

LITERARY NOTES.

An American, long resident in Peking, who had opportunities for acquainting himself with the true sentiment of the ruling class in China at the present time asserts, says Harper's Weekly, that the Chinese do not love Russia, but regard America as their natural ally, and prefer England to their sullen neighbor on the north, from which quar-



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KUANG HSU, EMPEROR OF CHINA FROM A SKETCH FROM LIFE

ter the kingdom's enemies have come from time immemorial. Li Hung Chang and Prince Kung, the prime minister and substitute for Li in the latter's absence, have coquetted with Russia in order to bring England to the point—that is, a substantial guaranty of the integrity of China against Russian aggression, and no arrangement that has been entered into would be allowed to stand in the way of a favorable convention with the United States.

When the United States torpedo boat Porter started across to Havana on April 22, it was rough—rough even for the gulf stream—and that day and night showed that the life on board was going to be a struggle with nature—a test of physical endurance. The Porter's motion in such a sharp sea as runs nearly all the time off the coast of Cuba was, to say the least, uncomfortable. The roll was from thirty to forty-five

by the crews of these little craft during this period will never be known, nor could be appreciated by any persons but those who were in the service. Some idea of them can be gleaned from the article on "Torpedo-boat Service" that Lieut. J. C. Fremont, U. S. N., commanding the Porter, contributes to Harper's Magazine for November.

In addition to the other sufferings of the men, the heat below deck was such that no one went there except on duty. The life was on deck; those on duty at their posts were on their feet; the remainder, if not struggling with their very simple meals, were trying to get some sleep, stretched out and wedged in between torpedo-tubes and rails, or in some place that prevented their sliding around. Such was the life on board when the lack of preparedness at the opening of the war necessitated the use of torpedo boats for anything and everything except legitimate torpedo-boat service. And when proper vessels to perform the duties to which the torpedo fleet had been diverted were provided it was too late. But although the boats were worn out by the arduous service they had been through, both the boats and their crews had established records for endurance which excited the admiration of foreign experts in such matters.

No longer can the United States be said merely to face Europe across the Atlantic. From the Pacific slope she is now also in close communication with the Asiatic world, and when a transisthmian canal is made, the bonds that unite her with Asia will be drawn infinitely closer.

China and the Far East, facing as they do the Pacific coast, lie practically at the back door of the United States, and it is obvious that whatever promotes enterprise in China, or enhances the wealth and prosperity of the people, must react most forcibly on its sea borne trade, of which, by means of the new vantage-ground she is about to enjoy, the United States stands to reap the first fruit. Now that the war with Spain is over, there will be time to devote attention to the important question of eastward expansion of the United States



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LI HUNG CHANG AND ARCHIBALD COLQUHOUN DISCUSSING AFFAIRS

obtain special and exclusive advantages for herself. Some of the minor powers (Belgium, for instance) already show signs of joining this combination. China is, in fact, undergoing "lingchili" (slicing to death) at the hands of a league of certain European protectionist nations.

The problem by which the United States is confronted, therefore, is whether she will merge her forces with those of Russia, and thus put an end to Anglo-Saxon leadership—for the secular struggle has resulted in pitting the Tectonic group, of which the most important is the English-speaking section, against the Slavs, which means simply Russia—or co-operate with Britain in strengthening that ascendancy, so making it practically unassailable.

It requires no elaborate argument to demonstrate that injury to England would be disastrous to the United States for the power of the United States to extend her trade in Asia, and, in a large measure, to expand as a nation, depends much upon the Anglo-Saxon supremacy and as the common aims and aspirations of the United States and Britain, the bond of race, of religion, and of government, indicate for them a common destiny, shall we not join Mr. Colquhoun in wishing that "may leaders arise who will guide both nations in the path of duty, of honor, and of prosperity, and bring them to submit without murmur to the sacrifices which will enable the race to maintain the ascendancy it has so long held?"

An event of importance is the announcement of the impending publication of the genuine memoirs of Bismarck written and revised by the late Prince himself. The work, edited by the well known Bismarckian historiographer, Herr Horst Kohl, is to appear shortly under the title of "Gedanken und Erinnerungen." The book appears from the house of Harper & Brothers in New York, under the title, in English, of "Bismarck's Autobiography."

It is very interesting to learn from the Berlin correspondence in the London Daily News that Prince Bismarck, as a man of 78, was about to send his successor, Count von Caprivi, a challenge to duel with pistols.

As is known, the German government under Count von Caprivi issued, on the occasion of Prince Bismarck's visit to Vienna to attend his son Herbert's wedding, a circular note to all the German ambassadors abroad saying that Prince Bismarck was a private gentleman, and was to be treated accordingly, and that his views were no longer of any weight. With regard to this decree, Prince Bismarck once said:

"That Caprivi should assert that I understood nothing of politics, and that he should have officially communicated the statement to foreign countries, was nothing to me. It could only disgrace him. But that he should interfere with

my social rights was too much. I at first wanted to challenge him, and had already thought about my seconds. I have still a very firm hand, and would



PRINCE BISMARCK

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soon have got into shooting again. But I considered the matter and asked myself what would happen? I am an officer. [Continued on page 9.]



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THE TORPEDO-BOAT "PORTER" IN ACTION

degrees each way, and twenty-five times a minute, with occasionally an extra one thrown in, which went way beyond the registering limit of the indicators and made one wonder why the boat took the trouble to come back, it seemed so much easier just to go on all the way round.

To rest and sleep in such conditions was very difficult, and only possible when physical exhaustion overcame every other feeling, and then the sleep was so broken that it ill-fitted one to renew the exacting duties of handling the delicate mechanisms of the boats, or exercise the cool judgment and instant decision demanded by the service.

The discomforts and the trials borne

and the place which the United States may be expected to occupy among the nations of the world. On the subject of eastward expansion Mr. Archibald R. Colquhoun, whose book, "China in Transformation," is of the utmost interest and value geographically, politically, and commercially, has an article in Harper's Magazine for October, in which he points out that recent events have made it clear that two great continental powers—Russia and France—are actively engaged in China on a political campaign which is intended to shut the door against the commerce of the Anglo-Saxon powers; while Germany is tacitly supporting that dual alliance in order to



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