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CHINA'S HOPES AND AWAKENING

Prince Tsai Tao Tells of Her Thirst For Knowledge.

WHOLE COUNTRY IS AFFECTED

Steady Stream of Students to Be Sent to America For Their Education, He Declares at Dinner Given in His Honor at New York—Seeks Closer Relations With United States.

For the first time during his recent visit to America his imperial highness Prince Tsai Tao of China delivered a speech at the twelfth annual dinner of the American Asiatic association given in his honor at Delmonico's in New York the other night. In the course of his speech Prince Tsai said that the thirst for foreign knowledge is general throughout the Chinese empire and at the present moment the "old order of things is fast giving place to the new." The speech was in Chinese, for the prince does not speak English, but later Lord Li, son of the late Li Hung Chang, translated it into English for the benefit of the occidental guests, and it was cheered enthusiastically. This is what Prince Tsai said, as translated by Lord Li: "I thank you for the honor you have done me this evening. I am glad to have this opportunity to meet the members of this association, for I know well that you are friends of China, men who possess an intimate knowledge of Chinese affairs, taking a lively interest in China's welfare and progress and sympathizing with our hopes and aspirations.

China Passing Through Great Crisis.

"The work of this American Asiatic association has rendered China better understood by Americans and America better understood by Chinese. One of the chief objects of my present mission is to promote this good understanding. Through the American Asiatic association many a public man from the east has been brought into contact with prominent men of the west. There is no surer means of drawing east and west together into friendly and close relations.

"It is an encouraging sign of the times that Americans are taking a much greater interest in what is going on in China than they did a little while ago. The free interchange of views on questions of public interest cannot but be advantageous to both countries. On the other hand, we also wish to know more about other countries. Our officials and merchants are beginning to travel more and more to foreign lands in search of information and opportunities. This thirst for foreign ideas is having its effect upon the whole country. China is now passing through a great crisis in her history. The old order of things is fast giving place to the new. What we need most now is men—men able to do the work that has to be done.

Beginning In Education.

"Though we have established schools and colleges in all parts of the empire as fast as we can, it will be some decades yet before we can hope to have such schools and colleges as you have in this country. Still, we have made a beginning. In the meantime we intend to send a steady stream of students to your country. Thanks to the generosity of the American government in remitting a portion of the Boxer indemnity China is able now to send 100 students to this country each year for the first four years and fifty thereafter. There will soon be 400 government students in this country. These students on their return to their own country cannot but give a good account of themselves.

"It is my sincere hope that they will do their part in guiding the affairs of their country in the path of progress and reform and in binding China and the United States together with a strong tie of friendship and good feeling."

Brigadier General Ha Han Han Chang, one of Prince Tsai's suit, also made a speech, in which he recited briefly the military history of China, a history that dates from the Chiro dynasty of 3,000 years ago. He then took up the reorganization of the army that is now in progress.

"China again feels the need of putting her army on an efficient basis," said General Ha, "and with this end in view the late Emperor Kwang Hsu ordered the reorganization of the war office, to which are especially attached the general staff of the army and the bureau of military training. At the same time it was decided to organize an army of thirty-six divisions, and this work was to be completed in 1912.

"Now the Chinese army consists of eighteen divisions, each composed of two brigades of infantry, a regiment of cavalry and a corps of artillery, each corps with more than fifty guns; a corps of engineers and a commissary department. In order to increase the efficiency of the service the prince regent thought best last year to detach the general staff from the war office and appoint Prince Tsai as controller general, with me as chief officer. I need hardly add that it is the settled purpose of his imperial highness to use the utmost endeavor to bring the Chinese army to the highest state of efficiency."

Not So Black. The devil isn't as black as he is painted. A good bit of his blackness has been rubbed off on the people who have tried to investigate the truth of that comforting proverb.—New York Times.

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FICTITIOUS HEROINE APPEARS IN THE FLESH

Novelist Kramer, the Chautauqua Lecturer, Tells of Receiving Interesting Letters.

"What do you find to be the most universal idea with people who discuss your books with you?" was asked of Harold Morton Kramer, author of "The Chrysalis," "The Castle of Dawn," "Hearts and the Cross," etc. "Of course the question does not mean as to the opinions they express regarding your novels."

"I think I understand you," replied the novelist, "and I feel perfectly safe in saying at once that the most universal idea they express is that they have themes for great novels, and they are willing to suggest them to me. They generally express it about like this:

"Well, sir, I can relate to you some incidents that undoubtedly would make a great book if they were put together just right." Then I am given some little story, probably of undoubted interest in its way, but lacking much of being a theme for a novel. They always conclude by saying: "Of course, you could work in a love story with it, and a few things like that, but that would be easy, and lots of people would remember and recognize these incidents. It ought to be a great book. If you care to use it, I'll give you all of the pointers some day."

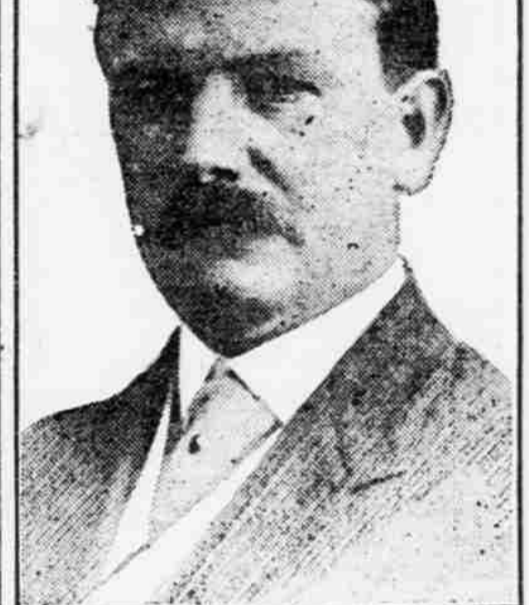
"But I have had some embarrassing questions put to me. For instance, only recently I was asked to make a statement for a prominent literary club of ladies as to whether I wrote for fame or money—I mean as my primary object. That question may look easy, but consider how you would answer it satisfactorily to a club. Another friend asked me if I ever received any especially interesting letters. I told her I did, and she wanted to know from whom.

"Well, I think the most interesting letters come from my publishers," I said.

"Is that so? And would you mind telling me some of the most interesting things they say?" she asked.

"The most interesting words they ever write me are these: 'Enclosed find check in payment of royalty.'" I replied, and she turned up her nose and became chilly at once.

"But, really, I think the most interesting letter I ever received as a result of my literary work was after the publication of a short story in Mun-



sey's magazine. It was a story of the west and concerned the heroism of a girl, whose name, chosen at random, appeared in the story as "Alice Gilbert." I was absent from home and had asked Mrs. Kramer to open my mail while I was gone in order that I might be communicated with immediately if necessary. When I returned I found a letter awaiting me from a young lady who signed herself "Alice Gilbert," and who wrote as though she were a very close friend of mine. In the letter she discussed the story in question and wrote as though the story had been woven from incidents in real life in which she and I had figured. I had spent a few years in the west, and Mrs. Kramer was wondering why I should be thus idealizing one of my old flames. It was a difficult matter to explain, although I had never heard of the lady in question, and until I received her letter did not dream that an Alice Gilbert really existed. Afterwards I learned by a little investigation that I could not resist making—and in which Mrs. Kramer joined me—that the real Alice Gilbert was a most estimable young lady, a school teacher in the Ohio city from which her letter had been written. When my next book was ready for publication I mailed her one of the publishers' announcements with the suggestion that as she had been so interested in the short story, she might be interested in the book. This brought a letter in which she begged forgiveness for her impulsive prank that prompted the first letter, and which was written in her surprise at finding the heroine's name to be the same as hers. Yes, I think, all things considered, that that was the most interesting letter I ever received as a result of my story writing."

Burton Thatcher, who will deliver a lecture-recital at Chautauqua, is one of the rising baritone singers of the age. His musical training has been received at great cost and much attention has been given to "folk songs" as well as the classics. He is a musician by temperament and instinct; added to his mentality he has a wonderful voice and an admirable physique.

After referring most flatteringly to Burton Thatcher's work in his recital of the evening before, the Salt Lake Tribune adds: "His performance throughout was very creditable, showing conscientious work, and his rendition of 'Song of Hybras' and 'King Duncan's Daughters' is deserving of special mention."

NAVY MEN TALK OF THE MAINE

Congressional Action to Raise Battleship Creates Interest.

FLIGHT OF THE SURVIVORS.

Experiences of Two Officers at Brooklyn Navy Yard Who Were Aboard the Vessel When She Blew Up and Sank in Havana Harbor—New Version of Bill Anthony's "Report."

In the wardrooms of the big gray battleships of the Atlantic fleet, lying at the Brooklyn navy yard in Brooklyn while undergoing repairs preliminary to summer cruises and target practice, the principal topic of conversation is the passage of the congressional bill providing for the raising of the battleship Maine, resting deep in the mud of Havana harbor. As it happens, there are several officers at the yard who were attached to Sigsbee's ship at the time of the explosion, more than ten years ago. They were "muddies" then. Now they are lieutenant commanders and executive officers, with all the dignity attached to such exalted positions.

It is not easy to get survivors of that night of terror to tell of their experiences. The subject is taboo in the navy, so far as the outside world is concerned, and it requires something like the recent action of congress to bring it forward at mess. To tell the truth, the whole affair was thrashed out so continually and in such detail years ago that those who went through the first ordeal of story telling are loath to break the peace they have enjoyed for the last few years.

One of the officers who served on the old Maine was not aboard of her at the time the explosion occurred. He had shore leave that night and was some distance away from the water front when the explosion took place. Jarring the country for miles around. Like everybody else who was still up, he started for the quay at a run, but he arrived too late to witness anything except the last act of the awful tragedy. By the time he arrived the ship had settled and most of the survivors had been brought ashore in small boats.

Two Who Were in Wardroom.

Another officer, who now holds a responsible position in the Atlantic fleet, was in the wardroom with Lieutenant Commander Dick Wainwright, executive officer of the doomed battleship, now a rear admiral, when the deck beneath their feet trembled and the roar of the blast thudded in their ears. The two officers had been going through some of the ship's papers, but they dropped everything and leaped up the companionway to the deck. They had no idea what had happened; their first instinct was to find out.

Bill Anthony, the marine orderly, had already given Captain Sigsbee the famous "report"—that he didn't make. What really happened was that Anthony bumped into the captain in the darkness as the latter was making his way out of his cabin. Anthony apologized and asked if he could do anything. He never said, "Sir, I have to report the ship is sinking," or anything like that. He was cool and clear headed all the time, keeping near the captain and obeying his orders promptly, but he said nothing "stagy." Gray headed sergeants of the marine corps hold him up to recruits to this day as the ideal orderly.

Story of an Eyewitness.

"The explosion was local, as explosions of great force usually are," said the officer last mentioned. "The part of the ship I was in was not affected materially. The decks and bulkhead shivered, but there was no rending of plates, and I was quite able to keep my feet. Of course the lights had gone out, and we could see little. We knew that the ship was settling, and our one object was to save those still alive. In fact, the most horrible part of the experience was the half hour immediately following the explosion, during which we were getting out mangled wretches from the shattered decks forward.

"I was never in any danger myself, for I was standing on a higher deck above the water that came rolling in over the fo'c's'le. Two of the officers in the wardroom were caught in their cabins by the inrush and drowned like rats. It was all a case of getting on deck quick with us. The explosion did not mope us. All we did was to save those who were left. It was all we could do."

New National Park Near Trenton, N. J.

A commission was named the other day by Governor Fort of New Jersey to further the project to establish a national park on both sides of the Delaware river at a point above Trenton, N. J., made historic by the crossing of Washington and his army in Revolutionary days. Pennsylvania and congress will be asked to aid the movement.

Special Bells For London Pageant.

A special peal of bells is being cast for the pageant of London. They will be used in each of the twenty-four scenes, but the great occasion for the peal will be the scene showing Dick Whittington and his cat at Highgate hill.

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