

# THE PRODUCERS OF CHINA.

They Are a Happy Class of People

A rich Chinaman wears silk, a poor one cotton. Since the proportion of rich to poor is about one in a thousand, it follows that the growth and manufacture of cotton are vital necessities. It is thought cotton culture was begun in the thirteenth century, the plant coming in from India, where



THE WEAVER.

it has been known for 2000 years. In spite of her unequalled agriculture, China does not raise cotton for export—nor, in fact, enough for her own needs. In the growth and manufacture of it, as in everything else, the aim is not, as in these United States, to save hand labor, but to use as much of it as possible. There are no power-

gins for taking out the seed. Instead, the Chinese use the little hand-gins very like those still to be found in the homespun regions of the Appalachian chain. The gin is nothing more than a couple of small wooden rollers, made fast in uprights affixed to a bench. They are turned by a wooden crank, revolve one against the other, and free the cotton of seed by drawing the lint. The lint is fed to them by hand, and it takes a long and steady day's work to gin five pounds of lint—which means twenty pounds of cotton in the seed.

The cotton is carded simultaneously with the ginning. A second man stands at the end of the bench beating the clean cotton with the teekung, or earth bow, into big flaky "bats." These bats the women spin in various ways. Sometimes they use the old-fashioned spinning wheel. Much oftener it is something approximating the ancient distaff. The spinner twirls it steadily, walking around and around as she twirls, thus winding the lengthening thread into very long hanks. If it is spun and run into to brooches or quilts, they are often reeled with a hand-reel. Chinese industry indeed is as inveterate as Chinese economy. Women usually work at such reeling while they stand and gossip in the alley ways between their houses. If there is no reel handy they will be stitching upon a shoe sole, always a salable article. Bare feet are

unknown in China. Even a beggar wears shoes, though he may have no other clothes than the head-bowl, which serves both as a hat and to hold out when there is a chance of alms.

Nothing is wasted in China. Even grass and wheat roots are pulled up, washed, dried and used for fuel. Scraps of paper and cloth are pasted together to make the insoles of shoes. Bits of wood are glued to build up either a board or a post. Women spinners and straw-platters earn 2c a day. The spinning, though, is most commonly like the weaving at the hand looms, only a part of unpaid household labor. Machine-made cloth and thread have of late come to bear heavily upon the cotton-workers, but that fact is in a degree offset by the growing import of raw cotton. Still some of the light yellow hand-made fabric, known the world over as nankeen, from the city of export, Nankin, is shipped abroad. It is made from a peculiar yellow-staple cotton, hence not dyed. The same yellow-staple cotton is grown and manufactured by Arcadians in Louisiana, but the fabric is so scarce it does not compete with the Chinese one.

Five dollars a year will clothe a Chinese husband and wife something more than decently. Underwear is unknown—so is fitting a garment. The only measures taken are from the hip to the ground, and from the middle

of the breast to the finger tips. Fashions do not change. Winter garments and bedding are wadded with cotton. Once a year they must be ripped apart and washed, padding and all.

How needful is economy may be judged from a few figures. Unskilled laborers are paid upon an average 7c a day. Masons, carpenters and stone cutters, here as elsewhere the aristocracy of labor, get from 25c to 30c a



THE STONE CUTTERS.

day. According to the average of prices of articles of consumption in China 25c a day is equivalent to \$2.50 per day here. Work begins at sunrise and keeps up until dark. Notwithstanding all which strikes are virtually unknown, and the Chinese laborer is the happiest and most contented in the world.



A VIEW OF THE CITY OF CHUNG KING FU, IMPORTANT COTTON CENTER AND A BOXER STRONGHOLD.

## Russians Saved Women and Children.

We occasionally hear adverse reports of the conduct of the Russian soldiers in the field. As a matter of fact, such reports generally emanate from untruthful sources. The fact is that, were it not for the protecting arm of the czar's soldiers in China, terrible bloodshed would have resulted at many points. Some days before the capture of Tientsin a company of Russian soldiers entered the city. Of their heroic efforts in behalf of the foreigners Mrs. Charles Denby, Jr., wife of the son of the ex-minister to China, writes from Tientsin: "Enormous fires in the native city were started and the Boxers began their attack on the settlement; so we were all aroused at 4 o'clock, and every one who lived in the extra concession went either to friends on the Victoria road or to the town hall. As it happened, Mrs. von Hannekin had asked us to come to her in case of alarm, so we escaped to the town hall. There were perhaps 100 people who remained in their homes. All the rest were huddled together in Gordon hall for ten days.

"The Chinese troops were everywhere. Two days before the alarm 1,700 Russian troops arrived. They saved our lives. Had it not been for them all of us would have been slaughtered. On that Monday they fought



MISS TILLIE FAHR, In Native Costume.

5,000 Chinese well-drilled troops for twelve hours. At one time they thought they could not hold them at bay, but in the evening the Russians still maintained their position. How Russians fought and suffered! I cannot describe their courage. For three days they lay in the open, exposed to a terrible fire, without being able to fight back. The Chinese were behind trenches, so the Russians could not afford to waste ammunition.

"All these days we were waiting and waiting for re-enforcements. We could not believe the admirals would bombard the forts at Taku, plunge us into war and then leave us with only a few hundred troops. Such, however, was the case. No one knows where the fault lay. There were three dreadful days of fighting. But when the second additional troops were dispatched from Taku, after the arrival of Jim Watts, the brave Russian rider, they were able with such a re-enforcement to work their way through. Thus they all arrived on Sunday morning and we were saved."

Miss Tillie Fahr of San Francisco, who was also a refugee at Gordon hall,

pays a high tribute to Jim Watts. In her diary of June 19 she says:

"They are bombarding us heavier today than heretofore. Early this morning I stood behind a closed window peeping through the shutter slats. Four bullets pierced the shutters, but did not strike me. I rushed to the commanding officer and told him that the bullets must have come from a Chinaman concealed in a tree flanking the window. Calling four Cossacks, we went to the tree, and sure enough shook out a Chinaman, whose first inquiry was whether he had killed the lady. I told him I was very much alive. My would-be assassin was immediately tried and shot. . . . All else may be dead, but heroism still lives. Jim Watts rides to Taku to bring us re-enforcements. He heads for Taku, but may ride into the very jaws of death. It is a most perilous undertaking, but brave Jim Watts gladly, gallantly risks his life. I myself heard him offer it. 'Some one must go to Taku,' said the commanding officer. 'It may mean the lives of women and children—who will mean death to the rider. Who will go?' 'I know the roads, every inch of them; let me go,' said a voice. Then Jim Watts stepped forward. 'I shall go; it is right. I am the older brother.' We saw him mount his horse, we heard the thuds of the hoofs beat more faintly and die. Hope took no new lease of life from this. Before re-enforcements could reach us it would be too late, granting that brave Jim Watts ever reached Taku. And what more unlikely than that?"

"June 23.—Through the glasses I saw the troops coming nearer and nearer. Are they re-enforcements for the Boxers or us? Closer they come, and yet we cannot distinguish them. Eyes strain through glasses nor catch a gleam to their identity. Another half hour. Suddenly something flutters to the wind. The stars and stripes, thank God! thank God! They are coming to us and we shall not die. How good heaven is, how sweet is life! The stars and stripes, and we wept and HOPED the first time since that day long ago when we came to Gordon hall. God bless Jim Watts! Other flags are now visible—it is 10:30 in the morning. . . . The troops reached us before 2 o'clock. The rest of the day has been very quiet. The Chinese are evidently puzzled what move to make next. How strange not to hear the shelling! There are other discordant sounds, though—the moo of the hungry cows, the bray of the donkeys and from the other starved animals come a cry for something to eat. Poor creatures; yet it is impossible to spare food for them."

**The Name "America."**  
Ricardo Palma of Lima, the director of the National Library of Peru, has published a book reviving and reviewing the old controversy as to the origin of the name "America." He contends that this hemispheric name was named after Alberico Vespucci, but that the Florentine merchant's name was changed by a French painter to "Americus" in honor of his travels in the new world; then a German professor, either ignorantly or willfully, carried on the compliment, and from a nickname gave two continents their present title, Julia Maroon, in the bulletin of the Paris Geographical society for January, 1889, conjectured this origin of "America." Mr. Palma's review of the facts and evidence

makes out a good case for Marconi's theory.

"America" is the native name of the mountain range between Lake Nicaragua and the Mosquito coast. The termination "ic," or "ac," is common in native place-names all around the Caribbean. Spanish voyagers for years after Columbus were still searching for the water passage to India and for gold. Both motives caused them to give particular attention to the western end of the Caribbean. So the name "America" became familiar long before it got into books. Vespucci's account of his voyages, published in 1494, was the first printed description of the mainland of the new world. It ran through many editions in several languages, and brought its author's name into much notice. In the Latin editions Vespucci's name was Latinized into "Albericus Vesputius."

**Woman's Ingenuity.**  
The wives of the policemen of Philadelphia devised a plan for keeping their husbands cool during the hot weather the other day. It, at least, illustrates how the ingenuity of a woman may make light of official rules, even though they be those of a municipal police department.

One of the strictest regulations of the Philadelphia department is that all officers on duty must wear coat and vest, and must have the top button of the coat buttoned. No infractions of this rule are allowed even under conditions which make the bronze statue of William Penn sit in its shirt sleeves. Philadelphia policemen are all strictly observing the rule, and yet they are keeping reasonably cool. The wife of each of them has taken an old vest and entirely cut away the back and sides, leaving only a single thickness of blue cloth in front without lining. This remnant has been sewed into the coat, which is also entirely robbed of its lining, so that while the appearance remains the substance is almost lacking.

**Chinese Code of Etiquette.**  
The standard book of etiquette in China was written by Lady Cho 2,700 years ago. Lady Cho was the widow of a distinguished literary man of north China and after his death was faithful to his memory. Her husband's brother was historian of that dynasty, but when his work was half completed he lost his sight. The Emperor sent a messenger to him asking him who could finish his book and the reply was returned that only his brother's wife was capable of doing it. The Emperor sent for Lady Cho and she was conducted in the greatest of state to the Emperor's palace. There she completed her brother-in-law's work so satisfactorily that it is impossible to tell where the man left off and the woman began.

**To Make a Garden of the Soudan**  
Capitalists of London, according to reports which emanate from importers

in this country, are formulating plans to turn the entire Soudan, in Africa, into a gigantic fruit garden. They expect that the product of their venture will supply the whole of Europe with those fruits that can be raised only in hot and moist climates. A large consignment of fruit trees has already been shipped to the Soudan and it is found that these take root and bloom as do the native trees, then millions of other trees will be shipped and set out. Experts who have thoroughly gone over the grounds and considered the enterprise from all standpoints are confident that the scheme is feasible and will prove highly successful.

**Labouchere Accused.**  
London Truth publishes correspondence advising that paper of the seizure at Pretoria of a compromising letter from Montagu White, former consul general of the South African republic in London, to Secretary of State Reitz dated Aug. 4, 1899, and two letters from Henry Labouchere to Mr. White, dated respectively Aug. 2, 1899, and Aug. 4, 1899, which Mr. White appears to have inclosed to Secretary Reitz, and a letter of Joseph Chamberlain, the secretary of state for the colonies, inviting Mr. Labouchere to offer explanations or observations thereon, and Mr. Labouchere's reply. Mr. Labouchere's letters are brief and amount to advice to the Transvaal to gain time by the accept-



HENRY LABOUCHERE.

ance of the proposed commission to settle the franchise questions, etc., together with an expression of opinion from Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the liberal leader in the house of commons, and the liberals generally that the British cabinet proposed the appointment of the commission with the view of giving Mr. Chamberlain a chance to "climb down," and that the cabinet was determined to have no war.

Madame Richter, Meyerbeer's daughter, has presented to the museum her father's piano, a well-preserved Erard, and another donor has added an eighteenth century lyre-shaped piano of great beauty. This royal collection also includes the oldest upright oblique piano in existence. It was made in Paris by the inventor, Henri Pate, in 1828.

Over in Linn county, Missouri, a man wished to marry a widow who had seven children. With a view of avoiding all future trouble, he obtained the consent of all the children and of the intended bride's father before getting a license.

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