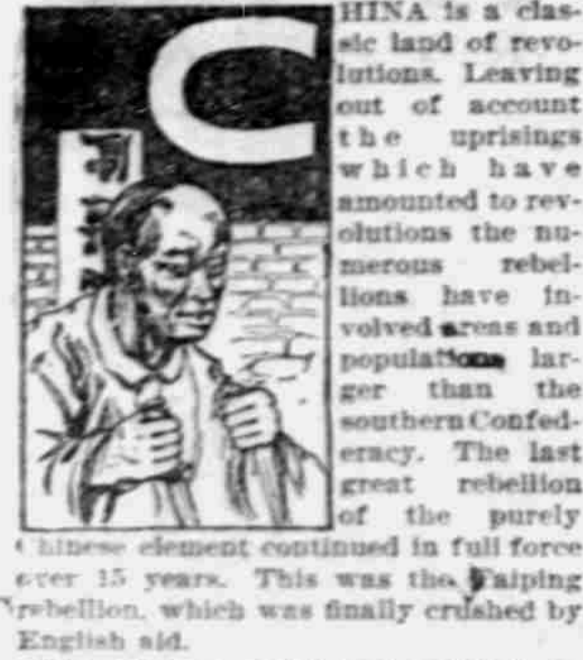


CHINA'S WAR SPIRIT.

WHY THE MOSS GROWN EMPIRE IS STIRRING FOR ACTION.

Influence of the War with Japan. China Awakened and Aroused—"China For the Chinese" and "Let Us Alone" the Popular Watchwords.

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CHINA is a classic land of revolutions. Leaving out of account the uprisings which have amounted to revolutions the numerous rebellions have involved areas and populations larger than the southern Confederacy. The last great rebellion of the purely Chinese element continued in full force over 15 years. This was the Taiping rebellion, which was finally crushed by English aid.

The Chinese social and political organization tends to armed uprisings. The imperial government is weak, and the people look to themselves for redress against all classes of evils. Although under an imperial regime, China is really ruled in its local affairs by the simplest form of democratic principles. A fierce patient enduring grievances for a long period the populace arises and in its blind yet irresistible way enters a bloody protest. More powerful than a red sealed edict from Peking is the mysterious appeal placarded in every village of the disturbed provinces.

Whether or not the present movement indicates that China is making her last stand against the encroachment of foreigners, either Asiatic or European, it is certain that the people have been for generations at least brooding over the sway of influences which are not purely Chinese. There are vast districts in China where it is said the population prides itself upon being of a purely Chinese strain and that in those districts not only the national spirit but what passes in other countries as patriotism, is the strongest. That fact shows that there is an element at work in China and has been for centuries which in time of general upheavals must assert itself either in blind fury or in a methodical and systematic movement to assert its views and principles.

The last national struggle of China was against the Tartars, who came down from the north and first conquered and overran the country, then were driven from power and forced back across the border. Eventually they reconquered China, and since that time the dynasty and dominating influences have been Manchurian, or foreign from the point of view of the true blooded Chinese.

It would be strange that if in an old civilization like China there should not be degeneration and in the Manchou element in the government may be found evidences of degeneration. The court, courtiers and the royalty have gone from bad to worse until at the present time the souls which dominate at Peking are of the vilest stamp. In other words, the government of China is rotten ripe for change. Is the best element of China determined to make the change, and when the change comes will that element get the upper hand? It may be that China has for the last 50 years been simply brooding over the evils which have rested upon or threaten her, but the events of the last few weeks show that the powers of Europe have underrated the strength of the national movement among the Chinese. The war with Japan unquestionably opened the eyes of the thinking man in China as nothing short of war and a defeat would have done. There were two parties at the time of the war, one for and one against clashing with Japan. The throne secretly entered into the war, met with humiliating defeat and was compelled to show that humiliation in public, whereas the conservative Chinese element was not in favor of the war until after it had begun and the nation was humbled by the pygmy race from across the Yellow sea. Then the dormant faculties of the empire began to awake. China was not ready for war when it came, not ready in sentiment and not ready in military preparation, but when the war ended the entire nation was filled with a fighting spirit. The peace which the rulers negotiated with Japan was more unpopular than the war itself, and under some forms of government undoubtedly there would have been an armed revolution, overthrowing the dynasty and at the same time recovering from Japan what had been taken from China by force of arms. After the cession of valuable territory to Russia, to England and to Germany, all of which the conservative element opposed.

The encroachments by the foreigners since the eruption by Japan into the affairs of the old kingdom may seem trivial, but taken in conjunction with the events of the past 50 years the wise heads of China must be convinced that the work cannot go on much longer without not only destroying the integrity of China, but the structure of her civilization. It is for her civilization that China will fight if she fights at all. Material wealth is under the ban of the religious teachings of China. For this reason all the promises of greatness through the adoption of foreign ways do not appeal to the Chinese. Their cry is and has been for generations, "We wish to be let alone." And under all the conquests of China by outside peoples the

China have always held their own. When the Tartar hordes swept down from the north, they destroyed nothing in China except what they cut down with a sword and wiped out with a torch. They did not impose Tartar civilization upon the Chinese, and when the final conquest of China was made the conquerors adopted the civilization of the Chinese rather than their own upon them. It is this same conservatism that causes the Chinese to in all parts of the world to live in colonies by themselves with their own forms of government, subject of course to the general laws of the country in which they live. But they do not adopt foreign civilization, and they do not want foreign civilization imposed upon China. Recently a Chinaman in London, stating the case of his people against Europeans, said:

Consider your missionaries. They come with a new religion, upon the main principles of which they are bitterly divided among themselves. They tell us that unless we accept their doctrines we shall suffer eternal punishment. They teach our children and the more unskilled of our older people and create all kinds of dissensions between families and individuals. No wonder that we will not tolerate them. If we wanted your railways and machines, we could, of course, buy them. But we do not. We have no use for them. We have learned to do without them. Let you say you will, then, let us buy them whether we will or no. Is that just? I say it is an impertinence, an outrage. A good deal is made of the fact that we are not soldiers. Well, we have learned to be soldiers because we have become civilized. War is barbarism. The effect of our having arrived at our present stage of civilization is that we have increased and multiplied beyond every other race on the face of the earth. In spite of our great mortality, which seems to be very shocking to you, although we recognize in it only a wise provision of nature, the Chinese race is increasing at a greater rate than any other people in the world.

We could if we chose overwhelm the rest of mankind. That we do not do so is due to the perfection of our civilization, our philosophy and our morals. We number 400,000,000 human beings, and we could withstand us if we chose to assert our power? Do you think we are unconscious of it? On the contrary, we understand it only too well. We will let the white race of the earth appreciate the fact that we and not they are its masters. There have been 20 so called successful invasions of China. But so what has happened? Have invaders dominated the Chinese? No. The conquered have absorbed their conquerors. All have become Chinese. The very Jews who have come among us have been absorbed by our race, a thing which has never happened elsewhere.

Let me repeat that all the forces which divide men in the west have practically no existence in China. Politics, religion, private ambitions, the necessity for expansion, land hunger, gold hunger—all these have no existence in China. You think that because the Chinaman is inert, careless and simple he is a child. There never was a greater mistake.

He has learned the secret of being happy. His life is placid, and nothing troubles him so long as his conscience is clear. There you have our secret in a sentence. Let us alone, and we will let you alone. Li Hung Chang is still more emphatic and speaks for the highest minds in China. He declared in a recent interview, printed in the New York Journal, that foreign missionaries ask the Chinese people every day of their lives to refrain from obeying the laws of China. As to the charge that the Chinese play false in politics, the viceroy says it is only what other nations do constantly. Besides, it is done under duress for self preservation. "One great nation after another comes along with a knife at our throats and wants to rob us. As long as we feel the point of the steel we say, of course, what you want us to say, but when the danger is over we forget all about the incident."

No nation, he says, respects the contracts made at the point of the sword after becoming strong enough to fight the foe. Only the envy, rivalry and hatred of European powers save China. Li Hung Chang has faith in his own people. Looking forward to a clash with the European nations, he says: "You criticize our sullen attitude. Do you expect us to make love to you because you robbed us? Ah, we know your programme well enough. The north for Russia, a good part of south and central China for England, the rest for France and Germany—so it has been planned. We are to retain nothing. Everything for the foreigner, nothing for the Chinese. But one cannot do away with 500,000,000 people by sleight of hand. It may not be very difficult to defeat



"KILL THE FOREIGNERS!" us, but to conquer us will be a hard job, I assure you. It is like eating a real Chinese meal. A courageous Englishman or American may tackle it, but I doubt that he will digest it." The fact that China has rested so long under the evils of the time without protest is not a guarantee for peace. The people are slow by nature and averse to strife. From the Chinese point of view domination of the Asiatic foreigner has lasted 500 years too long. The eruption of the European foreigners began half a century ago. Possibly John Chinaman thinks that now or never is the time to call a halt. GEORGE L. KILMER.

Quite Frank About It. He-I have come to ask for your hand. She (teasing)—Which hand? He—The one with the most diamonds.

Effect of Fear on Wounds. The fear of poison in a lacerated wound under certain circumstances is in itself quite sufficient to give a wounded man tetanus, or lockjaw, than which no more horrible complication exists. Thus for a long time it was thought that the natives of the Solomon and other neighboring islands lately added to the empire used poisoned arrows and many white men shot by them died in tetanic convulsions, including one very horrible case of a commander in the navy who had made a special study of tetanus.

At length the French governor of New Caledonia, noticing that the symptoms exhibited were not consistent with the use of any known poison, appointed a medical commission to inquire into the affair, when it was discovered that the arrows of the natives were not poisoned at all, although constructed in such a way that a small piece of the bone point almost always remained in the wound. The irritation produced by this prevented the wound from healing quickly, and the mental disturbance produced by fear and perhaps change of climate did the rest.

It was discovered at the same time that the natives of other islands who firmly believed in the poison theory seldom suffered much inconvenience from the arrow wounds, because they believed that the spells given them by their own sorcerers prevented the poison from taking effect.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Inscrutable Von Bulow. During Hans von Bulow's leadership of the orchestra at Hanover a tenor of fame was engaged to play a star role in "Lohengrin," according to Das Neue Blatt, and while the singer was rehearsing his part Bulow was forced to go over the same bars a number of times without the new actor beginning to sing. Tired of his wasted efforts, the leader stopped the orchestra and angrily turned to the singer.

"I know that a tenor is proverbially stupid," he said, "but you seem to make an extensive use of this unwritten law." At another time, while one of his grand intermezcos was being played with great feeling by his musicians, a peculiar noise, hardly perceptible by untrained ears, annoyed the leader for some little time. At first he thought it resembled the flutter of wings, but soon he discovered an elegant lady fanning herself in one of the boxes close by. Bulow kept on with his gestures, fixing his eyes on the offender in a manner which meant reproof. The lady, not heeding this, was suddenly surprised by the leader dropping his stick and turning toward her.

"Madam!" he cried, "if fan you must, please at least keep time with your infernal nuisance."

Too Much For the Tiger. A keeper at the Philadelphia zoo told the following interesting story of an encounter he once had with a tiger in India:

"With several companions I was on my way to visit some native friends in a neighboring village, and as the jungle paths were the shortest route we made the trip in chairs slung on carriers' shoulders. I was about half asleep from the swinging motion when I was pitched out by the native dropping the poles and scampering off. That's how I met my tiger. With a bound he was on me and had taken a mouthful of my coat, intending, no doubt, to carry me into the dense undergrowth.

"Fortunately for me I had a big bottle of ammonia in my coat pocket, carried it for snake bites, you know, and when the brute took the mouthful he broke the bottle. The whiff he got made his whiskers curl, and one was enough. He rolled over a couple of times, gasping and waving his paws, and then made off as quickly as he appeared. Hurt? No, only a few bruises from the fall, but the close shave took my nerves for some months."

Cycling in Normandy. The roads in Normandy are splendid for cycling, the only disadvantage being that the straightness of many main routes hides the beauty of the country, for which reason it is often a good plan, when time is not an object, to pick out the byways on the map. This is the easier because not only are the byways excellently kept, but the name of a French village is plainly written up, and one does not have ridiculous difficulties, as sometimes in England, in finding out where one is. Signposts and milestones are abundant, and the decimal system renders them perfectly simple and exact.—"Highways and Byways in Normandy," by Dearmer.

An Improvment Ring. A marriage ceremony was performed in Toronto recently, with a substitute for the ring which, though odd and amusing, was appropriate for the occasion. The couple went over from the American side of the St. Lawrence river, but forgot to take a ring. As there was no ring to be had in the house the resourceful clergyman sent for his wife's sewing scissors and, with the finger clasp, completed the ceremony.

Drinks and Thirst. It is a mistake to suppose that cold drinks are necessary to relieve thirst. Very cold drinks, as a rule, increase the feverish condition of the mouth and stomach and so create thirst. Experience shows it to be a fact that hot drinks relieve thirst and "cool off the body when it is in an abnormally heated condition better than ice cold drinks."

Saturday, Sunday and Monday are the favorite days in the week for marriage—Sunday in rural districts and Saturday in towns. Sunday weddings seem to be generally less numerous than they were, while the number which take place on Saturday are greatly on the increase.

His Life For a Hand. In a little town or village in Gloucestershire there is a church which contains the mortal remains of one of the old Crusaders. In moldering effigy he is depicted on the tomb, while by his side in cold eloquence is imaged the form of his wife. It will be noticed by even the casual observer that the female image is bereft of one of the hands, and the story runs that the Crusader, while fighting in the east, was made a prisoner of war and brought before Saladin, who, before executing judgment upon him, asked him if there was any reason why he should not be put to death. To this the knight replied that he was but young, and would leave a newly wedded wife, who would bitterly mourn his loss.

"The love of woman is as a feeble breath," retorted the sultan. "Your wife will forget that you have ever lived; she will love again and marry another." To this the sad knight could only reply that on her fidelity he could rest his soul. "Well, then," replied Saladin, "I will promise on my oath as a soldier that if this man's wife will cut off one of her hands and send it to me I will set him free to go to her." By tedious and slow journeyings the message came, and she, in all piteousness for him who was her lover and her lord, caused her hand to be cut off and sent it to the sultan, who kept his word and set the Crusader free.—Notes and Queries.

A Wonderful Bird. One day a wonderful bird tapped at the window of Mrs. Nansen's—wife of the famous arctic explorer—home at Christiania. Instantly the window was opened and in another moment she covered the little messenger with kisses and caresses.

The carrier pigeon had been away from the cottage 30 long months, but it had not forgotten the way home. It brought a note from Nansen, stating that all was going well with him and his expedition in the polar region.

Nansen had fastened a message to the bird and turned it loose. The frail courier darted out into the blizzardy air. It flew like an arrow over a thousand miles of frozen waste, and then sped forward over another thousand miles of ocean and plains and forests, and one morning entered the window of the waiting mistress and delivered the message which she had been awaiting so anxiously.

We boast of human pluck, sagacity and endurance, but this loving little carrier pigeon, in its homeward flight, after an absence of 30 months, accomplished a feat so wonderful that we can only give ourselves up to the amazement and admiration which must overwhelm every one when the marvelous story is told.—Atlanta Constitution.

Brushing a Derby Hat. Some men will buy two or three black derby hats a season, and these will always look rusty and old. Other men will buy not more than one a year, and that will never lose its deep and brilliant gloss.

"It'll tell you why it is," said one of the best dressers in town the other day. "It is because one man brushes his hat with a stiff bristled whisk, and the other rubs his softly with a piece of woolen cloth. The felt of a hat is such a delicate stuff that a stiff whisk applied to it has pretty much the effect that a currycomb or a rake would have on a suit of clothes. It wears the nap off, exposing the bare gray foundation in short order."

"A piece of woolen cloth, rubbed over a hat with a circular motion that conforms to the grain, doesn't rub off the nap at all, but keeps it lustrous and firm and of good color. I buy one \$2.50 hat a year and rub it each morning with a bit of flannel. I guarantee that it outlasts three \$5 hats that are raked and scraped with whisks every day."—Philadelphia Record.

An Extraordinary Island. In the bay of Plenty, New Zealand, is one of the most extraordinary islands in the world. It is called White Island and consists mainly of sulphur mixed with gypsum and a few other minerals. Over the island, which is about three miles in circumference and which rises between 800 and 900 feet above the sea, floats continually an immense cloud of vapor attaining an elevation of 10,000 feet. In the center is a boiling lake of acid charged water covering 50 acres and surrounded with blowholes from which steam and sulphurous fumes are emitted with great force and noise. With care a boat can be navigated on the lake. The sulphur from White Island is very pure, but little effort has yet been made to procure it systematically.

Put Up the Price. Senator Frye of Maine was once offered \$400 to write an article for a leading magazine, but refused, saying the figure was not large enough. "How much would you require?" asked the editor. "Twenty thousand dollars," answered the senator, which, of course, put an end to the negotiations. "And, do you know," said Mr. Frye to a friend afterward, "I couldn't have written the article anyhow."

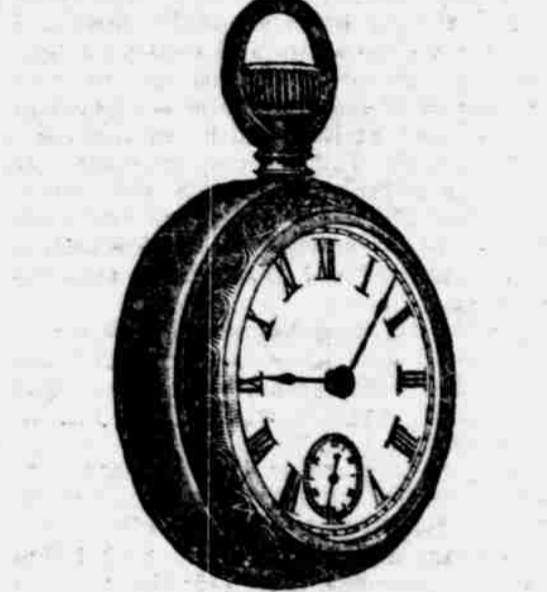
Learning. Wear your learning like a watch, in a private pocket, and do not pull it out and display it merely to show that you have one. If you are asked what o'clock it is, tell it, but do not proclaim it hourly or unasked, like the watchman.

The nails of two fingers never grow with the same degree of rapidity. The nail of the middle finger grows with the greatest rapidity and that of the thumb the least. Nothing makes the earth so spacious as to have friends at a distance. They mark the latitudes and longitudes.

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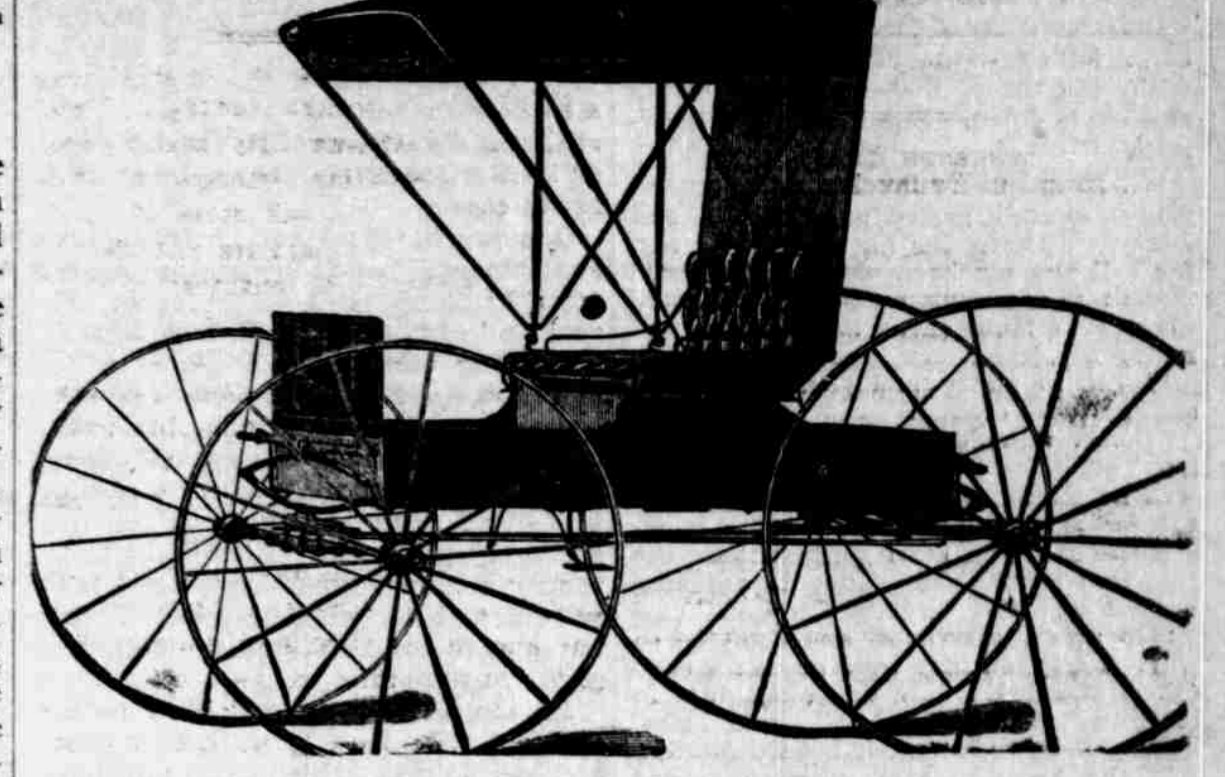
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