



County Court-House, O'Neill.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA

Rev. J. H. Worley, a former missionary to China, in Sunday's State Journal, writes:

"Three hundred and fifty years ago the Manchu Tartars, a warlike race from the north, conquered China. Since the Chinese have been ruled by the Tartars. In order to placate the Chinese about half of the government patronage has been distributed among them, while the Tartars have kept the military power in their own hands. Another safeguard was the settlement of several tens of thousands of Tartars in the capital of each province, who, though following the ordinary vocations of life, received grants from the imperial treasury, and hence are ready to assist the government against any uprisings on the part of the Chinese.

"Soon after the Tartar invasion patriotic Chinese organized a secret society for the purpose of overthrowing the Tartar dynasty. The society continued to spread, and long ago reached every city and hamlet in the empire and its members are numbered by the millions. All classes, from the highest to the lowest, are enrolled, though usually men in official positions do not openly train with its members, except perhaps in extreme cases like the present crisis. However, the most active emissaries are expectant officials—that is, men who have passed the civil service examination but have not received appointments. This class is very large as there are several times as many men as officers, so that multiplied thousands after spending years of hard study are doomed to a life time of bitter disappointment. These men have given the government much trouble in the past by means of the secret society and the common people over whom they exercise influence in their own neighborhoods.

"During all these centuries the government has not been unmindful of the danger from this organization and from time to time has used drastic measures for its suppression but without effect. Whenever the native has been engaged in a war with a foreign country or the power of the government, for any reason, weakened, the secret society men have seized the opportunity for an outbreak. Several times they nearly accomplished their object, viz., the overthrow of the dynasty. At each uprising they assumed a new name (being careful usually to select a good name) and setting forth as their object something quite different from their original purpose, and not necessarily distasteful to the sovereign, but which if unsuccessful would, they hoped, result in the downfall of the government.

"Hence the boxer movement is really the old society under a new name striving ostensibly to suppress dangerous innovations and expel Europeans; a very laudable purpose in the eyes of the empress dowager who says they are true, loyal citizens, and who cashiered General Nieh for killing some of them. I understand the name of the society is Li Hwo Chuan—Truth, peace and palms; palms probably meaning industry. What noble objects to fight for! A new, patriotic society, says Minister Wu. Patriotic, I admit; but not new except in name and object of its attack. Keeping this in mind and remembering the same organization several times shook the Dragon

Through before European merchants and Protestant missionaries took up their abode in the flowery kingdom, we shall readily see that the latter are no more responsible for the boxer outbreak than the ministers are for the outrages in the city of St. Louis.

"There are other factors entering into the present disturbances, some of which I shall mention. The Japan-China war five years ago was the beginning of radical changes in the latter country. As a result of the war China was forced to permit the exportation of rice, something she had never done before. Very soon the price of rice advanced. Such prices have seldom if ever been known. Prices on nearly all commodities have advanced for the same period. Except in the case of rice it is not so easy to discover the cause, and yet it is only a repetition of what has transpired in other lands. Europeans in China submitted to the inevitable and raised wages, but the Chinese have not done so generally. Hence there has been a long season of hard times for wage earners. Had there been universal advance in wages commensurate with the high prices so that laboring people really would have been as well off as before, the cry of hard times and the spirit of unrest would still have been inevitable, because the people have been so long accustomed to consider the price of rice as the index to general conditions, they could not believe that times were good when rice was dear. In other words, if rice is cheap times are good and people are happy; if rice is dear times are hard and there is discontent. This opinion is so deep seated that farmers who have rice to sell complain of hard times when they are selling at high prices and realizing large returns for their labor. So far as I am aware this question has not been mentioned before by any of the writers on the boxer revolt and I am sure it is one of the most important immediate causes of the outbreak.

"Since the war between China and Japan there has been a consensus of opinion among Chinese and Europeans that the government was simply bolstered up by the powers, and if radical reforms were not speedily introduced the dynasty would be overthrown. Accordingly the true spirit of reform was begotten in the breasts of a few young men who had been influenced more or less by western science and civilization, and they decided to reach if possible the ear of the emperor. They were successful and the son of heaven imbibed the same spirit. Radical reforms, such as the world has seldom witnessed, were decided upon. Whereupon the empress dowager, backed by most of the high officials, with high handed usurpation deposed the Emperor Kuangsu and beheaded as many of the reformers as they could lay hands upon. From this memorable act the drama has advanced with logical precision to the boxer revolt.

"The scene has not been devoid of light and shadow. A bright ray of hope shot across the eastern horizon when news of Admiral Dewey's epoch making victory reached China. With one voice the progressive Chinese exclaimed, 'Our country is not to be dimembered and America is our saviour.' That is, America is a new power thrust into the eastern question which will be the balance of power in favor of the open door

of commerce, civilization and righteousness and the integrity of China. There was no wavering from this belief until war broke out in South Africa, when a feeling of apprehension began to come over the people. It was hoped that England, regarded as China's chief support, would not be long engaged with the Boers, but as time and events advanced the struggle in South Africa seemed likely to be prolonged, interest rapidly spread throughout China. It is true there had been disturbances prior to this in the northwest, probably due to the reactionary policy of the empress dowager, who immediately after the emperor was de-throned cancelled the edicts of the emperor, and from that time to this in private and public she has not concealed her bitter opposition to everything foreign.

"With this old society thoroughly organized, the people maddened by hard times, the empress dowager gone mad and Russia conniving the boxer revolt is no surprise. A new society could not have been so quickly and thoroughly organized, though new elements, as I have said, enter into the present disturbance. This much is plain, the empress dowager is opposed to Europeans and progress and the boxers are opposed to her and under the present stress are probably also opposed to Europeans. They may believe, and perhaps do, that the quickest way to accomplish their end will be to bring their government into collision with western nations. They certainly do believe whatever comes in the future nothing can be worse than the Tartar dynasty. The empress dowager and her advisors cannot, I think, believe the boxers other than the old society, but they have planned to use them together with the imperial forces to destroy their common enemy, the Europeans, who, many of the people believe, are the cause of the hard times. 'And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together, for before they were at enmity between themselves.'

"The boxers will be suppressed and surely this time the powers will not be hoodwinked by profused promises by the empress dowager and she be allowed to remain. For future peace and safety it is even more imperative that she and her advisors be destroyed than that the boxers be suppressed. The difficulty in the present task depends much upon the viceroys in the southern provinces. It is to be hoped that the messages they have sent to various nations express their real intentions. If so, and they remain firm the problem will be greatly simplified.

"But what of the future? This question comes with greater pertinence to the United States than to any other nation, strange as it may appear. Two years and a half ago no one dreamed that the United States would be the most potent factor in settling China's difficulties. If this government will go one step farther than to save life and property and share the responsibility with other nations of reorganizing the government of China the question of the future will be simple. And I believe when the time comes our government, as in the past, will not shirk any duty in the interest of oppressed peoples and universal peace. If she fails to assume her share of the responsibility there is great probability of war between some of the other nations; but if she goes forward fearlessly the combination opposed to the dismemberment of China and in favor of a protectorate would be so strong that those nations seeking more land will not dare to oppose. To dismember China will be a more difficult task than many suppose; greater even than to suppress the boxers. And should it be dismembered there would not only be universal discontent on the part of the Chinese, but constant friction between the nations governing the several districts. America could never maintain the open door in these petty dependencies of other nations, but in the reorganized, reformed China there would not only be the open door for commerce, but the open door for progress, civilization and Christianity.

"Marvelous as has been our in-

crease in trade with China the past five years it is nothing compared to what we shall witness in the near future if China is not dismembered but compelled to adapt herself to the demands of the age. If no mistake is made by our government now the Pacific ocean will be the greatest highway of commerce and the United States the greatest commercial nation in the world before twenty-five years. Together with this there will be such an opportunity for missionary operations as has not been afforded the church in any age.

Immigration to Canada.
For over forty years Alfred de Musset's disciples have made an annual pilgrimage to his tomb at Pere-Lachaise. In the beginning of "Le Joli Mois de Mai." The willow tree which stands close to his grave—the "light shade" he so pathetically requested—was brought from South America by a poet, who undertook the task in order to fulfill the desire of De Musset, whose works he revered. The poet's name is Hilarij Escasuba, and the tree came from Parana.

Longest Lightning Rod.
Lavoria boasts that it has the longest lightning conductor in the world. It rises some yards above the top of the meteorological station on the Zugspitze, the highest point in the German empire, and runs down the side of the mountain to the bottom of the Hohenlath, where there is running water all the year round. The length of the rod is five and a half kilometers, nearly three miles and a half.

Agricultural Students from Argentina.
The twenty or more young gentlemen from the Argentine Republic who have recently come to the United States to study agriculture and stock raising at the expense of their government are now in Baltimore, Philadelphia and Brooklyn, diligently learning the English language, in order that they may make the best use of the advantages that are to be offered them next fall in the agricultural colleges they will enter.

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