject of national or local interest, I feel that I should have but ill discharged my duty had I for one moment hesitated to comply with the wishes of the requisitionists (applause), and to have thus afforded the inhabitants of this populous and important borough an opportunity of expressing their sentiments on the great question which now agitates this country from one end to the other. (Cheers). Doubtless the question on which this evening you are met to deliberate will cause your feelings to be aroused; I ask you, therefore, to bring to the consideration of the subject the exercise of that calm and sober judgment, which, as men of intelligence, you ought at all times to bring. I need not ask you to give a patient, candid, and impartial hearing to everyone. I am quite satisfied that after you shall have well discussed the subject you will arrive at such conclusions and adopt such resolutions as will alike do honour to yourselves, and secure the best interests of the country in which it is our happiness to live. His Worship concluded by reading a letter from the Right Hon. F. T. Baring, M.P. for the borough, stating that the present position of public affairs would prevent his being present at the meeting. A very questionable silence followed the reading of the hon. member's letter. Edward Carter, esq. Alderman, said an application had been made to him to move the first resolution, but he should not have undertaken that duty had he not been duly impressed with a sense of its importance. The feeling of the country was such that the Corn Laws could not long remain in their present state. The subject was now a source of agitation, and that agitation must increase. Whatever difference of opinion there might be respecting a deficiency of corn, there could be none respecting the failure of potatoes. The state of the question was now such that the fixed duty had been thrown overboard— (cheers), and only one way remained of settling the question, and that was by a repeal of the Corn Laws— (cheers), and if there was to be a total repeal of those laws, now is the time for it to take place— (loud cheers). He (the worthy Alderman) was authorised to state, as the views of Mr. Baring, that a fixed duty could now no longer be maintained, and that he was perfectly willing to fight for a repeal of the Corn Laws when such a measure was brought forward— (great applause). Alderman Carter then moved the first resolution. Mr. John Sheppard seconded the motion. The Mayor then introduced Sir George Staunton, Bart. M.P. for the borough, who was received with tumultuous applause, and said he was so deeply sensible of the object which had called them together, that nothing short of illness would have deprived him of the pleasure of being present— (hear). They were met to petition for the abolition of a law which affected injuriously every class of the community, which, at a time when famine was threatened to one portion of the empire, and scarcity to every other, intercepted the bounty of Providence and prevented them sharing the blessings of the plentiful harvests enjoyed by other countries. They were laws so oppressive and injurious that their great supporter, Sir Robert Peel, late Prime Minister, had given them up in despair; and when he found that some of the members of his cabinet still persisted in them, he resigned office. These were no new opinions of his (Sir George Staunton's) ; ever since he had enjoyed the honour of being connected with Portsmouth he had expressed his decided opinion against the system of Corn Laws. [Here Sir George read extracts from a reported speech delivered from the hustings, in this borough about five years ago.] The existing Corn Laws (continued Sir George) were complete failures. Though at the period he had just referred to, he had entertained some opinion of the injustice of the Corn Laws, he had not till lately arrived at a conclusion as to what was the best remedy. His opinion, until very lately, was, that it would be a wise and judicious compromise, between conflicting principles, to establish a moderate fixed duty; because he thought it would mitigate the evil of the Corn Law itself, and entirely remove the absurdity of the sliding scale. He (Sir George) did certainly regret that when Lord John Russell offered a moderate fixed duty of 6s, it was rejected; but having been rejected, their opponents had reduced the question to its present narrow limits, and that was, either a continuance of the injustice and oppression of the present law, or a total repeal; and he could not think that any one of sober judgment could hesitate for a moment as to choosing a total and immediate repeal— (great cheering). With regard to himself, he would not yield to the warmest free-trader in the room in his energy and desire to carry the repeal— (loud cheers). He need not further enlarge upon the impolicy and injustice of that law. The question was— how the great object of its repeal was to be effected. He had reason to believe that Lord John Russell was now endeavouring to form an Administration, one of the first objects of which would be the removal of this evil. He did not know what Lord John Russell intended, but he had too high an opinion
of him to think that he would not act up to his memorable letter — (cheers). He would not be a different man in office to what he was when out. He (Sir George) should not however pledge himself to support Lord Russell's measures until he knew what they were. His (Lord John's) difficulties in both Houses would be very great, and he thought he would not be able to succeed without appealing to the country; it would then remain for the people to act, and he thought the result would bear down all opposition— (long continued cheering).

Mr. Serjeant Gazelee said he rejoiced that they were then met upon no party question, but that they were all quite unanimous on the subject of a total and immediate repeal of the Corn Laws. He congratulated the Borough of Portsmouth that Sir George Staunton, by himself, and the night Hon the late Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Baring) by their proxy given in their adoption to a total and unqualified repeal— (loud cheers.) He was particularly glad to hear from the Hon. Baronet (Sir George Staunton) that he would yield to no free-trader in carrying this measures into effect— (hear). It was now admitted by all parties that a total repeal was absolutely necessary. If any proof were wanting that the Corn Laws were the bane of agriculture, they had it in Lord John Russell, who began his life by being a stern supporter of those laws, but who afterwards began to doubt— who was then for a fixed duty and who now at the eleventh hour had come forward the champion of unqualified repeal. If the noble lord had thus come forward, what did they think of the Right Hon. Baronet (Sir R. Peel) ? Why, the two were running a race to see who should be the first to throw themselves into the arms of the free traders— (cheers). We well know (pursued the speaker) that Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell have come to us, and we have not gone to them. Take my advice and do not trust to the House of Commons, nor to the House of Lords— that company of Dukes ! These Corn Laws were forced upon us in indecent haste and at the point of the bayonet. I don't wish to abuse the House of Commons, but I have net much confidence in them unless they are backed up by your will. If they find you are resolute they will grant you anything. Look at the Lords ! The Duke of Wellington said you should not have reform, but you carried it; then you have the Duke of Richmond, who robbed you of your Direct Railway— (tremendous uproar)— and who now wants to rob you of your bread— (thunders of applause). The Lords will throw out the repeal once or twice if you are quiet, but if you insist on it they will carry it. You must not look to this minister or to that minister, for they are all pretty much alike, you must agitate calmly and constitutionally. You have done it before and succeeded; you must agitate again and you will again succeed— (loud cheers.) The Mayor then put the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Alderman Caught moved the next resolution, and said it was a most important advantage of the present age, that by the liberty of the press, and the freedom of discussion we could in this country carry measures which in other states would cause anarchy and bloodshed. He trusted the time was at hand when moderate men of all parties would meet to legislate for the public benefit. We might live to see another war; there were already some clouds in the horizon which presaged a coming storm, and it might be carried on in our native land, if so, it was most obvious that a better feeling ought to be established between the landowner and the agriculturist— between the rich and the poor— (cheers). The "Rev." Henry Hawkes, B.A. seconded the motion, which was put and carried. The "Rev." G. Grant then moved the address to her Majesty, to be signed by the Mayor on behalf of the inhabitants. Mr. W. T. Hearn seconded the motion, which was put and carried unanimously. Sir Charles Napier, R.N. M.P. then rose, amidst astounding applause, which continued some time, and said that the late Administration, from the period of their coming into office until recently, had had nothing but prosperous gales. Sir Robert Peel had done all he possibly could do, and all on the Liberal side of the House had done their best to support him; but the very first gale bad capsized this Government and driven it from office. Sir R. Peel proposed to repeal the Corn Laws— the iron Duke opposed him— ruling over the Minister and intimidating the members of the Government. Indeed, that Ministry was depending entirely on sunshine, and one storm would inevitably upset it. When we have a matter of right un- settled in America, and expect daily a hostile message from that country— when we look at the state of Ireland, with famine staring us in the face in that quarter— what must be the feelings of the Minister who refuses to listen to Sir Robert Peel's reasoning with them on the subject. It was said that the agriculturists would suffer; suppose they did, were they to contribute to the support of the enormous establishments of the noble and exalted men of this realm? He (Sir C. Napier) had no objection to their great parks and their game, if they pleased; but he did object to the people paying for them. He supported the fixed duty for two reasons; first, he thought it impossible to get a total repeal, and then he was willing to let them down gently and take a small fixed duty, lowering it every year; but the time was gone by for that now and he trusted from this day they would hear no more of sliding scales or fixed duties— (cheers). Whether Lord John Russell took office or not, it was impossible to say. The country had now been without a Government fourteen days. Lord John would not be able to face the present Parliament with a majority of ninety against him unless
Sir Robert Peel and a large number went over to join him. Lord John Russell could not forget that Sir Robert Peel got him out of office, and then came in and did the very things himself, he got Lord John turned out for. Lord John’s own friends accused him of deserting them, and perhaps he was justified in doing so. He found they were unreasonable, and the best way was to cast them off. The only way of restoring tranquility is to obtain the total and unconditional appeal of the Corn Laws. You must come forward with a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, and the grand object will be accomplished. The gallant commander sat down amidst loud cheers. Mr. A. Bilton moved a vote of thanks to the Anti Corn Law League, which was seconded by Mr. Brass and carried unanimously. Mr. Alderman Howard then moved that the thanks of the meeting be given to the worshipful the Mayor, James Hoskins, esq. which was seconded by Mr. Leggatt; and his worship having most eloquently acknowledged the compliment, the meeting dissolved.

20 December 1845, Hampshire Advertiser

1846 – The Royal Asiatic Society – At the ordinary meeting, held on Saturday, Professor Wilson, director, in the chair, a curious present was made by Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P., of diplomas granted to Chinese scholars, insureing them some particular privileges in travelling, and which were recognised by Colonel Sykes as being identical in many respects with the travelling letters of the German scholars. A letter was read from the Rev. Spence Hardy, Wesleyan missionary at Ceylon, being a commentary on some remarks made by Mr Ferguson on the cave worship of the Buddhists, which it appeared were copiously illustrated in Cuiagalese literature. These caves for religious worship are very common in Ceylon, and in city no fewer than fifty-two existed. They were all remarkable for the pictorial embellishement in the interior, which were illustrative of some particular object in the Buddhist ceremonies of worship. In connection with the paper, it was stated by Professor Wilson that the Indian Government had appointed a British officer to explore the far-famed caves, so as to preserve their preservation. 5 January 1846, Morning Post

1846 – House of Commons, 18 August: Sir George Staunton gave notice that he would next session make a motion for the establishment of a professorship of the Chinese language. 21 August 1846, The Pilot

1846 – Sir George Staunton, Baronet, M.P.: This benevolent and truly kind-hearted gentleman, arrived at Clydagh, in this County, one of his Irish Estates, on Wednesday the 26th ultimo, and was received by his grateful tenantry in manner worthy of him and them. He, at once, set about attending to the wants of all those living under him, and afforded ample relief to every one standing in need of it. He told the people to make use of whatever potatoes remained sound, and to keep their corn for their own support during the year, as it was not his intention to require the payment of rent from any one of them. We need not say that this conduct elicited the warmest gratitude of the peasantry, who expressed their feelings of thankfulness to their benefactor and protector. Sir George represents the important Town of Portsmouth, in the South of England, and well may the Constituency be proud of him. On Thursday he paid visit to Galway, and having called on P.M. Lynch, Walter Joyce, Esquires, and others of his friends, he proceeded to Rock-House, where he remained for the night. Yesterday the worthy Baronet left town for the South of Ireland, enroute to England. 5 September 1846, Galway Mercury and Connaught Weekly Advertiser

1846 – Royal Asiatic Society – China: At the meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, the Secretary read some extracts from a letter furnished by Sir George Staunton, which that gentleman had recently received from the Rev. Charles Gutslaflf, resident in Hong Kong. Mr. Gutslaflf had accompanied Sir John Davis on a tour to the north of China; and the extract read contained a few notices of passing events, and of the state of things observed on the journey. In Chusan, Mr. G. visited most of the houses and families at and near Ting-hae, the capital; and he bears decisive testimony to the benevolent conduct of the English towards the natives during their occupation of the island, and to the grateful feelings of the Chinese there towards us. At the same time he states that our departure it deeply regretted by all classes of the people. At Shing-hae, he says the trade is flourishing, and imports and exports are increasing. At Ningpo nothing is done. At Foochon not one Englishman resides, except at the consulate — a circumstance much to be regretted, as the place is the emporium of the black tea country. Amoy is getting on fairly; but the climate is very unhealthy. Mr. Gutslaflf expresses himself with much energy relative to the bad feeling at Canton against foreigners; and to the danger to which they are exposed by the hostility of the population. He adverts the necessity of our having a permanent resident at the capital. The Hong Kong trade is flourishing; but the town increases in size and population and is superior to Macao. Mr. Gutslaflf speaks with satisfaction of the toleration accorded by the Chinese to the Christian religion; of the number of missionaries who are making progress everywhere, even at Canton; and of the inquiries of the Mandarins on the subject. He says that several of the Chinese are remarkable for their eloquence in
preaching the gospel in many parts of the empire. The number of Roman Catholic missionaries in the country is about eighty.

1846 – Infanticide.— The body of an infant, wrapped in calico, and placed in a small box or packing case, was found on Tuesday in a coppice at West Leigh, near Havant, by a man beating for game in company with the keeper of Sir George Staunton. It appeared to have been deposited in a shallow hole under the trunk of a tree, and to have been raised into sight by the frost. There is no house within less than a quarter of a mile of the spot, and no footpath through the coppice. We do not hear of any definite suspicion as to the party by whom the deposit was made.

19 December 1846, Hampshire Advertiser

1847 – The actions in ejectment brought by Mr Padwick, of Hayling Island, against Sir George Staunton and three of his tenants, will not be tried at the present Assizes, the solicitors for Mr Padwick being unprepared, have put off the trials till the summer Assizes.

27 February 1847, Hampshire Telegraph

1847 – A Benevolent Landlord: The following letter has been addressed to the several tenants of Sir George Staunton, Bart., upon the Clydagh estate in this county. It is worthy of the Hon. Baronet, who has been ever ready to assist his tenantry upon every trying occasion. We wish we had some more of our landlords to follow this example:-

To the Tenantry of Clydagh

Your friend and landlord, Sir George Staunton, has kindly sanctioned my dealing with you in this season of distress, in such manner as I may think suited to your present wants, and conducive to your permanent interest.

As I am well aware of the state and circumstances of each, I have called on you who are able to do so above what is necessary for your support, to pay your rents; thus enabling me to afford pecuniary assistance to such as cannot meet the like demands.

You have honestly answered that call, and I am therefore prepared to make to each tenant requiring it, a monthly allowance till the next harvest, either in money or in food, for the support of himself and family; thus to save him from future bankruptcy, by enabling him to avoid the ruin of credit prices, or the disadvantageous sale of his sheep and cattle.

I am prepared to give, gratuitiously to every tenant on the estate, parsnip, turnips, and mangel seeds; and to such as are unable to purchase seed oats. I will let them have them on credit under the market price.

To all who can spare time from their own farms I will continue to give constant employment at one shilling a day; and eight pence for boys; and should provisions increase considerably in price, I will increase the rate of wages.

On your part, I should expect increased exertion at this season, in the cultivation of such crops as I have frequently pointed out to you, suited to supply the place of the potato; and though I have last month distributed among you some sound French seed, I earnestly guard you against placing any reliance on the growth of the potato.

With these helps, and a determination to exert yourselves in an improved system of cultivating your land, I trust with the assistance of Providence, that you will get over, without any suffering, this season of distress; and you will after some little time be permanently benefitted in your circumstances.

I am your well-wisher,   GEORGE STAUNTON LYNCH, Clydagh House, 5 March 1847,

13 March 1847, Galway Vindicator and Connaught Advertiser

1847 – Commercial Relations with China – Select Parliamentary Committee: On Thursday, the 15th inst., for the first time, the Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to inquire into and report upon the state of our commercial relations with China, assembled. Fourteen members were present, viz.: Lord Sandon (chairman), Mr. Brown, Mr. Spooner, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Moffat, Mr. Yorke, Mr. Baring, Mr. Beckett, Sir George Staunton, Mr. Mathewson, Dr. Bowring, Lord Jocelyn, Mr. Harcourt, and Mr. John Abel Smith.   24 April 1847. Leeds Mercury
1847 - Electioneering Proceedings at Portsmouth.—A correspondent states that "the Independents and Baptists are on the movement to bring in Mr. Serjeant Gazelee, whose ancestor was mayor of Portsmouth in 1798, and a Mr. N. Griffin, a Whig barrister, who was well prominent in the Exeter Hall meetings against education, in the room of the present members. There is, however, a difficulty in the dissenting camp, whether it shall be Mr. Griffin, or the present Mayor of Portsmouth, Mr. B. Bramble, contractor in the new works for the steam navy in H.M's. dockyard. Mr. Gazelee is liberal in his patronage of the different institutions the borough, while Sir George Staunton's vacillating conduct in most matters goes far to lessen the public confidence in him." 8 May 1847, London Daily News

1847 – Hampshire: The electioneering prospects of the county of Hants bare altogether satisfactory to the Conservative electors. The representation for the county will not be disturbed, and the statement of our liberal contemporaries that Sir George Staunton will present himself is all fudge. Both Sir George and the Right Hon. T. Baring decidedly retire from the representation of the borough of Portsmouth; and the Government have not, as we learn, decided in whose favour they shall pronounce. 28 May 1847, Hampshire Advertiser

1847 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P., of Leigh Park, in consideration of the present high price of provisions, has very laudably raised the wages of his numerous labourers; those in receipt of 12s. to 14s. per week; and those in the receipt of 14s. to 15s. 6d. per week. It should also be mentioned that these labourers occupy cottages belonging to Sir George, at a rental considerably below that usually paid for such class of cottages on other estates. 29 May 1847, Hampshire Telegraph

1847 – Portsmouth Election: The Right Hon. F.T. Baring and Sir George Staunton have announced their continual reliance on the support of the electors of the borough. The conservatives have prevailed on Captain Campbell R.N. and William Jones Esq., banker, to come forward in opposition to the present radical members. 10 June 1847, Bath Chronicle

1847 – House of Commons – Notices of Motion, 28 June: Case of Mr Robert Thom – Sir George Staunton, on going into committee of supply, to call the attention of the house to the claims of the family of the late Mr Robert Thom, Consul at Ningpo, on account of his services in China, and to propose that a provision be made for them, out of any vote for defraying consular expenses in that country. 29 June 1847, Shipping and Mercantile Gazette

1847 – House of Commons, 9 July: Sir George Staunton rose to call the attention the of the House to the very strong and altogether peculiar claims of the family of the late Robert Thom, Esq., sometime Consul at Ningpo, in China, and to the justice and expediency of making a suitable provision for them out of any sums that may be voted by this House for the China service. He said he had sought interview on the subject at the Colonial-office to explain the matter, but could not obtain one, and he had therefore no other alternative than to, bring the matter before the House. —(Hear.) Mr. Thom had gone out to Hong Kong in a mercantile capacity. In consequence of his services in that capacity Sir Henry Pottinger appointed him consul at Ningpo, but he died there in about a twelvemonth after, leaving two children, an aged mother, and brother, to deplore his loss. As a confirmation of what he stated he should refer the House to a letter written in approbation of Mr. Thom’s conduct, by Sir Henry Pottinger, a few days before he left for the duties of his office at the Cape. It had been suggested to him (Sir George Staunton) that he ought to have applied to her Majesty, praying that she might be graciously pleased to give his family a pension out of the funds placed at her disposal by that House; but he refused appealing to the House, in the hope that the feeling of the House would be expressed in such a manner as to induce her Majesty’s Government to grant a suitable pension to the family of Mr. Thom.

Dr. Bowring observed, that no one knew the late Mr. Thom better than his Hon. Friend (Sir George Staunton), and certainly no compliment to the memory of that gentleman could come from any other person with so much grace as from his Hon. Friend. He thought Mr. Thom’s case was one which required the special consideration of the House, and for that reason he should support the motion of his Hon. Friend.

Lord Palmerston, after complimenting the Hon. Baronet who brought forward the motion, said that no regulation existed in the consular service to provide for the families of those who died in that department of the public service. There was no regulation in the army or navy to provide for what his Hon. Friend asked for, namely, a provision for a
mother and a brother, and it would be setting a bad precedent to give a pension to a Consul under such circumstances; because in common justice the same should be extended to all the other Consuls serving under the Crown.

Sir George Staunton said that he did not ask a pension on the ground of his being a Consul, but as a reward for his previous services.

Mr. Hume earnestly hoped the Noble Lord, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, would reconsider his determination, and grant a pension to the children of a man who died in the service of his country.

Dr. Bowring complained of the anomalous condition of the Government at Hong-Kong, one portion of which being subject to the Colonial Office, and the other to the Foreign Department.

Mr. Williams called the attention of the Government to the large expenditure of £28,000, which Hong Kong cost that country, for Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and other official personages.

Mr. Aglionby hoped, under all the circumstances the case, the question, as regarded Mr. Thom, might be referred to the further consideration of her Majesty's Government.

Dr. Bowring impressed on the attention of the Noble Lord, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the necessity of establishing a school for acquiring the Chinese language in Hong Kong. It was a language exceedingly difficult to obtain a knowledge of, and it was of the utmost importance, considering their relations with the Chinese empire, that a knowledge of that language should be acquired by persons when young, for it was impossible to do so at a more advanced age.

Lord Palmerston coincided with his Hon. friend as to the great importance of British subjects acquiring a knowledge of the Chinese language, and could assure him that the attention of the Government would be directed to the subject.

Mr. Hume complained of the family of Mr. Thom being neglected, while he found on the pension-list Dr. Samuel Bloomfield set down at £200 a year, and Ann Shee, Mary Archer Shee, and Eliza Shee, the three daughters of Sir Martin Archer Shee, a living painter, for £300 a year. He also saw put down in the same list £200 a year to Mr. M'Culloch, a man in the receipt of a large sum by other means, while the family of Mr. Thom, who absolutely died in the service of his country, were refused the slightest assistance. Now possibly Sir Martin Archer Shee may be a good painter, but he was totally ignorant of any claim which his family had to be placed on the pension list.

Mr. Labouchere admitted that the claim of Mr. Thom ought to receive the most careful consideration of the Government; but he denied that Sir Martin Archer Shee had no claims. Those who were the best judges of his capabilities, the members of his own profession, elected him to the office of President of the Royal Academy; and, under these circumstances, he could not believe, with the Hon. Member for Montrose, that he was person utterly devoid of merit.

The vote was agreed to. A vote of 87,000/ for superannuation allowances was agreed to.

10 July 1847, Morning Advertiser

1847 – Representation of the Borough: Right Hon. Francis T. Baring, and Sir George Staunton, Bart. arrived here on Tuesday evening, and on the following morning commenced their canvass of the Electors, which they have continued from day to day to the present hour. Their reception has been perfectly satisfactory and gratifying to them; and there is not the slightest chance of any candidate being brought forward to oppose either. The election for the borough is fixed for Wednesday next, at the Sessions' Room, from which an adjournment will take place to a booth in St. George's-Square, Portsea.

24 July 1847, Hampshire Telegraph

1847 – Borough of Portsmouth Election: The writ for the Election of two Burgesses to serve in Parliament for this Borough was received here on Saturday morning last, and proclamation of the Election was made at the Townhall, at noon of the same day, which was fixed for Wednesday, the 28th instant. There being no opposition to the late Members, very little interest was caused in the Borough by the event. Early in the morning of Wednesday the usual
Committee-room of the Whig party, Paul’s Room, St. Georges-square, was decorated with laurels and a few flags, and a brass band seated on a balcony erected outside, played during the morning a few lively tunes.

On Wednesday, at twelve o’clock, the Mayor commenced the proceedings at the Townhall, in Penny-street, Portsmouth, where the writ for the Election was read, and the usual oaths against bribery and corruption were taken by his worship. They were then adjourned to the Hustings erected in St. Georges-square, Portsea, where the Mayor arrived about half-past twelve. About this time not more than about 500 persons had assembled.

The Mayor addressing them said — Brother Burgesses, in obedience to a writ which I have received, authorising me to proceed to the election of two burgesses to serve in Parliament for this Borough, I have, at the Townhall, read the usual acts of Parliament and taken the oaths against bribery and corruption, and I am now ready to receive the nomination of such persons as you may think proper to propose.

Edward Carter, esq. stood forward at the front of the Hustings and said — Mr. Mayor and Brother Electors, in coming forward to propose to you a gentleman to represent you in Parliament, I feel my inability for the adequate discharge of the task. This difficulty would be much greater if the person I am about to propose were unknown to you; but when I name to you the person, your late member, Francis Thornhill Baring, esq., I have no hesitation in saying that, having served you in Parliament twenty years, and filled more than one official situation, you will consider that he has discharged those duties as an upright and honest servant, and I therefore propose to you the Right Hon. Francis Thornhill Baring, esq., as a fit and proper person to represent you in Parliament — (cheers).

Alderman Scale said he was proud to second the nomination of Mr. Baring. He was, as had been stated to them, no untried man. He had undergone nine successive and successful elections. It was, not necessary that he should go through the acts of his (Mr. B’s) public life, but it gave him pleasure to say that he was one of the men who carried the measure that enabled them to meet there on that day; and he also assisted in repealing the Corn Laws. He was sure that he would follow up the liberal policy he had hitherto pursued, and that was the only way by which the people of this country could be made a happy and enlightened people. He was glad to see so much good feeling on the occasion, and begged to second the nomination — (cheers).

Edward Casher, esq. had much pleasure in proposing another gentleman to serve them as their representative—a neighbour, and one who had pursued and advocated a liberal policy. He felt happy in finding that there was no opposition on this occasion, and begged to propose Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart. as a fit and proper person to represent them in Parliament— (cheers).

Alderman Jones said he should follow the course of those who had preceded him, and make a short speech. The observations which had been made relative to Mr. Baring, as not being an untried man, also applied to Sir George Staunton, whose nomination he had now the honour to second. He felt a sort of paternal regard for Sir George, as himself and some other half-a-dozen honest fellows— (loud laughter)— met at his (the Alderman’s) house some years ago, and invited him (Sir George) to become a candidate for this borough. He did so, and they had never regretted it. He was glad to see him before them again, although it was expecting too much that any man should please at all times. He said this because there was a topic which had slightly disturbed the equanimity of those who were usually united in supporting the late members. It was his (the Alderman’s) lot to differ from those with whom he usually agreed on the Education Measure. He had no doubt that it was honestly meant by the Government, and in bringing it forward they had, doubtless, great difficulties to contend with; but he also thought that they had not paid that attention to Dissenters which they deserved, and had a right to expect. He believed the Bill would do good, and thought a still stronger measure was necessary. He thought the opposition to the measure arose in a great degree from the ignorance which prevailed relative to the want of education among parties who are guilty of crime, an investigation of which would show that education is far from what it should be. Most members of Parliament possessed some particular qualification, and he would recommend Sir George Staunton to them on account of the intimate knowledge he possessed of China, and his capability of affording advice to the Government relative to our relations with that country; and we were not yet out of trouble there. He had no doubt that Sir George would be happy to afford all the information he could on this subject. An objection had been offered that their members did not oftener appear in the debates. He thought that no criterion of a faithful discharge of duty. It would be well for many
men, both in Parliament and elsewhere, if they talked less and did more: public business would be expedited and the time of the people saved, which was now occupied in reading the debates. He begged to second the nomination of Sir George Staunton, Bart.—(cheers).

The Mayor then inquired if any elector had anyone else to propose as a candidate.

The Right Hon. Francis Thornhill Baring, Esq. then said—In order to give time to deliberate whether anyone else shall be proposed, allow me take this opportunity of addressing you. It is quite true, as has been stated, that for twenty years I have had the honour of representing you. On many former occasions I have met you, and though opposed by many a gallant and honest man, whom it was an honour to meet as an opponent, and a still greater honour to defeat, I have had the good fortune, in consequence of your approval of my Principles, to be nine times returned as your representative. You will, I am sure, acquit me of being a flatterer when I say, that though I have, during my public life, received many offices and refused some, yet nothing which I ever held or declined, no place that it is in the power of the Crown to offer, ranks higher in my estimation, than the honour of being an independent member of the House of Commons for this borough. There is no place in this kingdom that I would not willingly refuse rather than quit this. Through many changes in things I have not changed; but I come before you with the same principles as when I first started in public life, and I have stood by them in good and bad times, nor am I likely to desert those opinions now. In 1838, under Lord Grey’s administration, “Peace, Reform, and Economy,” were the watchwords of the Whig party; and if I were to inscribe any motto on my banner now, it should be the same as then. To begin with the first word: I feel confidence in Lord Palmerston, and think that the same hands will continue to keep us from war, as have hitherto been instrumental in maintaining peace. It may be that war is more popular here—(cries of no, no.) But at the same time I would say that it is not by yielding on all occasions that you maintain peace, but be considered it should be the object of this country to maintain peace by influence the peace of Europe. The honourable gentleman then re-viewed the result of the passing of the Reform Bill, and stated that the passing of that Act had tended to the improvement of the institutions of the country, to the removal of duties on various articles of consumption, and more especially to the repeal of the Corn Bill, without the passing of which, in 1832 they never would have secured the latter object. Here were tangible benefits, all of which he had supported, and the subsequent alterations in the Commercial System by Sir R. Peel were such as he had previously advocated. There were other questions which had been brought forward, in reference to which difference of opinion existed between himself and a portion of his constituents; I now refer (said Mr B) to the Education Question: when I gave my sentiments on the question, I felt it necessary, in conjunction with my colleague, that there might be no mistake, and we expressed our candid opinion and left nothing to be misunderstood. I am not anxious to raise a question now on which it was my misfortune to differ with some of you; but having explained most distinctly that opinion, I am not inclined, when everything is going on smoothly, to revive that question again. I naye to thank those who differ from me for the courtesy they have displayed, and trust that the difference which exists between us on this question will not break off the connexion so long established with old and valued friends. I do not, however, think that gentlemen are sufficiently aware of the great want of education in this country; not so much a want of schools as a want of proper education giving them. Now I will give you a fact: figures are worth something, and there is generally great difficulty in obtaining accurate statistics relative to education. This test has been applied lately, and the act passed for the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, has been the most affording information relative to the proportion of men and women married who could write their name; and out of 100 men and 100 women married in England, how many do you think could write their name? Of 100 men, 32 could not write their name: and of 100 women, 49 could not write their name, but simply made their mark. This gives the state of education of people who reach mature years. It was said that Portsmouth was well off, having plenty of good schools: it might be so, he believed it was the case; but he knew from the same source, that in Hampshire, out of one hundred men married, thirty could not write their name; and of one hundred women, thirty-eight could not write their name. These were facts illustrative of the want of education, and in the manufacturing districts this want was much greater. In Lancashire, for instance, out of one hundred men married, thirty-eight could not write; and of one hundred women, sixty-six could not write. Is that a satisfactory state? Can that be called an education which does not enable a man to write his name? You must give way a little, if you do not agree in every thing. A great good can be obtained without some sacrifice. The great evil that one-third of the male population, and one-half of the female population cannot write, suggests that it is time to put our shoulder to the wheel, and, laying aside our differences of opinion do our best to correct the same. Economy is the next question that I have to refer to,—a word which is not
popular in this country and of which we have been very negligent of late. I do not charge the Government with this, for as long as the House of Commons is willing to vote money, Government will find the means of spending it—(laughter.) It was said that Government spent money in jobbing. Now, there is nothing perfect; but I do not think they are chargeable with jobbing so much as with having been engaged in promoting the greater efficiency of your naval and military defences. I think the last House of Commons has not attended sufficiently to enforcing economy. I agreed with Sir Robert Peel's policy with regard to Free Trade; but I did not vote for the Income-tax—(cheers.) I would have had the money—don't misunderstand me—but I would have possessed other means of raising it. Sir R. Peel says that he has taken off a large quantity of taxes, but he forgets that he has left the Income Tax behind. I think it will be found necessary by the Government, next year, to put on more taxes. I speak this unreservedly, because I am not bound by the bands of office, and know no secret. I shall reserve to myself liberty of action,—I see no reason to change my mind relative to the Income Tax, but think it will be necessary to have more taxes, or more strict economy.

An Elector here inquired whether Mr. Masterman, and another Conservative member, had not pledged themselves to use their efforts in removing the Income Tax? If so, the Conservatives would, after all, be the best friends of the people.

Mr. Baring replied, he was not aware of Mr. Patterson having given any such pledge. He then expressed his regret at not having been able to see all the electors during this canvass, many at Milton and Fratton having, in consequence of the shortness of the time, been necessarily omitted. Another difficulty was presented by a recent Act of Parliament, which he quite approved of, whereby the removal of a burgess from one house to another did not deprive him of his vote; but it rendered it exceedingly difficult for them (the members) to find them out. He begged again to express his thanks for their support, and also to those worthy friends who had proposed and seconded him, and for the kind manner in which they had done so; as also for the attention with which the assemblage had listened to him—(cheers).

Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart, who stood on the left of the Mayor, said—Gentlemen, I stand before you for the third time to solicit your confidence and the honour of representing you in Parliament, an honour which I have enjoyed for nine years. If this were the first time of my appearing before you, I should have thought it my duty to enter into a detailed profession of my views on political topics; but as it is not the case, it will be more satisfactory that I should simply appeal to my conduct in Parliament during the period I have been your representative; and only ask this expression of confidence on your part that you believe I shall not change, but that I shall continue to promote those reforms which I have laboured to effect ever since I have sat in Parliament. The labours of the last Parliament exhibited a continuous struggle to maintain free institutions and commercial freedom. In the first session the measures of the Liberal Government were rejected by a majority, but they were not discouraged, they continued to fight the battle of freedom, and ultimately had the satisfaction to find that the leader of the monopolists could no longer go forward, but struck his colours and gave up. I do not undertake to defend the conduct of Sir Robert Peel as a party man: he employed the power which his party gave him to carry measures repugnant to that party; but I give him credit for sacrificing his party to the interests of the country. Although great triumphs have been achieved, still we are not in a position to lay down our arms. Though the Protectionists have lost the talents and eloquence of their leader, they are still very powerful in the country. We have an intimation of what the Country party would do if in power, as stated by Lord George Bentinck, who has signified his intention of endeavouring to restore the Corn Laws, or else to add to the manufacturing burdens. Look at his conduct in the last Parliament. He proposed the expenditure of sixteen millions to promote speculation and monopoly in Ireland. We were ready to give a large and unprecedented sum to the support of that unhappy people, but not to throw it away and enrich the speculator.

An Elector: It would not have been thrown away. Railways are good things, and promote labour.

Sir George continued—A railway certainly is a good thing, but sixteen millions was a large sum to expend on that object. Lord Bentinck also opposed the Poor-law for Ireland. The Government had during the last Parliament greatly reduced the duty on sugar; and a committee of the House of Commons of which I was a member, sat during the last session to inquire into the state of our relations with China, and in their report recommended the removal of half the present duty on tea; I trust that during the ensuing Parliament this recommendation will be carried; a measure, the salutary operation of which will, I feel assured, be facilitated by our present representative in China. I would expect
all the friends of free institutions and freedom of commerce not to suffer small differences to divide you. On the question of education I concur with my honourable friend and colleague. I have hitherto touched on points on which we are agreed. I now allude to a question which has produced a schism in the liberal camp. I think we should have shrunk from our duty had we not supported the Government measure of Education, it being generally acknowledged that ignorance is the parent of crime. The hon. baronet then expressed his general adherence to the policy of the present Government, though he did not conceive it to be his duty to give any ministry his implicit support; it being the province of the House of Commons to look narrowly into its conduct. During the last session he had appealed against an act of the government whereby the family of one who had rendered great service to his country had been left unprovided for, and thought that such should not be the case: he hoped that by directing the attention of the Government thereto they would not be left destitute. I have now only to say, that if you honour me with your confidence and support I shall try, to deserve it. I again thank you for your attention.

An Elector—If education be promoted among the people, will you support Universal Suffrage?

Sir George replied, that if the lower classes of society were found capable of making a good use of it, he would support it.

Elector—The lower orders have as large a sense of honour as you have, every bit.

The Mayor was now about to inquire whether any elector had another candidate to propose, when Mr. Dart, a schoolmaster, residing at Buckland, stood forward and said, they had just heard the sentiments of the candidates, who had said not one word about the starving operatives. It was, then, the duty of the electors to teach their members some useful lessons. He would ask them, were they prepared to give to every man a vote who possessed a local habitation and a name; or was the possession of bricks and mortar still to prove the title to a vote? Were they prepared to vote against the Poor Law Bill, especially that clause which separates man and wife? Mr. Baring had told them that he had opposed the Income Tax, and he (Mr. Dart) would tell them why he had done so: because his family were money-mongers, and did not like to pay it. He had said nothing about means of relief to the starving population of this country; and must think you are a good tempered people, indeed, if he has any sense—and he has either this or a great deal of cunning. All the property he possessed had been wrung from the hard earnings of the industrious classes. Could he be called their representative if he did not come near them, and attend their public meetings when called on to do so. Had any other candidate come forward and gone to the poll, he should have given him a plumper.

Mr. Baring said he would not shrink from answering any question which might be put to him by Mr. Dart or any other elector. One question was, whether he (Mr. B.) did not think them a good humoured people? He said he certainly did, having always found them so. The next question put was, whether I would give a vote to every person possessing a local habitation and a name? No, I would not. Another question was, would I vote for the repeal of the clause in the Poor Law Act which separates old married couples? That clause was repealed last session, so it does not exist. With reference to the poorer classes and the famine as alluded to by Mr. Dart, I would say, that it is not always those who say most that feel most. It was my duty to assist in the repeal of the Corn duties and in alleviating the distress of the Irish; and I voted for these measures in the House. Mr. Dart has imputed motives to me: I shan't answer that imputation. If it be true, there is no use in answering it; if not true, it is not worth noticing. My family came to this country possessed of very little, and they have made their way by industry. God forbid that the day should ever come when it is a disgrace to a man that he has made his way by industry.

Mr. Malcomb, a chartist, in the body of the crowd underneath, then requested permission to come on the hustings, which being granted, he addressed the electors, observing there were times when every man should boldly state his opinion. He had listened to the speeches of the candidates and read their addresses. Mr. Baring had told them he had nothing new to offer: he was the same in principle as he was twenty years ago. Now, did he suppose that the electors as well as himself has stood still all that while, and is he justified in going to Parliament with the same principles as he held twenty years ago? He then charged Mr. Baring with being a money-monger, and asked him if he could deny having anything to do with the Irish loan?—(Mr. Baring: Nothing whatever.) He (Mr. Malcomb) never knew any man who had thus risen but by trickery. He would ask, in reference to the state of Ireland, why the Government had
given up the Bill for the Sale of Encumbered Estates in Ireland, and the Health of Towns Bill, when they proceeded with the Bishopric of Manchester Bill? He then suggested, as a panacea for the numerous social ills under which the middle and lower classes laboured, an alteration in the currency, — permitting persons who possessed property to issue paper-money to represent that property.

Mr. Baring, in reply, defended his family and himself from the charge of being money-mongers; he said he was not there to answer for the Government why certain Bills were given up; and assured them that, in reference to the Health of Towns Bill, he thought Portsmouth stood much in need of it, or a similar measure: he hoped next session it would be brought forward and carried.

The Mayor having again asked whether any elector had any other candidate to propose, and there being no reply, declared the Right Hon. F. T. Baring, and Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart. duly elected members to serve in the ensuing Parliament. This announcement was received with slight cheering.

Mr. Baring and Sir George Staunton then briefly returned thanks for the honour conferred on them by the electors,—after which Mr. Malcomb proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for the manner in which he had discharged his duties as returning officer, that day. Since he had been Mayor, he had conducted himself as a gentleman, and at public meetings had obtained for everybody a fair and impartial hearing. Now, he (Mr. M.) had, at a public meeting, presided over by Alderman Biiton, been turned out of the room, by the chairman's orders, by a policeman, because he expressed a different opinion. On that day, the police had refused him admission to the hustings, but the Mayor had granted it, and he had shown himself disposed to an impartial discharge of his duties.

Mr. Baring seconded the motion, and put the same to a show of hands, which was unanimously carried.

The Mayor briefly returned thanks, and the assembly, which now consisted of about 1500 persons, quietly dispersed about half-past two o'clock, the proceedings having occupied about two hours. The return was signed by the Mayor at the hustings, and witnessed by nine burgesses, and forwarded the same evening to the sheriff.

The members proceeded to the Committee-room opposite and after briefly addressing the Committee, who gave them three cheers they departed, leaving little trace behind that an election of two members to serve in Parliament had on that day taken place.

1847 – The Income Tax: A public general meeting of the inhabitants of the borough of Portsmouth on this subject was held at the Society's Hall, Portsea, on Friday evening, the Worshipful the Mayor, T.E. Owen, Esq., in the chair. The Right Hon. F.T. Baring, one of the representatives of the borough, and H.C. Compton, Esq., one of the Members for the County, were present.

Mr Richard Batchelor read a letter from Sir George Staunton, stating that he had just returned from a five weeks’ tour of Switzerland, and he was unable to attend the meeting from fatigue and the pressure of business; but that he would not fail to keep in mind the wishes of his constituents when the subject came before the House of Commons. (cheers.) He concluded by reading the second resolution — “That the vexatious spirit in which the Income Tax has been enforced in this district is calculated to create dissatisfaction and distrust, both towards the law and its administrators, and it is therefore desirable a memorial should be sent to the Lords and Treasury, stating the grievances in this locality, and the propriety of adopting a graduated Property-tax in lieu thereof, and that if necessary the memorial be followed up by a petition to the House of Commons.”

Mr Thomas Hoskins said he had much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Dr Rolph supported the second resolution.

Mr H.J. Hogg then moved the third resolution — “That the presentation of such memorial, and the subsequent petition, be entrusted to the care of Mr Baring, and that he, with Sir George Staunton and the county Members, be requested to support the prayer thereof.”
1847 – Commerce with China – The Tea Duties:

On the 23rd of March, in the present year, a select committee of the House of Commons was appointed, upon the motion of Viscount Sandon. "to take into consideration the present state of our commercial relations with China." The committee was composed of fifteen members, namely, Viscount Sandon (the chairman), the Right Hon. F. T. Baring, Mr. Beckett, M.P. for Leeds, Dr. Bowring, Mr. Brown, of Liverpool, Mr. E. Cardwell, late vice president of the Board of Trade, Mr. Ewart, Mr. Harcourt, Mr. B. Hawes, under-secretary for the colonies, Viscount Jocelyn, late under-secretary of the Board of Control, Mr Matheson and Mr. Moffatt, both of whom are interested largely in the trade with China and the East, Mr. John Abel Smith, who is a London merchant, Mr. Spooner and Sir George Staunton, whose practical knowledge of everything relating to China has already been of such great value to our age.

The committee thus appointed, and which was rarely attended by less than nine or ten of the members mentioned, sat 16 days, and examined upwards of 50 witnesses. In the instance the committee directed their attention almost exclusively to the subject of the tea duties, the operation of which had in fact been the ground on which the movers had claimed hearing from the legislature. But the witnesses on this subject came in, some were found so fully informed on other topics, and others were so full of local and general grievances, that the committee was inevitably led on to consider matters foreign, perhaps, to the original object proposed for inquiry, but which nevertheless are to a great extent inseparable from the question of the tea duties. Of these subjects, some of which will afford matter for a future summary, the most important were our exports to China, the trade of other nations with that country, the treatment of British residents within this foreign territory, the condition of the Chinese, the cultivation of the tea plant, the opium trade, the state of Hong Kong, and the possibility and advantage of extending our trade to other Chinese sea-ports. Upon all or most of these several heads the committee reported in July last at considerable length, and it will probably be recollected that this report was given in full some time ago in the columns of the Daily News. After reporting that the China trade of this country was in declining state—that it had been for several successive years increasingly unprofitable—that the main cause of the decline was the limited range of articles which the Chinese could export—that tea was the only commodity in which we could hope to deal with them to any sufficiently increased extent to give an impetus to our trade—and that the high rate the duty upon tea was the main barrier to its increased consumption in Great Britain, and consequently to its increased export from China, the committee went to state that they had little doubt that, after no long interval, any defalcation in the amount of duty received from tea would be repaid by the increased consumption of tea and sugar which would follow a reduction of price, that therefore they thought themselves warranted in recommending that at the earliest possible period considerable reduction in such duties should be made, as alike calculated to increase the comforts and improve the social habits of our people, and as essential to the extension of our trade with China — nay, even to its maintenance at the point it has already reached.

An important point of the inquiries of the committee related to the best mode of taking the duties. They reported that one or two witnesses proposed to return to an ad valorem duty, but that the preponderance of evidence and the fiscal and commercial convenience of a single "fixed" duty, together with its proved tendency to draw a better quality of tea into consumption, overbore the apparent equity of attempting to proportion the duty to the quality of the article consumed.

In regard to other points arising out of the general subject, the committee made several valuable suggestions. They referred to the importance of extending the trade with China to the more northern ports of that empire, especially to Shanghae (already a formidable rival to Canton), Amoy, Ningpo, and Foochowfoo, the great seat of the opium traffic. They suggested the advisability of giving further security to mariners in the Chinese seas by buoying the approaches to Shanghae and Foochowfoo, and they advised, as great assistance and security to our merchants, the establishment of a regular post-office communication by steam boats between Hong Kong, Canton, and the northern parts before mentioned. With regard to Hong Kong, they reported that whilst undue advantages had been expected to result from European settlement in that island, yet that it had been burdened with disadvantages arising from monopolies, farms and petty regulations unwisely established, unsuited to its position and prejudicial to its progress. The local government had been placed, they repeated, on a footing of needless expense; and great inconvenience had arisen from the dependence of the governor on two departments of administration at home, namely, the Colonial office, to
which he was made responsible as governor of a colony, and the Foreign-office, from which he received instructions as representative of the crown in a foreign country. The committee further recommended a short code be drawn up for the more convenient administration of justice in Hong Kong; that facilities should be given for the acquisition of the Chinese language in that colony, both by the consular officers and the public; that encouragement should be given to the establishment of schools for the Chinese resident upon the island; that a share the municipal government of the colony should be given to the inhabitants; and that a court of review for the decisions of the consular courts should be established on a basis calculated to ensure confidence in its decision. With regard to the complaints which were very warmly expressed by the Hong Kong merchants, that good faith had not been kept in conveying land purchased from government at certain land sales in the colony, the committee thought that assurances made to early settlers might have led to general expectations not destined to be realised, but they acquitted the public officers of all breach of good faith in the matter.

Such being the inquiries and the conclusions of this committee, it is proposed to give a summary of the evidence it elicited. The tea duty and its effects is taken as the first subject, as having been the primary object of the committee's inquiry.

Sir George Larpent, the late unsuccessful candidate for the City of London, who is chairman of the East India and China Association our city, was the first witness examined by the committee, and he commenced by stating the present state of the tea duties. The trade, he says, was thrown open in 1834, a rate of duties being then established which Is. 6d. per lb. (or 96 per cent, ad valorem) was fixed as the duty on bohea, 2s. per lb. as the duty on Congou, and 3s. (or 100 per cent, ad valorem) as the duty on Souchong. It was found impossible to work these duties properly in consequence of the frauds which were practised, the want of a sufficient number of competent tasters, and the discrepancies among the custom-house authorities as to the precise character of particular sorts. In consequence the legislature, in 1836, adopted a uniform rate of duty of 2s. per lb. To that five per cent, was afterwards added, which brought the duty to 2s. 21/2d. per lb upon all descriptions of tea, which is the precise amount at present levied. This duty produces revenue of 5,000,000/ a year, and it is a duty (taking all the qualities of the article) of not less than 165 per cent, upon the average price of tea in England; "a duty," says Sir Geo. Larpent, "certainly anomalous in our fiscal system with references to an article of such consumption as tea." But upon the cost price of tea in China the duty is still more excessive. Taking the average bond price here at Is. per lb., and deducting from that 31/2d. per lb., as the charge of transit, the average cost price in China would be 81/2d. per lb. for tea, thus making the duty imposed not less than 300 per cent, upon the original price of the article. "This gross injustice," says Sir George Larpent, "is committed on the Chinese, whilst we confine them to charge upon our staples a duty of not more than 5 per cent. !" It appears that the original intention of the legislature was to gain a revenue from the tea duties of about 3,000,000/. per ann.; consequently, the revenue has been benefited to the extent of nearly 1,400,000/. beyond the income originally anticipated. "This," says the same witness, "would have been all very well if the trade had benefited also, but he had come there to show that the losses of the trade were such that this state of things could not possibly continue."

Upon this point a great deal of evidence was given, among the most important of which may he noticed that of Mr Samuel Gregsen, of Austinfriars, who is deputy-chairman of the East India and China Association of London, This gentleman says that, from the year 1842, our trade with China has been getting from bad to worse. "It is at present merely a Barter trade, with loss both upon exports and imports." The loss upon exports he estimates at from 15 to 20 per cent., and the loss upon the tea imported at from 17 to 20 per cent. Thus, for several years past there has been, on the outward and inward investment together, a loss of about 35 per cent. Of course such a state of things could not continue, and the English merchants have consequently been gradually abandoning the export trade, and merely acting as consignees of Chinese traders who sent teas for sale to this country. This arrangement, however, has not, it would seem, bettered things materially. Mr. Gregson gives the particulars of tea shipments to the care of his house from Chinese merchants, and from these it would seem that the Chinese sending teas here are absolutely suffering severe loss. One parcel of 723 chests of Congou, per Hindustan, cost in China 5,431/. and was sold in London for 3,773l.; 696 chests of Congou, per John Cooper, cost in China 3,007l., and sold for 1,988l. 1,372 chests, per Adelaide, coat 5,142l., and the proceeds were 3,892l. The Chinese merchants are in the habit of getting advances on their consignments, and in one or two of these instances, says Mr. Gregson, the advances were not covered. Mr. William Nicol, of Liverpool, gives other illustrative cases. He says, "dispute arose in Liverpool between a
manufacturer who had sent out goods to China, and the house connected with Chins, which had managed the transaction through its agents in that country. The matter was referred to arbitration, and these were the facts. The first transaction was in 10 bales of twist and 20 bales of shirting, which, with charges, amounted to 887/.

If the duty on tea were reduced, the trade would become better than at present, an important to the export trade of Great Britain, it is important to consider how these high rates affect our trade in China.

This being the state of the case, as far as these duties affect the export trade of Great Britain, it is important to 26 November 1847, Daily News

1848 – The poor of the parishes of Warblington and Bedhampton, have just benefitted by a donation of Ten Pounds from Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P. of Leigh Park. 29 January 1848, Hampshire Telegraph
1848 – Sir George Staunton and Mr. Padwick: Our readers will no doubt remember that some time ago Mr. Padwick, as "Lord of the Manor of Hayling," laid claim to certain portions of Sir George Staunton's property, to recover which he commenced several ejectments. He also claimed the right of Free Warren over Sir George's estate, and in the exercise of that assumed right he took the liberty of shooting over a portion of the Honourable Baronet's property. As soon as Sir George had satisfied himself that this act was not as unintentional trespass on the part of Mr. Padwick, but a deliberate assertion of a pretended right, he immediately commenced actions against the "Lord of Hayling," for the trespass upon his estates. No less than six actions at law have been thus depending between our worthy Representative and his litigious neighbour. In those which were commenced by Mr. Padwick he did not proceed to trial at the last July assizes, as he might have done if he had thought proper; and although Sir George endeavoured to force him to trial, at that time, in the action of trespass, the lawyer contrived by delays, in pleading, to let the summer assizes pass over without bringing either of the causes to issue. The worthy Baronet, ho wever, being determined not to allow approaching assizes to pass without requiring the Pretender either to establish his alleged rights, or to abandon them, caused notice of trial to be served upon him, which has compelled the Lord of Harling to strike his colours – to relinquish his pretended claims and to agree to convey to Sir George all rights which he may have in respect of his property, if, upon an investigation of Mr. Padwick's title, by the Honourable Baronet's council, he shall appear to have any. Sir George, we hear, instead of inflicting his costs upon Mr. Padwick, has mercifully consented to bear them himself. This is the same man who has commenced between 5 and 600 actions of ejectments against the proprietors of houses and lands, at Landport, to which, also, he has the modesty to lay claim as "Lord of the Manor of Hayling;" thus causing a serious public inconvenience, as well as a great loss to the London and South Coast Railway Company, by preventing the erection of their proposed terminus, and inflicting severe injury upon the owners of property-many of whom are of the humbler classes and who by means of their hard-earned savings have honestly bought and paid for what they possess - by subjecting them to the expense and annoyance of his vexatious litigations. We earnestly hope that some of our lawyers will be able to drive him to trial at the assizes now drawing near, in order that the claims asserted by Mir. Padwick may either be substantiated or abandoned. 20 May 1848, Hampshire Telegraph

1848 – Havant: Between thirty and forty of the Inhabitants of this parish have subscribed for the erection of a stained-glass window in the Chancel of the Parish Church. The work is by Miller, of London, and is a most creditable result of his skill, when the price paid (something under £50), is taken consideration. The window has three lights; the centre being filled with a figure of, Faith (the Church being dedicated to St, Faith), and the side lights by Hope and Charity. The subscription was set on foot and liberally headed by Sir George Staunton, Bart. M.P., of Leigh Park. This window is the third which has been erected during the Incumbency of the Rev. T. Goodwin Hatchard. 20 May 1848, Hampshire Telegraph

1848 – Sir George Staunton and Sir Francis Baring have contributed £5 each to the Institution established here for the improvements of schoolmasters in the Droxford deanery. 20 May 1848, Hampshire Chronicle

1849 – A meeting of the friends of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts was held at Havant on Thursday last, at which Sir George Staunton M.P., presided. It appeared by the report of the Havant Association, that upwards of £80 had been remitted to the Parent Society, from the Havant Association, during the last year. The Rev. H.J. Vernon, Secretary to the Parent Society, preached in the morning, at Havant Church, and the meeting was addressed by Sir George Staunton, the chairman. Sir John Ommanney, Rev. Wm. Norris, Rev. T. Hatchard, Rev. Mr. Bradley, J. Deverell, Esq., and Thomas Hoskins Esq.. A liberal collection was made after the sermon and the meeting. 13 January 1849, Hampshire Chronicle

1849 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park, has with his usual liberality distributed 500 bushels of coals to the poor of Havant. 13 January 1849, Hampshire Chronicle

1849 – Portsmouth Election: Almost the first signs of the ordinary animation which prevails at an election, were exhibited on Monday last, in the shape of bills calling upon the friends and supporters of Sir Francis Baring, Bart., to meet at the Beneficial Society's Hall, Kent-street, Portsea, on that evening, when the Rt. Hon. Bart, was expected to attend. During the afternoon of Monday it was generally known that the Rt. Hon. Bart. had arrived, and before the hour of meeting, which was called for seven o'clock, the room was completely filled with a large number of the highly respectable tradesmen of the borough. 12 January 1849, Hampshire Chronicle
The following letter from our respected Representative, Sir George Staunton, was read in the course of the meeting:

"Devonshire-street, Feb. 3, 1849.

“My dear Sir,— I am much gratified to hear from you that everything is proceeding so auspiciously with respect to the election of my excellent friend the First Lord of the Admiralty, on Tuesday next.

"I heartily wish it were in my power to meet the electors of upon this occasion, as I had the pleasure of doing, when Sir Francis Baring was elected Chancellor of the Exchequer, some ten years ago: but at that time Parliament was not sitting: our whereas now, in the first week of the session, and first after the House of Lords have been within two votes of throwing out the Address on the Queen's Speech, it is of great importance that the friends of the Liberal cause should be constantly at their posts and take care that a similar surprise do not occur in the House the of Commons! I trust you will be kind enough to explain to my friends, that nothing but my conviction that it is my duty to remain in London, would have deprived me of the pleasure of meeting them on the hustings on Tuesday next.

"Believe me, my dear Sir, always most truly yours,

Geo. T. STAUTON

James Hoskins, Esq., having been called to the chair, briefly addressed the meeting as to the object for which they were assembled. Sir Francis Baring having been again elevated to the high and flattering position of a member of the Cabinet, came there to ask them if in so doing he had done anything to forfeit their confidence. He (the chairman) believed they would unanimously re-elect him – (cheers).

10 February 1849, Hampshire Telegraph

1849 – New Plant.— The Scutellacia Murrantha—large flowered skull cap—is a native of Eastern Asia, extending from Dahuria probably all the way to the great wall of China, where it was detected by Sir George Staunton. Seeds were sent from the Petersburg imperial Gardens, and plants raised from them blossomed in the open border during the summer of 1848 in the Royal Gardens of Kew. It is a truly handsome and perfectly hardy plant, and we would strongly recommend its cultivation en masse, on account of its highly ornamental character, and because it continues long in blossom. The flowers are in large terminal spikes or tracemes, and of a rich purple colour. It is neat growing, hardy, herbaceous plant, which will grow in any good garden soil. It is well adapted for cultivation amongst pot collections of alpine plants, and is propagated by division of the roots and by seeds.

23 March 1849, Durham County Advertiser

1849 – Public Dinner to William Grant, Esq.: On Thursday last a public dinner was given at the George Hotel, by a large number of influential and respectable inhabitants of this Borough, to William Grant, esq., to mark their approval of the eminent service that gentleman had rendered his fellow townsmen in the active part taken by him in promoting the erection of the new Hospital recently opened in this Borough.

In the course of the evening the following letters were read from the Right Hon. Francis T. Baring and Sir George Staunton, the members for the Borough, accounting for their absence:

Stratton, April 7th, 1849.

My dear Lord,— I bet you will make my excuses for not being present at the dinner given to Mr. Grant. I am very sorry not to be able to partake in this mark of respect and regard justly paid to that gentleman's exertions in so good and useful an undertaking as the New Hospital, but I have an engagement to attend the wedding of a relative which will Interfere with my presence at the dinner on Monday. Pray make my best apologies to Mr. Grant and the company.

I am, my dear lord, Yours very truly, F.T. BARING.

Leigh Park, Havant, April 10th, 1849.

My dear Sir, I regret much that an engagement of some standing to dine with my neighbour Mr. Norris, the rector of Warblington, deprives me of the pleasures of attending at the proposed dinner to my friend, Mr. W. Grant on
Thursday next, I should otherwise I assure you have been most happy to have concurred in the flattering testimony of the esteem and regard of his fellow townsman, and their sense of his valuable services to the town and neighbourhood.

Believe me, my dear Sir, Most truly yours, GEORGE T. STAUNTON.

14 April 1849, Hampshire Chronicle

1849 – The Royal Asiatic Society: On Saturday afternoon the anniversary meeting of the, members of the above society was held in the spacious Museum, New Burlington-street, and was very fully attended, the majority of the gentlemen present being East India directors and retired officers. The Earl of Ellesmere was in the chair, supported by General Briggs, the Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, Sir Harry Verney, Col. Sykes, Col. Dickenson, General Delamotte, Sir C. Malcolm, Sir G. Staunton, Bart., M.P., General Goodfellow, Major John Lewis, Professor Lee, Professor Wilson, Mr. Horsfield, &c. The Secretary read the report of the council. It commenced by mentioning the losses the society had sustained by death since the last meeting. The society had been deprived by death or retirement of more than an ordinary number of members. The total had been 25, while the accessions had been 13. The council believed that the improvement in the library and museum would afford greater inducement to gentlemen interested in the society's pursuits to join the ranks of its members. The Hon. East India Company had munificently doubled the amount of its annual donation. Amongst the donations to the museum during the past year was one claiming especial notice. It was a cast of the Obelisk of Nineveh, and which they owed to the munificence of Sir George Staunton. The report concluded by stating that the library had been enriched by the addition of a large collection of valuable MSS. in Eastern languages, and in the translation of which some progress had been made. The report having been adopted, several members addressed the meeting in favour of the society, stating that it had proved invaluable to British officers in India. The officers for the management of the society during the ensuing year were then elected. The Earl of Ellesmere was chosen president ; Professor Wilson, director ; and Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P., the Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone, the Right Hon. Sir E. Ryan, and the Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, vice presidents. The members of the council having been also elected, and a vote of thanks passed to the noble earl, for presiding, the meeting separated.

14 May 1849, London Evening Standard

1849 – Leigh Park Gardens: We have been requested to correct a wrong impression, which has gained some currency in this locality, relative to the delightful grounds, of our borough member, Sir George Staunton, at Leigh, being thrown open to the public indiscriminately on the ensuing Coronation day. We are authorised to state, that while any respectable person or party, however humble their station, may enjoy the pleasure of perambulating Sir George’s grounds, any day except Sunday, simply on applying to the gardener (Mr Scott), whose invariable courtesy and attention is well known to very many who have experienced it, yet it should be distinctly understood, that very large parties cannot be admitted on public holidays for reasons which will be at once be apparent to every reflective mind.

23 June 1849, Hampshire Advertiser

1849 – The Beneficial Society at Portsmouth, Monday: Sir Francis Baring arrived at Portsmouth this morning, not in his official character as First Lord of the Admiralty, but as one of the representatives of the borough, to dine with the members of the Beneficial Society, at the society’s rooms, in Kent-street, Portsea. Sir George Staunton, the other representative of the borough also dined with the society. About 100 members were present, this being the ninety-seventh anniversary meeting. Sir Francis Baring and Sir George Staunton sent presents of venison and game for the occasion. The dinner took place at three o’clock. Sir Francis Baring, we hear, returns to London to-night.

2 October 1849, London Evening Standard

1850 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P., has this week made a donation of £10 to the poor of the parish of Warblington, placing it at the disposal of the churchwardens.

12 January 1850, Hampshire Telegraph

1850 – Sir George Staunton has just published, in the shape of a pamphlet, some “Observations on Chinese Commerce including Remarks on the proposed Reductions of the Tea Duties, our new settlement in Hong Kong, and the Opium Trade,”
1850 – Court and Fashion, 20 March: The Rev. Dr. Gutzlaff, from China, was presented to Prince Albert by Sir George Staunton, at the levee on Wednesday.

26 March 1850, Liverpool Standard and General Commercial Advertiser

1850 – Tropical Fruits and Plants: It may interesting to the growers tropical fruits to learn the present condition of Sir George Staunton’s celebrated Mango Tree at Leigh Park, Hampshire. And we are happy to gratify their curiosity, by publishing the following memorandum, which we owe to Mr. Scott, gardener to the right honourable gentleman. The number of flowers on the large Mango Tree may be stated at near a quarter of a million. There are 108 heads or panicles of flowers. The number of flowers on each panicle exceeds, on an average, 2,100; but only a small proportion of these are perfect, and capable, even under the most favourable circumstances, of producing fruit.

27 April 1850, Farmer’s Gazette and Journal of Practical Horticulture

1850 – Waterloo Ball – Inaugeration of the Wellington and Nelson Statues, Portsmouth, 19 June: The banquet given last evening at the King’s Rooms on Southsea-common, by the Mayor, R. Bramble, Esq., and the people of Portsmouth, to the Lieutenant Governor Major General Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, passed off in the best possible style. A battery of 21 miniature brass guns, once the property of his late Majesty William IV., were placed within the railing close to the dining-room, and after the loyal toasts, and also the toast of the evening, proposed by the Mayor, the Health and Happiness of their Guest, Lord F. Fitzclarence, thanking him for his exertions for the benefit of the towns — the planning and formation of the Clarence Esplanade, &c. which were received with loud acclamations and cheering, a salvo was fired from the battery. The borough members seemed at a sad discount. A letter from Sir Francis Baring was attempted to be read (an apology for not attending the dinner), but it was hooted down. Sir George Staunton, who was present, and who kindly sent two beautiful pines and a large quantity of grapes to the dinner, attempted to address the company; but a large party also hissed and groaned him down, so that he could not be heard. Dr. Rolph proposed “The Health of the Borough Members;” but a party seemed determined not to drink it, and some confusion took place. At eleven o’clock Lord Frederick Fitzclarence and staff, with the admirals and other officers, retired, and the party soon after broke up. About 270 persons sat down to dinner, which was of a sumptuous style. A battery of 21 miniature brass guns, once the property of his late Majesty William IV., were placed within the railing close to the dining-room, and after the loyal toasts, and also the toast of the evening, proposed by the Mayor, the Health and Happiness of their Guest, Lord F. Fitzclarence, thanking him for his exertions for the benefit of the towns — the planning and formation of the Clarence Esplanade, &c. which were received with loud acclamations and cheering, a salvo was fired from the battery. The borough members seemed at a sad discount. A letter from Sir Francis Baring was attempted to be read (an apology for not attending the dinner), but it was hooted down. Sir George Staunton, who was present, and who kindly sent two beautiful pines and a large quantity of grapes to the dinner, attempted to address the company; but a large party also hissed and groaned him down, so that he could not be heard. Dr. Rolph proposed “The Health of the Borough Members;” but a party seemed determined not to drink it, and some confusion took place. At eleven o’clock Lord Frederick Fitzclarence and staff, with the admirals and other officers, retired, and the party soon after broke up. About 270 persons sat down to dinner, which was of a sumptuous description. The band of the Royal Marines attended, and played appropriate music. Lord Gough, after the colours were presented to the 28th Regiment, left the same evening, by rail, for London. The principal garrison races on the common, on account of the multitude of people, could not come off yesterday evening. The tents are standing and they will be contested to-day. The ball given by Colonel Massiter and the officers of the 2th, at the Clarence Barracks, in honour of their new colours, was attended by all the elite and fashionables of this district. The room was decorated with the new and the old regimental colours.

20 June 1850, London Evening Standard

1850 – Horticultural Show: The second show of the Portsea Island Society was held on Thursday, on the Glacis adjoining Hollingsworth’s Rooms. The grounds were brilliantly attended, the weather being very fine. Some very beautiful assortments were also exhibited. Messrs. Silverlock and Newman, of Chichester. Cobbett’s roses again graced the floriculture banquet, and added charm to the display of nature’s beautiful productions which should be seen to be truly enjoyed. We did not observe any contributions from the Conservatories of Sir George Staunton, which we construe into the first exhibition of the Baronet’s displeasure at the insult recently put upon him. 20 July 1850, Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette

1850 – Portsea Island Horticultural Show: The annual show (the last of the season) was held at Hollingworth’s Rooms on Tuesday, and a very brilliant exhibition was made on the occasion. We were glad to observe that Sir George Staunton favour had returned, noticed amongst the ornaments contributed the show was an exquisite selection of rare and beautiful flowers and exotics, amongst them the dove plant.

31 August 1850, Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette

1850 – Sir George Staunton, our representative, has forwarded the sum of £ 10 in aid of the funds of the Seamen and Marines Orphan School.

28 September 1850, Hampshire Chronicle

1850 – An Impudent Imposter: At the Portsmouth Police Court, on the 7th instant, John Buckley, alias Maurice Martin, alias Charles Harris, was charged with sending begging letters, accompanied with forged certificates, to different tradesmen in Portsmouth. The prisoner was brought up in May last, charged with sending a forged letter to
Sir George Staunton, representing himself to be the secretary of the Sailors' Home, and requesting Sir George to forward his subscription in aid of the building fund of the above institution, for which he had three months' imprisonment with hard labour. In this case he brought a letter to Mr. Keet, of Wish-street, Southsea, stating that he had a wife and six children in a deplorable condition, and that he was an unfortunate tradesman, reduced to this state by starvation and want, the whole of which was utterly false; he signed his name as Charles Harris. This letter was accompanied by a certificate signed E. B. Smith. Mr. Keet having his suspicions about it requested him to call again in the course of the day; in the meantime he (Mr. Keet) called upon Mr. E. B. Smith, and having been informed that it was a forgery, proceeded to Mr. Leggatt, the superintendent of the police, who succeeded in capturing the prisoner a day or two ago. The prisoner would have been taken had he called on Mr. Keet gain that day, but he had the sense to keep out of danger. He also went to another gentleman with a letter stating that he was a seaman reduced to great want in consequence of not being able to procure a ship, and a great many others were found in his carpet-bag. He was convicted as a rogue and a vagabond, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

11 October 1850, London Evening News

1850 – The Beneficial Society: The anniversary festival of this society was held Monday in accordance with annual custom the children of the society to the number of about 400, clad in the garb of the charity, and escorted by their respective officers, marched to church (St. George’s) to hear an address from the Venerable Archdeacon Wigram.

A number of the members of the society both honorary and beneficial attended the service, after which the procession of the children reformed and returned to the hall.

The annual dinner took place in the Mall at 3 o’clock. The Mayor (Benjamin Bramble, Esq.) presided, supported on his right by the Right Hon. Sir Francis Baring, Bart.. M.P., &c.; Alderman Scale, J.P.; Alderman Hoskins and Alderman Owen; and on the left by the Venerable Archdeacon Wigram, J. K. Atkins, Esq., J.P., and the Rev. H.B. Snooke.

The dinner was of the usual substantial and profuse description, added to by the bounty of Sir George Staunton and other benevolent supporters of the charity, displayed by Mr. Bennett with much good taste and discrimination, which yielded unqualified satisfaction.

“After the removal of the cloth, the Mayor gave the usual loyal toasts, which were properly responded to; the Lord Bishop and the Clergy of the. Diocese,” acknowledged the Rev. J. L. Barton. “The Duke of Wellington, Lord Lieutenant of the County.” The Rev. H. B. Snooke proposed “Sir Bladen Capel the Port Admiral, and the Navy,” which was acknowledged by Lieutenant Hoffmeister R.N. The Chairman— “Lord Frederick Fitzclarence and the Army,” which was not acknowledged. “The Members of the County, acknowledged by Mr. G. C. Stigant; “the Borough Members.” The Mayor read a letter from Sir George Staunton, regretting his unavoidable absence, but forwarding the usual liberal donation and supply of game, fruit, &c. Sir Francis Baring acknowledged the toast by saying it was well known that it was unusual for his colleague to be absent; on the present occasion, however, they must put up with his loss, and would console themselves by the good things he had sent. They had got his money and eaten his game, and trusted whenever any supporter of the Charity was prevented from personally attending, that he would appear as substantially by proxy as Sir George had done.—(Cheers.) They were well aware that polities were not dismissed at that Board, he should therefore confine himself to the compliment that had been paid him by the company as one of the members the Borough without reference to the situation he had the good fortune to hold in the Government. He had been member for 25 years of the Beneficial Society (cheers), and he hoped they entertained the same feelings towards him as they did towards other old members of the Society. He wished that as he advanced in years the recollection of the Society’s continued prosperity was the only subject, or the chief, that would engage the attention the friends before him.

12 October 1850, Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette

1851 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P. has with his usual liberality made a donation of £10 to the poor of the parish of Bedhampton; this being the custom of the esteemed Baronet at this season of the year. Sir George has also ordered a distribution of £20 worth of coal to the poor of Havant, this being also an annual gift.

18 January 1851, Hampshire Telegraph
1851 – Portsmouth Town Council: The adjourned Quarterly Meeting of the Town Council was held on Monday afternoon last, at the Sessions-room, Portsmouth; Alderman Owen in the chair, and present Aldermen Batchelor, Jones, Thompson, Cresswell, Robbins, Orange, and Purchase; _ Councillors Vandenberg, Hannam, Emanuel, Sadler, Sheppard, Hollingsworth, Childs, Gauntlett, Ford, Gait Plaisto, Mial, Stignant, Nance, sen. Nance, jun. Smithers, Slight, C. B Smith, Woods, Horsey, Davey, Garrington, Parnel, Solomon, and Burt. The minutes of proceeding meeting were read.

The Window Tax – Letters were read by the Town Clerk from Sir Francis Baring and Sir George Staunton, in answer to the petition sent to them from the Town Council for the total repeal of the Window Tax. Sir George Staunton assured the Council that he would be present, and vote with the petition; Sir Francis Baring merely said that he would present the petition, but did not give his views upon the subject. 15 February 1851, Hampshire Advertiser

1851 – Employment of Convicts in Portsmouth: The deputation appointed by the Portsmouth Town Council to wait on the Home Secretary, in reference to the projected convict prison adjoining the dockyard, presented their report of the results of their interview to the council on Monday last. The report stated, that the Home Secretary entered fully into the subject, stating that after long and mature consideration, the Government had come to the determination to abolish the present system of confining convicts in hulks, on the grounds—firstly, of the saving to the country which would be effected by their confined in prisons on shore; and secondly, for the enforcement of a better system of discipline than could possibly be maintained in prison-ships. With reference to the apprehensions entertained by the inhabitants of Portsmouth, of a large addition being contemplated in the convict establishment, Sir George Grey added, that, while the present hulks would take 1280 convicts the intended prison would contain only 1000.” A less objectionable site to that resolved on was suggested to Sir George; but he added that whilst he was not wedded to any particular spot, it was the convenience of the Admiralty that was mainly to considered. In addition to what was elicited in conversation from Sir George Grey, the Mayor of Portsmouth had received letter from the Home Office, recapitulating the views of Sir George Grey, which he read. The capitulations were by means satisfactory to the council, and strong complaints were made of the measures intended, and also of the want of assistance from the borough members. Sir Francis Baring and Sir George Staunton, in opposing them, or at all events getting them modified. The council unanimously resolved on an address to her Majesty, praying her Majesty to interfere with her authority to prevent the accomplishment of what was conceived to be an injury and disgrace to the neighbourhood. It was determined to forward an address to the Duke of Wellington for presentation to her Majesty. 22 February 1851, London Illustrated News

1851 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., one of our borough members, has had the manliness to announce to his clergyman and neighbours that he shall vote against the government on the Papal Aggression Bill, because it does not go far enough in its remedy for the evil designs of Cardinal Wiseman and his papistical party. 15 March 1851, Hampshire Telegraph

1851 – House of Commons, 31 March: Sir George Staunton presented a petition from the Deanery of Droxford, Hampshire, complaining of unequal assessment of property to the poor rates. 1 April 1851, Morning Advertiser

1851- Our Borough Member: It will have been seen by the publication of the divisions on the income-tax continuance proposition, that Sir Francis Baring voted with Ministers. Of course! He, being member of tile cabinet, could not vote otherwise. But our quiet friend Sir George Staunton did not vote at all on this important question! How was this? We may fairly premise Sir George was in the house; or, if not, he ought to have been, and being there ought to have voted. What was he sent there for, but to exercise his franchise? We look upon his silence as should have done upon his opposition to the interests of Ins constituents by voting for the further imposition of the tax. These are not times for men professing to represent the views, opinions, and welfare of large and enlightened communities to look on while others do the work, or abstain from presenting their countenances to the house on momentous occasions such those of Tuesday night. We want men, not automatons.

The party whom Sir George patronises by his silence will not long need his tacit help. Their hour is near, and when it comes, Sir George and his coadjutor in the representation of this borough will again probably hand in hand seek the suffrages of the neglected and ill-legislated for voters of Portsmouth, but there almost universal “pooh, pooh”
awaiting their application for the renewal of that confidence they long enjoyed, but, having abused, will no longer receive.

12 April 1851, *Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette*

1851 – Our Representatives: Where was Sir George Staunton on the division on the Jewish Disabilities Bill? Non est inventus. What did he do on the Income Tax Bill?—Voted in favour of the continuance of the obnoxious impost! Verily, we are in pretty predicament in the matter of our present political Governance—one member a Cabinet Minister, compelled to vote with Government upon any of its measures, no matter how uncongenial to the people; the other following the bent of inclination in the same disparaging course. So with the two we are in a fair way of being ruined first and prevented from remedying the evil afterwards.

Never, surely, was any borough unfortunate in its Parliamentary choice as that of Portsmouth. But in the face of all these injuries and insults what are the electors about?—Have they respect for themselves, their interest their position in the circle of constituencies—no moral courage to show their indignation at the treatment they have received and are still receiving at the hands of their elected legislators? We hope they have, and if so, that they will once meet and call, after the manner of their brethren of ancient Winchester, upon their contemptuous political agents to resign their stewardships. The time has arrived when this necessity becomes imperative.—“He who hesitates is lost”

10 May 1851, *Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette*

1851 – Portsea Island Horticultural Society:

The first show of the season took place on Thursday at Hollingsworth’s-rooms, and was, in spite of the weather, a most beautiful exhibition. The progress of the amateur floriculture in our neighbourhood, evidenced in the beautiful collection sent from the green-houses of residents is something to be proud of. The inclemency of the weather kept thousands away from the show, who, under favourable circumstances would have joyfully graced the fete with their presence, it was, an encouraging number of visitors who attended.

Sir George Staunton enriched the collection with the choicest specimens from his valuable conservatory. We noticed particularly the oncidiam pupilia, Trinidad, several fairy-like specimens of which were suspended from the chandeliers of the ball room.

14 June 1851, *Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette*

1851 – Culture of Allamanda: In the garden of Sir George Staunton there is a plant of Alamanda cathartica which covers the end of the tropical plant stove, and for many months in the year thousands of flowers may be seen open at one time. This plant is in a border in which its roots have to do battle with those of Ficus elastica, and consequently it does not grow very robustly, but the profuseness with which it produces flowers is quite astonishing. The roots are much restricted for space, but still the plant flowers very profusely, though the flowers are comparatively small. In planting the Allamanda out we should recommend the roots to be confined to about a cube of soil, and, if a little bottom heat could be afforded it so much the better; indeed the corner of a tan bed appears a very suitable site, and there, with the branches trained at full length and the roots curtailed a little annually, no doubt plants would flower profusely. Room, however, is what they want, and room for the branches they must have.

13 August 1851, *North British Agriculturist*

1851 – A memorial is about to be presented to the Commissioners of Railways, requesting the interference of their Lordships to compel the London and South Coast and the South-Western Railways to open the direct communication between these two lines, from Havant to Cosham, for the use and convenience of the public. This memorial originated with the Marquis of Winchester and Charles Dixon, Esq., of Stansted Park, and among the signatures already appended are those of Sir George Staunton, Bart, M.P., Leigh Part; R. Prime, Esq., M.P., Walberton; Lady FeatHerstonhaugh, Up Park; J. Clarke Jervoise, Esq., Idsworth Park; A. Hall, Esq., Watergate; W. B. Gratwicke, Esq., Ham, Sussex; Mr Serjeant D’Oyly, West Ashling; W. M. Bridger, Esq., Recorder of Chichester; Leyland Woods, Esq., Chilgrove; Colonel Byam, C.B: Sir James Stirling; Sir H. Leeke; Colonel Rotton; Archer Burton, Esq.; John Auldjo, Esq.; Major Mundy: Rev. C. Pannel, Aldsworth; Rev. W. Norris, Warblington; Captain O’Callagan, R.N., &c.

25 September 1851, *Brighton Gazette*
1852 – The late Mr. Acheson Maxwell, whose death at the advanced age of 91 has just been recorded in our obituary, was a very early and faithful friend of the late Earl of Macartney, under whom he held various confidential employments at Madras, in the memorable embassy to China, and in the Cape of Good Hope. He also accompanied his Lordship, in 1795, on a confidential mission to Louis XVIII, then residing at Verona. He then held for some years the office of an Auditor of Public Accounts, but latterly retired on a pension, to which, from his long and faithful services, he was well entitled. His increasing infirmities prevented him of late years from mixing in society, but his many amiable and social qualities, as well his spotless integrity throughout a long official life, wall always affectionately remembered within the now small circle of his surviving friends. He survived his most intimate and distinguished friend, Sir John Barrow, three years; but the present Sir George Staunton, Mr. Barrow, and other friends, paid the last tribute of respect to his remains.

7 January 1852, Evening Mail

1852 – Representation of Portsmouth: A correspondent writes:—” Portsmouth, Jan. 25.—One of the earliest changes in the government will, it is confidently understood at this port, consist in the retirement of Sir Francis Baring from the Admiralty; and it is also asserted by his more immediate friends and supporters, that in the event of his not being in office at another election, Sir Francis will not offer himself as a candidate for the representation of Portsmouth. He is known to have expressed a wish to be relieved from the cares of official life. Without the co-operation and support of Sir Francis Baring it is very doubtful whether the other member, Sir George Staunton, could secure his return at the next election. Thus, should Sir Francis retire, it is probable that an entire change will take place in the representation of this borough. There is, it is understood, already one liberal candidate for the first vacancy that may arise, in the person of Lieut.-General Lord Frederic Fitzclarence.

26 January 1852, Express (London)

1852 – To the Electors of Portsmouth:

Gentlemen, I do not attach much credit to the rumours of a dissolution; but I think I ought to delay no longer to apprise you of my resolution to retire from public life at the close of the present Parliament. I have no apprehension of being deserted by any of those friends, who (upon three successive occasions,) having so generously supported me. But, seriously considering the time of life to which I have now arrived, I feel it will be most becoming in me to leave the political field open to younger candidates. It only reminds me to return you my cordial thanks for the testimonials I have received of your uniform kindness and confidence, during a period of fourteen years, and to subscribe myself,

Your faithful and grateful servant, George Thomas Staunton Devonshire Street, Feb. 4th 1852

7 February 1852, Hampshire Telegraph
1852 – To the Electors of South Hampshire:

Gentlemen, On the 4th of February last I announced to the Constituency which it has been my pride to represent for the last fourteen years, that I had decided on retiring from public life, at the close of the present Parliament. The Liberal cause appeared to me to be safe at Portsmouth; and I gladly contemplated a release, at my time of life, from Parliamentary duties.

But, recently, several of my friends, who justly stand very high, both in your estimation and in their public position, encourage me to believe that my services may prove acceptable to you at the present important crisis. If this opinion should be confirmed by such an expression of your sentiments as cannot be mistaken, I have too deep a recollection of your former kindness towards me, to allow of any consideration of personal ease and comfort, to stand in the way of my placing at your disposal, whatever powers I may possess of serving you.

The new Parliament will have to decide a most momentous question, namely, whether we shall continue to maintain those great and liberal principles, the judicious application of which has brought this nation to a state of prosperity and tranquillity unexampled in our history; or whether we shall now retrace our steps, and return to that exploded system of Protection, which would, be, in the end, as adverse to the real interests of the tenant farmers of this country, as it would be, confessedly, odious and injurious to the community at large, by the enhancement of the prices of all the necessaries of life.

If it should be your pleasure to replace me in that truly honourable position which I formerly occupied of your Representative, I trust I may be able, by an honest, independent, and constitutional course in Parliament, to prove myself not altogether unworthy of your choice.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your most faithful servant,

GEO. THOS. STAUNTON. Devonshire-street, March 3st, 1852.

3 April 1852, Hampshire Telegraph

1852 – Representation of South Hants: A meeting of the friends of the Liberal cause in South Hants was held on Wednesday morning, at Matcham's Hotel, for the purpose of consulting as to the propriety of bringing out one or two Liberal candidates at the approaching election: Among the gentlemen present were Lord Palmerston, Sir J. B. Mill, Bt., Sir G. T. Staunton, Bt., M.P. J- B. Carter, Esq., J. Andrew's, Esq., Mayor, C. Brett, Esq., - Nightingale, Esq., and several other well-known friends of Free-trade and Representative Reform. On the motion of Lord Palmerston, seconded by J. Andrews, Esq., Sir J. B. Mill was appointed chairman to the meeting; and after addresses had been delivered by the noble lord, and several other gentlemen present, a resolution, to the effect that a requisition should be got up to Sir George e Staunton, requesting him to become a candidate for the representation of this Division of the County at the next election, was unanimously adopted. It was also strongly urged that C. Brett, Esq., who is a true and sound Reformer, and deservedly very popular with the agriculturists, should allow himself to be put forward as the colleague of Sir George; but hitherto Mr. Brett's friends have not been able to overcome his unwillingness to take so prominent a part in public life as a member of the Legislature is called upon to perform. The requisition to Sir George Staunton is now in course of signature, and should such a number of names be attached thereto as will show a reasonable prospect of success, the hon. baronet is ready and willing to fight once more the battle of Free-trade and Reform, against the Tories and Protectionists who have for so many years monopolised the representation.

17 April 1852, Hampshire Telegraph

1852 – Election, Romsey: The requisition from this town and neighbourhood to Sir George Staunton and Mr Brett has been numerously signed.

1 May 1852, Hampshire Telegraph
1852 – South Hants Election: Charles Brett, Esq., of West Hill Lodge, near Titchfield, has formally announced himself as candidate for South Hants, in the liberal and free-trade interest. A coalition has been formed between him and Sir George Staunton, Bart., the other liberal candidate, and together they will oppose Mr. Compton and Lord Henry Cholmondeley, the conservative candidates. Lord Charles Wellesley, one of the present members, has formally announced his intention not to come forward again. Sir George Staunton and Mr. Brett commence their canvass of the southern division of Hants this day.

3 May 1852, *London Daily News*

1852 – To the Electors of South Hants:

Gentlemen, You have been told lately at an agricultural meeting, that the "Farmers should take care to know who is their friend, and who is their enemy."

I heartily subscribe to their doctrine; and I will prove to you my regard for the interests of the Tenant Farmer: not by appealing to promises of Protection, which you now know to be a delusion and a snare: not by appealing to voters upon abstract resolutions, which are mere party demonstrations, but by appealing to facts which none can deny.

During the period at which I formerly represented you, I voted for the repeal or half the Malt Tax, in order to relieve the agricultural interest from the depression under which it laboured at that time. The motion was carried; but the Farmer never obtained the boon, because a considerable portion of the so-called Conservatives joined the Government in rescinding the vote, the following week. I stuck by the Farmer.

I appeal to the following published report of the Agricultural Society of Tuam, in 1843, as an evidence of my conduct to my Tenants in Ireland. I may well feel proud of such a report from one of the poorest districts of that unhappy country. "The improvements in the cleanliness, order, and general appearance of the cottages of the small Farmers, are very apparent, and we beg leave to instance those on the estate of Sir George Staunton, at Clydagh, as the most striking. In that district there is scarcely a house that does not want a premium."

I am, Gentlemen, your most faithful Servant,

GEORGE THOS. STAUNTON.

Leigh Park, April 15th, 1859.

8 May 1852, *Hampshire Advertiser*

1852 – South Hants County Election: The ridiculous farce of the canvass on the part of Sir George Staunton is still kept up! What extraordinary fancy possesses the venerable baronet! He must have been mesmerised by the passes of Lord Palmerston, and sees the county through the lens of the operator of Broadlands. Neither the open giving up of the contest by his colleague Charles Brett, esq., nor the private advice of his best friends, can induce the good man to retire. It is the last time at which it will be possible for him to appear in public life, and Sir George is resolved to make the most of it. In vain he calls upon the farmer—he is dismissed with scorn: upon the tradesman—he is scouted as an incapable. And yet our ancient friend persists in performing his devoirs to the ladies left at home to apologise for the absence of their husbands, and asks for the favour of their influence with as much pertinacity as if he really thought there was a possible chance of his success. We really would advise Sir George, for the sake of an honoured name, to give up his trumpery canvass, and retire into private life as speedily as possible.

22 May 1852, *Hampshire Advertiser*

1852 – Election for the County: Several correspondents inquire of us "What has become of the Liberal candidates?" We have not met with them ourselves, nor can find anybody that has. A writer in the Daily News, heading his communication "Freehold Land Societies," says—"Let the Hampshire Advertiser persevere in ridiculing the idea or Sir George Staunton being an aspirant for a county seat, and a multiplication of their freeholds will rapidly proceed. The reign of Paulton's will soon cease." This is very superb bounce certainly, but of what use would the multiplication be to Sir George? The writer also says that by means of these freeholds already secured 200 voters will be added to the county constituency after the next registration. Suppose they are—does the writer mean to infer that the votes would be given to Sir G. Staunton on account of his vaunted infirmities, in preference to Mr. Compton or Lord
Cholmondeley, whose vigour and business-like habits render them so immeasurably his superior, even if the wavering knight really knew what his principles are. A list of the votes and absences of Sir George Staunton on divisions would afford a pleasant commentary on his Parliamentary services. 5 June 1852, Hampshire Advertiser

1852 – Portsea Island Horticultural Show: The flower show of the Portsea Island Horticultural Society, took place on Thursday afternoon last, a tent erected near to Mr. Hollingsworth’s Rooms, Southsea Common. The show was larger than usual, but owing to the unpropitious state of the weather, many persons were prevented from viewing it, although there was fair sprinkling of both ladies and gentlemen, who in spite of the warring elements, seemed determined not to be debarred of their day’s amusement.

The stall of Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.P., exhibiting, as it always does on these occasions, some very rare plants, which are not always to be viewed, was very tastefully set out, and had it not been for the rain other contributions would have been sent. The "Ericavendishii," native of the soil of the Cape of Good Hope, was exceedingly beautiful, as was also the “Oncidium” from the East, and other Heath plants and Eracas. 12 June 1852, Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette

1852 – South Hants Election: A meeting of Mr. Compton's and Lord Cholmondeley's committee, and voters in their interest, took place at the Dolphin Hotel yesterday, when their return was made manifest. In fact, Sir George Staunton and Charles Brett, esq. have given up all show of an opposition, though they have not the grace to announce their retirement. 19 June 1852, Hampshire Advertiser

1852 – South Hants Election: Sir George Staunton, Bart., and Charles Brett, Esq., who had offered their services’ to South Hants, as the liberal candidates at the forthcoming election, not feeling themselves properly supported by the Reform interest thereof, have withdrawn from any further solicitations for support. For this determination they deserve great thanks, as the County, consequently, will not be unnecessarily kept in hot water by a doubtful show of opposition to the Tory interest. 26 June 1852, Hampshire Telegraph

1852 – South Hants Election: Sir George Staunton and Mr. Charles Brett, the Liberal candidates for the representation of the southern division of the county of Hants, have resigned the candidature, on the ground, they say in their withdrawal address, that they do not find the number of promises recorded for them such an unequivocal indication of the sentiments of the majority of the electors as would justify them in subjecting the county to the inconvenience of a contest. 29 June 1852, Morning Advertiser

1852 – Portsmouth Election: One word of Sir George Staunton—among the many on that hustings, among them several who had benefitted largely by the kindness of this fine old gentleman and scholar, was there not one who could pay a tribute to his personal worth? Alas, for human gratitude! Not one and the noble-hearted, polished, old baronet, than whom intrinsically in heart there does not exist a worthier specimen of mankind on earth, was silently allowed to retire from the representation of Portsmouth without the poor, and too often valueless, tribute of a vote of thanks. O temporal mores! 10 July 1852, Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette

1852 – South Hants Election: We have ever regretted the retirement of Sir George Staunton and Mr. Brett, as had they stood, they would certainly have been elected; but are glad to find that the contest will be resumed under circumstances that will leave no doubt of the defeat of Lord Cholmondeley and Mr. Compton. The latter is very unpopular in the district in which he resides, and we hope the men of Hants will buckle on their armour, and stand up for good fight. Southampton has nobly done its duty, and it only requires a little energy to be successful in the county. Let every Liberal voter be therefore at his post and consider that his vote will be the means of returning two good men true. 12 July 1852, Globe

1852 – Game Certificate: James Carter, Havant, appointed by Sir George Staunton, Bart., for the Manors of Havant and Flood, Middle Park Farm and Ham Farm. 2 October 1852, Hampshire Chronicle
1852 – Salisbury County Court, October 30th 1852, Re James Lessiter, An Insolvent: This Insolvent, who formerly occupied Leigh Park Farm, near Havant, belonging to Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., was this day examined upon his petition, for discharge, under the Insolvent Debtors’ Act. The Schedule represented – Debts due to Creditors of £1,106 12s. 10d.

Assets.
Good debts, with sets off: £5 13s. 6d.
Doubtful debts, with sets off: £4 19s. 6d.
Other property: none

His discharge was opposed.

It appeared in evidence, and by the Schedule, that in consequence of his reckless mismanagement of the farm occupied by him, an action was brought against him by his landlord, at the Summer Assizes, at Winchester, in the year 1850, for various breaches of covenant, and the cause was referred to the arbitration of Mr. Stock, a gentleman of the Western Circuit, who, on the 29th October following, awarded against the Insolvent - damages and costs amounting to £570. It further appeared that at Michaelmas, 1850, he sold off by auction a portion of his stock, on the farm which so realized £1265, and that there remained on the premises property amounting to £681, making together £1,946, of which was sufficient to pay all his debts, as well as the damages and costs under the award; that instead, however of applying it to that purposes, he had removed considerable property off the premises, and was in the act of removing the remainder, when his landlord, who had hitherto acted with great forbearance towards him, was compelled to distrain for rent, but was left minus for rent, tythe rent charge, and taxes, about £200. It also appeared that since that time the Insolvent had given in presents, to his daughters, £3601; to his son, £105 ; for the support of himself and wife, £315 ; and for family expenses, £100 ; making £880 expended on himself and his family; and that he had been keeping out of the way to avoid payment of the amount due to Sir George Staunton, who bad, through his solicitor, Mr. Hoskins, repeatedly expressed his readiness to listen to any reasonable proposal, but none such had ever been made. His place of abode had not been ascertained till August last.

An extraordinary scene was now exhibited in Court; Mr. G. V. Field, who was attorney for the Insolvent on the occasion of the action and the arbitration, in person opposed his discharge, and examined him as to his removal of property off the premises, and depositing them in the hands of different persons, to avoid their being taken in execution under the award ; and also as to his having kept out of the way ever since, to avoid payment of the amount awarded against him.

At the close of this examination, Mr. Hill, the Insolvent's present attorney, put in evidence three letters, written by Mr. Field to the Insolvent, the first of which was dated 2nd November, 1850, informing him that the award had been given against him, and advising him, if he did not mean to pay, to remove all his property off the farm as fast as he could, to prevent its being taken in execution. The other two letters, written two or three days afterwards, urged him to lose no time in removing the the property, and placing it in different persons' hands; ; but advising him not to place any in the hands of a friend of the Insolvent's, at Portsea (whom he named), as Hoskins might suspect it to be there ; recommending, also, that the Insolvent should keep himself out of the way, and not allow himself to be taken, and that he would give out that he was gone to America. The reading of these letters produced a great sensation in Court, and the Judge desired that they should be handed to him.

His Honour, in giving judgment, characterized this as the worst case of fraud that he had ever met with in the course of his experience. It was quite clear that at the time the award was made the Insolvent had a large amount of property, which, if properly applied, would a have satisfied his creditors, and have prevented the necessity of any application to this Court. Instead of which however, the Insolvent employed himself in fraudulently removing his property from the farm, for the purpose of defeating the just claim of Sir George Staunton; that he had not only been keeping out of the way ever since to defeat that claim, but had expended large sums of money on himself and the different members of his family. His Honor also commented in very strong terms on the dishonest and unworthy advice given to the Insolvent by Mr. Field, in the letters which had been given in evidence, in which letters he should feel it to be his duty to lay before the highest legal authority, in order that such proceedings might be taken thereupon as his lordship might be pleased to direct.

He then stated he should not be doing justice to the detaining creditor, or to the public, if he did not in this case pass a severe sentence upon the Insolvent, whom he therefore remanded to prison for twelve months.

6 November 1852, Hampshire Telegraph
1853 – The donation made by Sir George Staunton, Bart., as usual at this season, to the poor of Havant Parish, was £20, not £10 as stated last week. 22 January 1853, Hampshire Telegraph

1853 – Re-Opening of Redhill Church: This Church, which is situated within a short distance of Stanstead College, in the diocese of Winchester, was erected about fifteen years since. It was built of flint, with white brick dressings. It was, in shape, cruciform; and style, early English. There not being sufficient accommodation for the requirements of the neighbourhood, it has been found necessary to enlarge it. The alteration consists of an extension of the nave, with the addition of side aisles and the enlargement of the chancel. According to the return made to the Incorporated Society, the number of sittings in the church is now 320; but there will be found no difficulty in accommodating 400 persons. The addition of side aisles has increased the width of the church to the extent of the original transept. The walls are of flint with Caen stone dressings, with the exception of the gobies of the transepts, which are of the old erection. At the west end are three lancet windows, with hood mouldings and corbal heads. The aisle walls are pierced on either side with two two-light windows one single light towards the west end. The roof is slate, the gables surmounted by crosses. A striking feature of the exterior is very handsome bell turret of stone, pierced with trefoil arch. There are two doors, one, the principal entrance, the west corner of the south side, the other on the east of the south transept, an entrance to Sir George Staunton’s sitting.

In the inside of the Church, separating the aisles from the nave, on either side, are three arches, supported by octagonal columns, with deeply moulded capitals. The terminals of the label mouldings to the nave arches, are eight heads representing the writers of the New Testament.

The roof is open one of stained oak, forming at the intersection of the transepts groin with richly carved pendant, the principals springing from foliated corbals, representing the vine, ivy, maple, and mandrake.

The chancel arch is of fine proportions, deeply moulded and springing from clustered columns with moulded capitals, the label moulding terminated by carved heads typical of Church and State. The chancel has been considerably enlarged; the east window is of three lights with geometrical tracery, there is a smaller window of two lights on the south side, on the opposite side door leading to the vestry. A. richly moulded reredos of four trefoil arched panels, two on each aide, contain the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Commandments, in medieval illuminated characters, on gold ground. The chancel contains a great deal of rich carving, bosses, corbals, heads, &c. We may especially notice as corbals, two angels in the attitude of prayer. The flooring of Minton’s tiles has a centre of illuminated design. The stained window at the west end has been removed from the Chancel, its former situation. It was presented by Sir George Staunton.

The altar rail, pulpit, reading desk, and sittings are of stained oak in keeping with the style of the building.

The design for this church was furnished by the Messrs. Habershon, of London, and carried out by Messrs. Moore, Knight, and Thompson, under the immediate superintendence of Mr Pite, from the firm of the architects. The carving, so great a feature in the decoration of this building, has been executed by Mr Nicholls, of London and Chichester.

The ceremony re-opening took place on Tuesday last, the Bishops of Winchester, Chichester, and Adelaide taking part in the service. There was numerous attendance of clergy from the neighbourhood, including the Dean of Winchester. Rev. Canon Pilkington, &c. The Rev. H. Hawker (the incumbent) read the morning service. The choir of Chichester Cathedral attended, by permission of the Dean and Chapter. An impressive sermon was delivered the Bishop of Winchester, from Chronicles, vii, 15, 16, ‘Now mine eyes shall open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that Is made in this place. For now have I chosen and sanctioned this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.’ After the sermon, collection was made, realising upwards of £60. The church was crowded to excess. 1 December 1853, Brighton Gazette
1853 – St. John’s Church, Redhill: Having been rebuilt, enlarged, and embellished, through the munificence of its minister, the Rev. F. Hawker, Sir George Staunton, Charles Dixon, Esq. of Stansted Park, and others, that beautiful and sacred edifice was opened on Tuesday last. The right revs, the Lord Bishops of Winchester, Chichester, and Adelaide assisted on the occasion, the sermon being preached by the Bishop of Winchester, in forcible language, from 2 Chronicles, 7th chap. v. 16. Admission being given by tickets, the whole arrangements were of the most perfect order, and the church was crowded, chiefly with the neighbouring clergy and their friends. The choristers from Chichester Cathedral lent their aid in the musical portion of the service, and the anthem, taken from Psalm -17, was executed in masterly style. The Bishops were afterwards entertained by the Rev. Mr. Hawker, at the Parsonage, where a large party of the surrounding gentry partook of the hospitalities on the occasion. On Monday Sir George Staunton entertained the above clerical dignitaries at dinner at Leigh Park. 3 December 1853, Hampshire Chronicle

1854 – “A Daniel Come to Judgement”: The Radical press of the county on Saturday last contained the following astounding address:— "TO THE ELECTORS OF SOUTH HANTS.

Gentlemen.— The announcement of a new Reform Bill by Lord John Russell renders a Dissolution of Parliament at the end of the present Session not improbable. I, therefore, take the earliest opportunity of assuring you that, my health being (I am thankful to say) considerably improved since my retirement from Portsmouth in 1852, it is my full Intention again to offer myself to your choice. The course of public events since the last Dissolution cannot fail to have very much strengthened your confidence in those great political principles of which I have ever been an humble, but strenuous, advocate. Thus encouraged, it is my fixed determination, on being honoured by the assurance of your renewed support, to proceed unhesitatingly to the poll.—

I have the honour to be, your most faithful servant, Geo. Thos. Staunton, Devonshire-street, Feb. 14th, 1854.

"Here's a pretty kettle of fish”— a dissolution foretold by a disciple of the policy of Lord John Russell, upon which policy this worthy gentleman of letters again seeks the suffrages of the unwise of this "generation of credulous believers." We had thought Sir George Staunton so closely wedded to Leigh Park and the companionship of that sedate array of heads wherewith his elegant little bijou estate is here and there studded, that we never again should have heard of his venturing out upon the sea of politics. He retired from Portsmouth in 1852 (seeing no prospect of his being again chosen to represent the apparently awakening electors of this borough), on the proclaimed excuse of declining health and advanced age, and we never expected his emerging from his classic elysium again upon a plea tantamount to an assertion that he has grown younger, in order to delude the Liberal electors of South Hants into the idea that now, when men of energy, decision, nerve, and strength of mind, are wanted, more than ever, to rule the realm, he,” of all men else,” is the man for the day. Alas! poor human nature! The ruling passion seems very strong, even on the verge of the grave, with some men, else what can Sir George Staunton want with a seat now in St Stephen's? That he should be the man to proclaim a downfall of Lord John’s Government (for of course it is Lord John's) upon so taking a question as an attempt to reform the Parliament, seems a cruel cut at the Whig degeneracy of the age. When Sir George beat a retreat from the contest for this county, in company with Mr. Brett, on the last occasion of a general election, it was never expected he would venture again into the like arena of election trouble; but Sir George having more of the currency than that commodity which is generally supposed to aid in acquiring that article, we suppose he really will venture, although that vaulting "ambition which doth o'erleap itself” will assuredly betray him into a similar unsuccessful predicament as that he retired in the last election. The County of Hants has not been in the habit of taking to the cast-off legislators of even so influential of its boroughs as Portsmouth. Sir George should try Portsmouth again! Perhaps Sir Francis Baring would retire for him!

25 February 1854, Hampshire Advertiser

1854 – We have to congratulate the Inhabitants of Havant on the improvements they are now steadily carrying out for the public health, as well as the appearance of their town. Last year they completed a cemetery with a neat Mortuary Chapel at an, easy distance from the town, the ground for which purpose was so generously presented by Sir George Staunton, Bart. 18 March 1854, Hampshire Telegraph
1854 – The Barrow Monument: The armorial bearings of the late Sir John Barrow, Bart., Mr. G. H. Young, of Ulverston, sculptor, were placed on Wednesday upon the exterior of the Barrow Monument, immediately over the door-way. The arms are sculptured out of one solid block of Birklegg-stone, leaving the squirrel and hemlet, which are beautifully cut, entirely naked and free from the back-ground of the stone. The Ulster hand is executed, and the workmanship altogether, reflects the highest credit on the artist, and forms besides, great ornamental addition to the tower. It is to be hoped that every respectable inhabitant will observe a strict surveilance in preserving this additional memorial of the late respected baronet, its exposed situation, from mischievous evildoers, which it is well known, the tower has not altogether heretofore escaped. Sir George Staunton, venerable friend of the family, (son of the late Sir George Staunton, who in his early days, the late Sir John Barrow accompanied on his embassy to China), visited the monument on Tuesday last, and expressed himself highly gratified at its appearance, and with the excellent condition, which, after its late renovation, it now presents. 3 June 1854, Westmoreland Gazette

1854 – Anniversary of Her Majesty’s Coronation: The charming gardens of Sir George Staunton, at his seat of Leigh Park, near Havant, were thrown open to the inspection of the public, and were crowded by hundreds, who fully appreciated the kindness of the proprietor in allowing so great a treat. 1 July 1854, Hampshire Chronicle

1855 – Sir George Staunton, we regret to learn, has during the last few days been suffering from severe indisposition. He was, however, rather better yesterday. 20 June 1855, Morning Post

1855 – Sir George Staunton has taken apartments at Pegg's Royal York Hotel, Brighton, where he intends to remain for a considerable period. 15 November, 1855, Brighton Gazette

1856 – Memoirs of the Chief Incidents of the Public Life of Sir G.T. Staunton, Bart., etc. etc. Printed for Private Circulation, London, L. Booth: "Let us pray," said Robert Burns," with the honest weaver in Kilbarchan, that Heaven may send us a good conceit o' oursels," and were it not that Sir George Staunton is already so handsomely endowed with the sentiment as to render a further supply totally unnecessary, we doubt not that the supplication is one in which he would most cordially concur. Anything so intensely — let us rather say so sublimely —egotistical as his "Memoirs," has seldom, if ever, issued from the press. Sir George, having attained the goodly age of 75, makes a collection of some of the most complimentary letters that he has received during his long life, as well as of the most eulogistic passages in various reviews of his writings, and sends round the delicious bouquet for private circulation. A few choice extracts will suffice to show the spirit of the work, and may be of service in deterring younger men from the fatal error of being too modest. "At the expiration of eighteen years I finally returned to England from China with a handsome addition to my patrimonial fortune, and (I trust I may add) with the credit of duties faithfully discharged, and an unimpeached character." "The manner in which it (meaning his translation of a Chinese work) has been occasionally quoted and referred to encourages me, at the end of 35 years, to flatter myself that it now possesses a fixed and respectable position in our Oriental literature." [Then follows a string of flattering testimonies from various reviews.] "Twice I obtained, in the usual routine of business, a favourable opportunity of bringing the question before the house, and each time I consented to relinquish my opportunity at the instance of the Government, on the plea of public inconvenience. When I did at length bring the question forward, the moment happened to be peculiarly unfavourable. The house was thin, and having been counted out, I could not even bring the resolutions to a vote." "My assiduity in attendance on the house, and my regularity and courtesy in corresponding with my constituents, were praised by both parties. The moderation and independence of my votes and conduct seemed also generally admitted." "I was most cordially received, and got through my speech with, I think, more than usual success. The League newspaper of the 27th December states, 'that the meeting, was addressed by Sir G. Staunton, the respected member for the borough, in a speech of great power and earnestness, in which he scouted the very notion of compromise.' "My visit to the south of France during the heats of July and August was rather ill-timed, on account of the great heat, and I suffered a good deal in consequence, but I was on the whole much gratified and interested." "I may also boast of the still rarer honour of dancing, that is, ) walking, the polonaise, at the ball at Parma, with the Archduchess, the Ex-Empress of France. I also received much attention from the Grand Duke Leopold of Tuscany at Florence, . . . and I gave the librarian" — what do you suppose, dear reader ?— a valuable gift of books ? or a gold snuff-box ? or a cheque on Gosling's ? Ah, no something more exquisite still — "my opinion, in writing, of a map of Marco Polo in the library!" What princely generosity ! "I had the honour of being received at the Tuileries, and of dining with King Leopold at Brussels." At length he purchases a country seat, in the hope, he says, that it would "extend and improve
my social position and proportionally add to my happiness." Luckily for mankind, it appears to have had that effect: — "I think I have been peculiarly fortunate in my selection. The Leigh-park estate is of a size suited to my means, at an easy day's journey from London, and half-way between the popular watering-place of Brighton and Salisbury, the place of my birth, and the residence of the greater portion of my maternal relations. The situation is healthy; the views, including that of the sea, are beautiful; and although the mansion is of a modest size, and the park not large, the character of the property has been much raised by the addition of a handsome Gothic library, by the construction of numerous hot-houses and conservatories, famed for the successful cultivation of rare flowers and exotic fruits, and by the very great extension of the pleasure-grounds, generally admired for their picturesque views and various decorations. "The society of the neighbourhood consists mainly of retired officers of the navy, gentry of moderate income, and resident clergy; and its tone is unquestionably much better suited to my habits and character than that which is met with amongst the great sporting and agricultural proprietors, the old, original, country gentlemen of Yorkshire and Dorsetshire. I have always received from my neighbours in Hampshire, with very rare exceptions, and, notwithstanding the shock and excitement of political conflict, great kindness and courtesy, of which I have already re-corded a notable instance, in the very handsome testimonial in my favour which they addressed to the public papers at the period of my first election contest. "Amongst these neighbours, and with as large a selection of my relatives and friends as my accommodation would admit, in the character of guests under my roof, I have generally spent about three months at Leigh-park in each succeeding summer; and have had as much enjoyment in the possession of that social retreat as the imperfection of all human contrivances for the promotion of comfort and happiness can ever be expected to permit. "My social position in London has been, of course, of a more exciting and mixed character, and my residence there, seldom less than six or seven months every year, much longer. Besides the regular avocations of Parliament, I have received pleasure and profit from an occasional attendance at the meetings of the numerous literary and scientific societies of this great city in which I am enrolled; and I haveparticipant, in due subordination, however, to the consideration of my health and habits, of a sprinkling of what are called the gaieties and amusements of London, but I have never mixed much either in the very aristocratic or very fashionable world. The circle of friends and acquaintances whom I have either inherited or formed in the course of my life, consists, for the most part, of persons of my own class and rank, or not materially above or below it, and is extensive and pleasant to the full extent of my wishes. "Finally, it is important to have it on the authority of Sir George himself that since he has settled at home he has become "a pecuniary contributor to many religious societies," and in some few cases he has "taken the chair at their meetings." Sir George concludes by calling attention to the points of resemblance between himself and Gibbon the Historian. This book is a curiosity in its way, and should be placed in the hands of all who are deficient in the excellent quality of self-esteem.

1856 – The Potteries: A correspondent says, that the tree figured in the common Staffordshire earthenware, and considered to be willow, known as the willow pattern, is not a willow, but a cypress — cupressus funebris, funereal cypress, or weeping cypress. It was first mentioned by Sir George Staunton, who accompanied Lord Macartney to China; it was afterwards found growing wild by Mr. Fortune near to a tea district at Woo-Chew. It is a noble evergreen tree, with pendulous branches, and reaches to the height of 60 feet. 16 August, Staffordshire Advertiser

1856 – Sir George Staunton, Bart., still occupies apartments at Pegg’s Royal York Hotel, Brighton. 25 December 1858, Morning Advertiser

1856 – Banquet to the American Officers of The Resolute: On Tuesday evening the civic compliment to the gallant officers of the United States’ navy (Commander Hartstein, Lieutenants Wells, Stone, and Davidson, Dr. Maccoun and Dr. Otis) who brought to Portsmouth the Arctic ship Resolute to restore to the nation as a gift from the United States was given by the Mayor and corporation at the Portland Hotel, Southsea.

The dining-room was elegantly equipped with suitable flags and devices, and the tables ornamented with some beautiful flowers from the conservatories of Sir George Staunton, of Leigh Park. 26 December 1856, Evening Mail

1857 – Another Work of Charity: During the inclemency of the season, and feeling for the sufferings of the deserving poor, Sir George Staunton, Bart., of Leigh Park, Havant has generously ordered to be distributed among them 400 bushels of best coal to those belonging to Havant, and has given £10 to each of the clergymen belonging to Bedhampton, Warblington, and Hayling, for the distribution at their discretion among the deserving poor of their respective districts. 12 January 1857, London Evening Standard
1857 – Arrivals at the Principal Hotels, Cheltenham: At the Plough Hotel, Sir George Staunton, Bart.

28 February 1857, Cheltenham Looker-On

1857 – The Canton Affair: The following is Sir George Staunton’s opinion on the Canton affair:—"I quite agree with Sir John Davis about China, and am of the opinion that we were quite right; and, although our operations may be tedious, they must be in the end completely successful, and the pride humbled of that strange people. I would confidently ask if there ever was a case in which all those who are most competent to form an opinion on a disputed question of policy were more absolutely unanimous in their opinion on it.”—

Letter in The Times 14 March 1857, Liverpool Daily Post

1857 – Our Trade With China: Although the internal productions of China are said to be sufficient for the wants of the population, and although it is probable that that country is, more than any other, self-supporting, it is still the fact that scarcities very frequently occur, and that there is a constant demand for goods of British manufacture, which are sold at high prices, and as fast as they can be had. At Kiachta, in Chinese Tartary, the Chinese have long carried an extensive Barter trade with the Russians, exchanging their rhubarb, teas, silks, etc., for furs and skins, and for many articles of British manufacture. Our trade is not one of Barter. We pay money for our teas, and the only mode which, as our relations with China at present stand, can get it back again, is by conniving at the iniquitous opium trade.

It will, therefore, be the duty of the Government to take care that new channels of commerce shall be opened to us. In 1833, Sir George Staunton moved a series of resolutions upon this subject, which it may not be unimportant to consider just now. They assert the advantages that must result to our labouring and producing classes from an unrestricted trade between Great Britain and China, and lay great stress on the jealousy of foreign intercourse, which distinguishes the Chinese Government. Contemplating the cessation of the influence of the East India Company, Sir George pointed out the necessity of providing some equally efficient guarantee, under the sanction of a national treaty between the two countries without which previous sanction, any attempt to appoint national functionaries at Canton, for the protection of trade, would prove of little advantage to the subject, but be liable in a serious degree to compromise the honour and dignity of the Crown.

But the most important of his resolutions was one which we quote entire: “That in the event of such expectations not being realised, and it proving impracticable to replace the influence of the East India Company’s authorities by any system of national protection emanating from the Crown, it will then be expedient, though only in the last resort, to withdraw the British commerce altogether from the control of the Chinese authorities, and to establish it in some insular position on the Chinese coast, when it may be satisfactorily carried on beyond the reach of acts of oppression and molestation, to which an unsurpassing? would be equally prejudicial to the national honour and the interests of this country.” It would be hardly advisable to abandon the rights we have gained at Canton; but it would be easy and advisable to maintain them, and, at the same time, establish a new position, such that suggested in the resolution we have quoted, in which it would not be in the power of the Chinese to obstruct our operations, to their own damage even more than to ours.

21 March 1857, Morning Advertiser

1857 – Political Foresight: I will show you the value of foresight in the House Commons — the speaker was Mr Charles Buller, the scene was the lobby of the House, the person addressed was one of his friends, and the time was a summer evening, somewhere about the years 1840 to 1842:—“! will show you the value of foresight in the House of Commons. That stout elderly man to whom I have just nodded, and who is going in, is Sir George Staunton. He was long in China, and he is a sagacious, solid-minded man, although not much of a Parliamentary talker. He was convinced that if courts were not established in Canton to settle disputes and administer justice between the British and Chinese, they would come to loggerheads and war. He persuaded Lord Palmerston, the Foreign Secretary, to introduce to Parliament the Chinese Jurisdiction Bill. The Canton merchants were afraid they would be taxed to keep up the courts, and they put up (the Radical Member for a metropolitan borough) to speak against the bill as a Whig job. Sir Robert Peel saw a chance of beating the Ministry, and Sir James Graham made ad captanium speeches against the bill; and although Sir George Staunton warned the House of the consequences, there is nothing so readily laughed at as warnings of dangers to come, and Lord Palmerston was forced to withdraw the bill, which would have prevented the war. The war has come, and God knows how much it will cost in gold and blood. All the House now acknowledged Sir George Staunton was right, when it is too late and of no use; and that is the value of foresight in the House of Commons.” The friend Mr Charles Buller addressed answered, “The House of Commons is but like all the

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world: if you see only a little further and only a little deeper than they do, they will think you a clever fellow; but you see much deeper and much further they will think you mad.”

3 September 1857, *North and South Shields Gazette and Northumberland and Durham Advertiser*

1857 – Sir George Staunton is, we are sorry to learn, suffering from severe indisposition.

4 December 1857, *London Evening Standard*

1858 – Floriculture: Our readers will see by a notice in our advertising columns that specimens of the Agave amaricana (American aloes) are now in flower at Leigh Park, the residence of Sir G. Staunton, Bart. The worthy baronet allows his gardens and grounds to be inspected by all who have a taste for floriculture; and rarely does the florist find so perfect a collection as that of gol, of Leigh Park. The two aloes now in flower are upwards of 24 feet in height. They each consist of a single stem, rising abruptly from the centre of the plant, quite bare for about 10 feet, and then adorned with a profusion of flowers to the summit. But the aloes form but a small portion of the attractions of Sir George Staunton’s interesting collection, which, under the presiding genius of Mr. Alexander Scott, who for many years has had the entire arrangement of the plant-houses and grounds, has attained so high a celebrity in the floral world. The queen of water lilies - the Victoria regia – is here seen enshrined in a miniature Crystal Palace, and surrounded by the Egyptian Lotus, the Sacred Lotus of India, and an endless variety of other aquatic plants. Adjoining the “Victoria” house is another of larger dimensions, containing a remarkable collection of cocoa, coffee, cinnamon, and tea trees; also bananas, dates, and other natives of a foreign clime; then a singular array of orchids, whose ”spirit roots know naught of earth,” enchains the attention; and, after these, a multitude of ferns, collected from every part of the globe. Then there are the pine-pits, orangeries, vineries, peach-houses, and, though last, not least, the exquisitely-arranged flower garden, and the romantic grounds and lake, with its miniature ships, its swans, and the quaintly-devised summer-houses which ornament its shores. Few towns can boast of so perfect a bijou in their neighbourhood, and the thanks of the community are due to the respected proprietor of Leigh Park from for his liberality in throwing open its gates to all visitors.

25 September 1858, *Hampshire Telegraph*

1859 – Sir George Staunton has arrived at Pegg’s Royal York Hotel, Brighton. 6 January 1859, *Morning Advertiser*

1859 – We omitted to mention last week that Sir George Staunton, Bart., independent of having placed £10 the hands of the clergymen of the parishes of Warblington, Bedhampton, and Hayling Island, for distribution among the poor of their parishes, made donation of twenty pounds worth of coal to the poor of Havant parish. This is an annual donation to his own immediate parishioners, and has been for these forty years past. 15 January 1859, *Hampshire Telegraph*

1859 – Death of Sir George Staunton: We have to record the death of Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart, which occurred yesterday at his town residence, No. 17, Devonshire-street, Portland-place. The deceased baronet was born at Milford House, near Salisbury, in 1781, and succeeded his father, the first baronet, in 1810. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, but does not appear from the university calendar to have taken honours. After leaving college, he was appointed chief supercargo for the East India Company, and was President of the Select Committee at Canton, and Commissioner of the Embassy to Pekin in 1816. In 1818 he was elected member for the borough of St. Michael’s, which was extinguished by the Reform bill. He sat for St. Michael’s for two years. In 1830 was returned for Heytesbury, another borough abolished by the Reform Bill. In 1832 he was elected member for the southern division of Hampshire, which he unsuccessfully contested in 1835 and 1837. In March, 1838, he was returned for Portsmouth, and sat for that borough fourteen years, namely until July, 1852, since which time he has not had a seat in parliament. Sir George was the author of translation of the penal code of China, and has written several works, which are held to be authorities on the subject of our relations with that country. His father, the first baronet, was Secretary to Lord Macartney, Governor of Madras, and received his title after the negociation of the peace with Tippoo Sultan in 1784. He was subsequently Secretary of Legation during Lord Macartney’s well-known embassy to China in 1792. With the death of Sir George Staunton the baronetcy becomes extinct.

11 August 1859, *Globe*

1859 –: Death of Sir George Staunton: We regret to record the death in his 79th year, of Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., which occurred Wednesday, at his town residence, No. 17, Devonshire-street, Portland-place. The deceased baronet was born at Milford-House, near Salisbury, 1781, and succeeded his father, the first baronet, in 1810. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, but does not appear from the University Calendar to have taken honours.
After leaving college he was appointed chief supercargo for the East India Company, and was President of the Select Committee at Canton, and Commissioner of Embassy to Pekin in 1816. In 1818 he was elected member for the borough of St. Michael’s, which was extinguished by the Reform Bill. For St. Michael’s he sat two years. In 1830 he was returned for Heytesbury, another borough abolished by the Reform Bill. In 1832 he was elected member for the Southern Division of Hampshire, which he unsuccessfully contested in 1835 and 1837. In March, 1838, he was returned to Parliament (2nd of Victoria) for this borough, in the room of J. B. Carter, Esq. deceased. At this, as at all succeeding elections during his fourteen years representation of the borough, Sir George Staunton was returned without opposition. In July 1852 the dissolution of Parliament, Sir George withdrew from the representation of the borough to enjoy for the remainder of his days the comforts and amenities of private life. During his political connexion with Portsmouth, the hon. baronet was a liberal supporter of the local charities, the Beneficial Society having special cause to reverence his memory. Perhaps, however, Sir George Staunton’s name was known to the borough more from the fact of his beautiful gardens and grounds at Leigh Park, being open to the inspection of all applicants, than from any other cause. After all, it only a few here and there who take a decided interest in politics and politicians. The vast majority, when election is over, throw off their political cloak, and lay it aside for use on another fete day; it does not form part of their daily dress. All however, with the exception, perhaps, of a few misanthropes, enjoy a little rational pleasure, and delight in a ruralizing trip. Around Portsmouth there are a few pleasant excursion termini, but we know of none equaling Leigh Park; and to Leigh Park, all who wanted a treat, went. The hothouses and green-houses, with their rare and beautiful exotic plants; the orangery and vinery with their luxurious fruit tantalizing to visitors who were permitted look but not to touch; the tropical house, enclosing sugar canes and other Indian and American plants, and kept at temperature which soon caused the perspiration to flow in streams from the pores of those who could be induced to enter; the glass water tanks, presenting to the lovely water Lilies of more southern climes, and latterly, we believe, the Victoria Regia; together with the elegantly laid out parterres, the observatory, the lake, the bridge and the numerous other objects of interest these extensive grounds, afforded a treat which none could fail to enjoy. While, however, regretting the departure of Sir George on that journey from which none ever return, express the hope that the privileges which the residents in Portsmouth and the whole neighbourhood of Leigh Park, have hitherto enjoyed, through the kindness of Sir George, will be continued whoever may succeed him in the possession of the Park and estate. Sir George was the author of a translation of the Penal Code of China, and has written several works, which are held in the possession of the Park and estate. Sir George was the subject, received his title after the negotiation of the peace with Tippoo Sultan in 1781. he was subsequently Secretary Legation during Lord Macartney’s well-known embassy to China in1792. With the death of Sir George Staunton the baronetcy becomes extinct. 

13 August 1859, Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette

1859 – Death of Sir George Staunton: We ought not to allow the death of Sir George Staunton to pass without a word of record in a literary journal. Sir George had many claims on public notice, hereditary, political, and diplomatic; but must not forget that he was one of our very few Chinese scholars. He translated the China Code. Among other fruits of his residence in China were occasional contributions, on that country, made to the columns of the Athenaum. A very interesting memoir of Morrison, the great Chinese scholar was from his pen. 

20 August 1859, Globe

SIR GEORGE STAUNTON, BART

Sir George Thomas Staunton, second Baronet, of Cargins, in the county of Galway, was the only surviving child of Sir George Leonard Staunton, the first baronet, by his wife, Jane, daughter of Benjamin Collins, Esq., of Milford, Wiltshire. Sir George Leonard Staunton, the first baronet, was in early life a physician, then a lawyer, and then a diplomatist; he was Attorney-General of Grenada, and he, at Madras, negotiated the peace with Tippoo Sultaun, in 1784, for which he received his baronetcy as a reward. He was also Secretary of Legation to Lord Macartney’s famous embassy to China in 1792. His son, Sir George Thomas Staunton, the subject of this notice, was born on the 26th of May 1781, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and succeeded his father as second Baronet on the 14th of January, 1810. He attained a high reputation in the official duties he fulfilled and the works he wrote in relation to China. He was at one time Chief Supercargo of the East India Company in China; he was also President of a Select Committee at Canton; and was, in 1816, Diplomatic Commissioner at Pekin. He was the author of a translation of “The Chinese Code” and of various other publications on Chinese subjects. Sir George Staunton, who
was Vice-President of the Asiatic Society, and sat in Parliament during many years – first for Heytesbury, and then for South Hants, and latterly, until 1852, for Portsmouth. He was a Liberal in politics. Sir George never married. He died on the 10th inst., and his baronetcy expires with him. The Staunton family is of ancient Buckinghamshire descent; the branch represented by the Baronet just deceased settled in Ireland, and acquired considerable landed property in the county of Galway about the year 1634.

1859 – Whitehall, October 4, 1859: The Queen has been pleased to grant to George Staunton Lynch, of Clydagh, in the county of Galway, her Royal licence and authority (in compliance with the will of his cousin, Sir George Staunton, Bart., deceased), henceforth to take the surname of Staunton in addition to and after his present name of Lynch, and to bear the arms of Staunton. Such name and arms to be borne by his issue. 11 October, 1859, Irish Times

1859 – Sale by Auction, 17 Devonshire-street, Portland Place – Furniture and Ornamental Articles of Sir George STAUNTON, Bart., deceased, the house being sold:

Messrs Ellgood and Son will sell on Thursday next at eleven, Household Furniture of the usual description in bedrooms, chintz drawing-room curtains, with chairs and sofas, &c., pollard oak and rosewood loo tables, a beautiful Florentine mosaic table on gilt tripod, fancy tables, screens, whatnot, portfolio stand, chimney glasses, a pair of ebony and buhl cabinets, massive suspending lamps, ormolu clocks, and ornamental items; a series of Dresden cups painted with portraits and landscapes, alabaster figures, copy of the Portland vase, marble bust of Napoleon, and bronze figure of Cobden, a few Indian bronzes, ivory inlaid dressing-case, dining-tables, side-boards, and chairs; Turkey and other carpets, framed engravings, library and hall furniture, winged bookcase, kitchen requisites and various effects.

May he viewed the day prior, and catalogues had; also of Messrs Palmer and Artaud, upholsterers, 71, Baker-street; and of the Auctioneers, 98, Wimpole-street.

1860 – A Sad Instance of Joy turned into sorrow has recently occurred in the neighbourhood of Havant, Hampshire. Sir George Staunton, Bart., the celebrated Chinese scholar, died in August last, and having no son, bequeathed his Hampshire property, Leigh-park, to his cousin, Captain Henry C. Lynch, formerly of the East India Company’s Madras establishment, one of the Lynche’s of Duras, county Galway. Scarcely has he had time to succeed to the property and assume the name of his deceased relative, when he follows that relative to the grave, cut down in the prime of health and manhood, leaving his estate of Leigh-park to his son and successor, now George Staunton. Esq., an officer in the Hampshire Yeomanry, who we believe, will not attain his majority until next summer. It is not often that a landed estate changes hands so frequently in the space of less than six months.

20 January 1860, Dublin Evening Mail