

RULER A "SUICIDE." CONVENIENT DEATH OF CHINA'S EMPEROR.

Assassination Believed to Have Been Resorted To by the Dowager Empress—How the Public Was Prepared—A Minister's Banishment.

LONDON, Oct. 3.—A dispatch from Shanghai says telegrams furnished by the Tao Tai, or local governor, to a Chinese paper there, allege that the emperor of China committed suicide September 21, after signing the decrees which placed the dowager empress at the head of affairs in China. This, it is added, is understood to mean that the emperor was assassinated.

All the English-speaking secretaries and the principal members of the Chinese foreign office, it is further announced, have been seized and banished.

At the time the resignation of the emperor Kuang Hsu was announced a dispatch from Shanghai announced his death. This report was denied from Peking, but as the emperor is rarely seen except by a few immediate attendants, the matter has been in doubt. It was announced in the decree that in view of the complications of the situation in the empire the dowager empress, the emperor's aunt, had, at his earnest request, assumed control of the government. At the same time guarded statements were given out that the emperor was in poor health and that he could not live long. These, it was generally believed, were to prepare the public for the news of his sudden death.

Among the reforms advocated by the emperor that led to his downfall were his determination to allow a free press and to introduce European dress. He had ordered all newspapers brought to him so that he might find as direct as possible the condition of public opinion. He had also appeared in public in European costume. It was suspected that he had designs against the sacred queue.

Two or three days before the dowager empress came into power, it is said the emperor informed Kang Yuwei, one of his chief advisers, of the plot, and urged him to escape, telling him that he himself would be assassinated.

According to a dispatch to the London Times from its Peking correspondent, the imperial decree issued yesterday dismissing from office and banishing to Hsi, Chinese Turkistan, Chang Yin Houan, Li Hung Chang's opponent in the foreign office, and former minister at Washington, "acquits the dismissed official of complicity with Kang Yuwei, the Cantonese reformer, but convicts him vaguely as crafty and treacherous."

The true reason for his dismissal and banishment, the Times' correspondent asserts, is that Chang Yin Houan was a powerful supporter of the emperor's party.

Kuang Hsu, the emperor, was born twenty-seven years ago, and ascended the throne in 1875. His aunt, the dowager empress, was regent until he was proclaimed emperor. Since that time she has been the power behind the throne. The empress is 65 years old. She was sold as a slave by her parents and was bought by a viceroys, who sent her to the emperor as a present. At that time she had the reputation as the most beautiful woman in the empire. The emperor fell in love with her and made her queen of his harem. Their son he proclaimed heir to the throne.

As the emperor grew old he allowed his young wife to control the affairs of the empire. His ministers despised her as only a woman, but when they expressed their dislike they lost their heads. It became unpopular to criticize. After the emperor's death her son came to the throne, but died in a few years. For sixteen years she was the real ruler of China.

The present emperor never succeeded in escaping his aunt's control. When he selected his wives his aunt vetoed his choice and made him marry an ugly niece of her own. It is said she feared the women of his choice would deprive her of her influence.

The assumption of power by the dowager empress is believed, in spite of official Chinese denials, to mean the restoration of the reactionary party to the ascendancy and the domination of Russian instead of British influence.

CHINA GETTING INTO TROUBLE

Englishmen and Americans Assaulted by a Mob in Peking.

LONDON, Oct. 3.—The foreign office to-day received a dispatch from the British minister at Peking, saying that Mr. Mortimer, a member of the British legation, on returning home yesterday with a woman, was insulted and attacked by a mob, which stoned him and covered him with mud. Later in the day, the dispatch adds, some American missionaries were similarly attacked, as was the Chinese secretary of the United States legation. The latter's ribs were broken. Steps have been taken to call the attention of the Chinese government to these outrages.

New King of Samoa.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3.—The state department gives confirmation to the report that it has given its assent to the return to Samoa, after an exile of ten years, of the former king, Mataafa. It is assumed that this chief is to be made king to succeed the late King Malletoa, who died about a month ago.

No Longer at Devil's Isle.

PARIS, Oct. 3.—It is rumored that Dreyfus has already been transferred from the Isle de Diabls to Cayenne, where he awaits a steamer to bring him to a French or an Algerian port.

GETTING READY FOR CUBA.

In a Few Days All Northern Camps Will be Abandoned.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3.—If the present plans are carried out it is expected that the evacuation of Cuba will have been completed by December 31 and the new year will see the American colors raised all over the island. It is now believed the plans will be carried out because advices to-day from the military commission in Havana indicate that Spain will no longer contend for delay. It is said the transports which took the prisoners from Santiago will promptly return to Cuba to facilitate a speedy evacuation. These transports have a capacity of 25,000. It is not likely that more than 60,000 or 75,000 soldiers will return to Spain. The other 50,000 or 60,000 will remain, lay down their arms and become citizens of the island. This, it is considered, will be in no wise objectionable to this government.

Secretary Alger has said that 50,000 or 60,000 United States troops will be stationed in Cuba at points which will probably be decided upon within the next few days. It is the plan of the administration not to concentrate any great number of troops in any one place. The army of occupation will probably consist of four infantry divisions and one cavalry division. The plan of keeping the Seventh army corps together will doubtless be abandoned, and on this point General Fitzhugh Lee has been in conference with Secretary Alger.

Colonel Hecker of the quartermaster's department, who has been in the South for the past two weeks looking over points most suitable for embarkation, has recommended Charleston and Savannah. It has been decided to abandon Camp Meade, Camp Blis and the camp at Lexington, Ky. Secretary Alger has said that the troops there would be sent to camps in the South not yet settled upon, but that the winter camps will all be within the limits of Georgia and South Carolina. Orders will be issued very soon for the movement of troops, so that they may not be exposed to the hardships of the Northern climate.

When asked as to the disposition of the whole army Secretary Alger said that with 12,000 men in Porto Rico, 20,000 in the Philippines and from 50,000 to 60,000 in Cuba, there would not be more than about 50,000 left. These would either be in the southern camps or assigned to stations.

"How long will they remain in the southern camps?" Secretary Alger was asked.

"As long as they are needed in the service," he replied.

TRAIN ROBBER ARRESTED.

W. W. Lowe, a Railroad Man, in Custody at Kansas City.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 3.—The police have in custody William W. Lowe, a railroad switchman, who, they declare, is one of the men who held up and robbed the Missouri Pacific train near Leeds the night of September 23. The officers claim that between statements made by Lowe and his wife they have enough evidence to convict him of the robbery and to warrant the arrest of several other men.

Sensational developments will doubtless follow the arrest of Lowe. The police assert that he had letters in his pocket from Jesse James, jr., son of the notorious bandit, and John Kennedy, the man who is believed to have been implicated in half a dozen train robberies around Kansas City.

Lowe has been under the surveillance of the detectives since the time Kennedy was arrested for the murder of Miss Schumacher. He and young James were almost constantly at Kennedy's trial and are known to have been on terms of friendship with him.

Young Jesse James has borne a good reputation. Chief Hayes admits finding the letters from Jesse James, jr., and John Kennedy in Lowe's possession, but he will not divulge their contents. However, he acknowledges that the letters will form very important evidence when the gang has all been captured and brought to trial.

The police proceeded on the train robber case on the theory that Kennedy's friends had planned and executed the job. Lowe was among the number who testified for Kennedy at his trial. He is a railroad man and was reared in Cracker-Neck. So there was no surprise among the police when a woman who lives near the Lowes in West Sixteenth street gave information that Lowe had told his wife that he had a hand in the last Missouri Pacific robbery. Detectives Harbaugh, Sanderson, Bryant and Keshlear were at once sent to arrest Lowe. He was taken to the Savoy hotel and "sweated." Mrs. Lowe was also examined by the police and she gave sufficient evidence to warrant holding her husband.

The officers tried to keep Lowe under cover until they could forge a solid chain of evidence about him, but they decided this morning that it was useless to keep the arrest a secret any longer.

There are not fewer than twenty-five detectives working on the train robbery case now. This morning six new detectives came in from St. Louis.

Actor Commits Suicide.

NEW YORK, Oct. 3.—Scott Inglis, an actor in Julia Arthur's company, shot himself through the heart last night.

Inglis was dismissed from the company a few days ago for failure to attend a rehearsal and had been refused reinstatement by Miss Arthur. He was without funds.

Dies Over Her Dead Friend's Body.

CHICAGO, Oct. 3.—Minnie Budelski, while leaning over the caasket containing the body of her girl friend, fell forward on the coffin and died. The two girls will be buried side by side.

THE ILLINOIS IS AFLOAT.

Miss Letter Christened the Second of the Sister Ships.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Oct. 5.—The battleship Illinois was launched from the Newport News company's docks at 12:35 p. m. Miss Nancy Leiter of Chicago broke a bottle of wine over the ship's prow and christened her. The crowd of visitors is estimated at fully 20,000, and it is believed that fully 30,000 persons witnessed the launching.

The Illinois is the second of the three great sister ships to be launched this year. The first, the Alabama, was floated from Cramp's yards May 18. The Wisconsin will leave the ways in the latter part of November. These three ships will be the most powerful in the navy until the still finer trio, the Maine, Missouri and Ohio, shall be launched.

The layman who doesn't know a mizzen mast from a bilge keel will at once notice five peculiarities of the Illinois type:

The forward deck is considerably higher than the decks of the Oregon. The after deck, with its heavy turret, is eight feet lower than the forward deck.

The smokestacks are side by side instead of one in front of the other.

The ships fairly bristle with 6-inch guns.

The turrets are elliptical, not circular.

The added height of the forward deck, which gives twenty feet "freeboard" against twelve feet in the Oregon, will enable the Illinois to fight her guns from their great elevation above the water in seas so heavy that the guns of the lower vessel would be submerged and useless. Splendid sea-going powers are expected to result from this increased freeboard, by which is meant the height of the hull above the water line.

The Illinois type carries heavier guns and heavier armor for a given displacement and speed than any ship in the world. The Majestic, of the British navy, has a displacement of 15,000 tons, 2,500 more than the Illinois. Yet the Illinois will carry four 13-inch guns to four 12-inch of the British ship, and fourteen 6-inch to twelve 6-inch of the Majestic. Her side armor will be 1 1/4 inches thicker than the Majestic's, and her turret armor eleven inches thicker. A smaller ship, she offers a smaller target, and, drawing four feet less water, she can navigate harbors and channels where her bulky antagonist dare not enter.

In the Illinois the 8-inch guns are abandoned and a battery of fourteen 6-inch rapid fire guns are substituted for them. These will be more effective than the eight 8-inch guns of the Oregon. Each of these guns will be capable of firing 100-pound shells, penetrating 15.6 inches of plate. Eight of these guns will be enclosed within a central battery on the main deck, protected by a wall of steel 5 1/2 inches thick. Forward, in the bows of the same deck will be two more 6-inch guns, similarly protected, and four other 6-inch guns will be mounted, two on each side, on the "spar" or upper deck. These will have 6-inch steel protection and may be fired dead ahead or dead astern.

Larger by 1,000 tons than the Oregon, larger than the Iowa, now the biggest battleship in service, the Illinois is still so designed that she will be able to enter any harbor open to the matter of speed she will rank with any of them. Her nominal speed will be 14.5 knots. With all stores on board she will displace 13,325 tons; her normal displacement is 11,325 tons to 11,410 tons of the Iowa. She is 305 feet long and 72 feet 2 1/2 inches wide; the Iowa is 360 feet long. The Illinois will draw 23 feet 6 inches. While her normal coal supply is 800 tons, she can carry between 1,400 and 1,500 tons. She will carry forty officers and 450 men.

The first keel plate of this vessel was laid February 10, 1897, not quite twenty months ago, and the percentage of work completed to this date, based on the vessel fitted out and ready for sea, is between 53 and 54 per cent. The contract price was \$2,595,000 and the date of completion is stated to be October 5, 1899.

CUBANS NEED PUNISHMENT.

American Troops Sent to Manzanillo to Stop Disorders.

SANTIAGO, Oct. 5.—In consequence of serious disorders due to the insurgents in the vicinity of Manzanillo, General Lawton is dispatching thither the steamer Reina de Los Angeles, with one battalion of four companies from the Third Immunes under Colonel Ray.

The Cubans have plundered the sugar estates and have committed such depredations that it became necessary for the planters to appeal to General Lawton for protection. Colonel Ray's instructions are to deal with offenders with the utmost severity, putting down lawlessness with a firm hand. He has full powers to act in a summary manner and to order that the death penalty be meted out for theft or attempted violence.

Colonel Ray, who has just returned from Guantanamo, where he was in command, reports similar troubles there with the Cubans.

In Defense of His Mother.

MOBILE, Ala., Oct. 5.—Francis P. O'Connor, 17 years of age, a moulder's apprentice, stabbed John Kitchen to the heart in defense of his mother at their home this morning. Kitchen died instantly. He had served two terms in the penitentiary. O'Connor surrendered to the police immediately after the stabbing. It is not expected he will be prosecuted.

TREATIES OF PEACE.

IT TOOK MUCH SKILL TO ARRANGE FIRST PROTOCOL

John Bull Hated to Let Go—Warships the Best Navigators with the Barbary States—Department Clerk Conducted Dealings Which Ended Mexican War.

Spain's diplomatic representatives will have to exercise all the craftiness they are credited with possessing if in the treaty of peace they help to formulate they secure any practical concessions beyond the terms of the protocol their government has assented to. So far as the United States is concerned it will be a case of "I win, you lose," and all Spain can hope to accomplish in the negotiations is to hold on to as much as her late antagonist's generosity will permit her to retain. Even if the advantage were not all on the American side history shows that your Uncle Samuel has usually been able to drive a pretty fair bargain when it comes to treaty-making, notwithstanding he is credited with being awkward at diplomacy. But sometimes it has been a great deal easier to negotiate a favorable treaty than to get the other party to keep it.

Excluding our Indian relations from consideration, the United States has been party to many series of treaties—treaties of "amity and friendship," making commercial and navigation regulations, defining boundaries, providing for the extradition of criminals and for other purposes. But the treaties of most timely interest are those which summed up the results of the arbitration of the sword in our international quarrels.

When John Bull gave up as a bad job trying to bring the recalcitrant colonies into line he hated mightily to let go of it. The revolution was practically over with the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Oct. 19, 1781, but Mr. Bull didn't realize for some time that he had been properly licked. He wanted to quit fighting—there was no doubt of it—but he didn't like to pay our price for peace. So it was "way in November of the next year before England finally sent Richard Oswald over to Paris to agree to preliminary articles for a peace treaty. The provisional treaty was signed Nov. 30, 1782. During the interval there had been a great deal of negotiating and palavering under "unofficial cover and in other diplomatic ways of beating about the bush, and the colonists were beginning to wonder if they would have to do more fighting to make King George own up that we had earned the right to govern ourselves. But this doubt was set at rest by the provisional treaty, which gave full acknowledgment of our independence, though the king and some of his cabinet didn't like that concession a little bit and it was not at all popular with the English people.

It wasn't very long, as time went in those days of sailing vessels and stage coaches, before an armistice was signed which officially suspended the war, though it had practically ended sixteen months before. The document bore the signature of John Adams and Benjamin Franklin for the United States and became effective Jan. 20, 1783. Adams and Franklin stayed in France and, together with John Jay, agreed with Hartley, the British representative, upon the definite peace treaty, which was signed Sept. 3, 1783. And did John Bull then let go? Oh, no! According to the seventh article of the treaty he was to call all his soldiers home from the United States territory at once, and they were not to break the furniture, to allow anything that didn't belong to them to stick to their fingers or to walk off—or sail away—with any of our slaves, whom we did not wish deprived of the blessings of a free country. But when the English troops evacuated New York 3,000 negroes, it is said were taken with them or had been sent ahead. Eleven years later British troops still occupied Detroit, Mackinaw, Fort Erie, Niagara, Oswego, Oswatchie, Point au Fer and Dutchman's point. Can you imagine Spain occupying Cuba eleven years after she agreed to evacuate? Well, the United States of 1791 and that of today are two quite different subjects to trifle with. And there is a suspicion that Spain has held the hot end of the poker in Cuba for so long that she is really glad to let go.

When Great Britain's attention was politely called to these failures to observe her agreement she replied, in substance, that we were another; that we ourselves had ignored one of the articles of the treaty which had to do with the collection of debts by British subjects and the restoration of confiscated property. Mr. Jefferson promptly entered a disclaimer and some right saucy remarks were interchanged. Meanwhile the British troops were holding Detroit and the other frontier posts and giving the Indians fatherly advice as to which side they should take if there happened to be a fight. All the indications pointed to another conflict and President Washington had sounded a note of preparation, when the news came that John Jay had signed a treaty with Lord Grenville on Nov. 19, 1794, which was to settle all the trouble. And so it did come very near doing, though England didn't altogether give up trying to bulldoze us until we had got into another tussle a few years later.

About this same period we were having several varieties of trouble with France, while she was at the same time having all kinds of trouble herself—for those were the days of the commune and the directory. Our affairs with her were amicably adjusted by a treaty on Sept. 30, 1800, after we had got warmed up to nearly fighting humor.

Then the Barbary states began to bother us. We had endeavored to induce the king of France to protect our

interests there, but he would do no more than promise his good offices to persuade the dusky sovereigns to be good to us. At first we tried to hold them to friendly conduct by the payment of stipulated tribute, but they soon began to object because they didn't get an occasional "voluntary present" of a warship or two. Finally we did send several warships—but not as presents—which at various times used their persuasive powers in a very undiplomatic but effective way to bring about the signing of treaties with Tripoli, Tunis, Algeria and Morocco guaranteeing peace without tribute. One of the agreements was signed on a United States war vessel after repeated pleas for delay had been peremptorily denied by the Yankee officials.

Our second war with Great Britain had scarcely begun when President Madison, in a message to congress, announced that he had "conveyed to Great Britain the terms upon which peace might be brought about." Then the czar of Russia offered his mediation, which was accepted by the United States, and James Bayard, Albert Gallatin and John Quincy Adams were sent to St. Petersburg. Their mission proved a failure, as Great Britain declined to accept the czar as a peace-maker. Lord Castlereagh, however, wrote to our state department proposing direct negotiations for peace. The commission, to which Henry Clay had been added, proceeded to Gottenburg and later to Ghent, the first conference being held at the latter place Aug. 8, 1814. On Dec. 24, 1814, the treaty was signed by Adams, Clay and Gallatin in behalf of the United States and Frederick John Robinson, Henry Goulburn and Thomas Adams for Great Britain. Thus was the hatchet buried between John Bull and Uncle Sam—never, let us hope, to be resurrected.

For in these days England is glad to court an alliance with the nation she once appeared to think not worth bothering to keep faith with, while fair Columbia seems not to find Alblon's advances distasteful.

The treaty of peace which ended our war with Mexico was negotiated by a subordinate of the state department partly in defiance of instructions from Washington.

While the conflict was going on Nicholas P. Trist, chief clerk in the department of state, was sent to Mexico to receive any proposals for peace which might be forthcoming, provided they included the cession of New Mexico and California. Mexico couldn't see her way clear to such an arrangement and on Oct. 3, 1847, Trist was ordered to come home. If there had been a cable to cut no doubt Trist would have cut it, for he wasn't ready to return and didn't come till he got ready. When he did come he brought the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which he had concluded with Louis G. Cuevas, Bernardo Couto and Miguel Atristain on Feb. 2, 1848. The agreement was ratified on May 30 and proclaimed on July 4 of the same year. New Mexico and California were ceded and Arizona came to us in a subsequent treaty.

There was, of course, no treaty of peace at the conclusion of the rebellion, so this brings us to the negotiations which will put an official end to the Spanish war and which, in their possible results, are second in importance only to the treaty in which King George acknowledged the independence of the United States.

Grandeur of Character.

The best thing in this world is a good man. The greatest thing in this world is a great good man. The most blessed thing in this world is a blessed good man. The first thing that a human being should recognize about himself is that his character is his distinguishing feature. It is not the amount of money, the amount of power, the amount of brains that a man has that is his distinguishing feature, but his character. Whatever fellow-men may temporarily say or do to the contrary, this is a fact, that what separates him from others and gives him his individuality is his goodness or lack of goodness, according to its degree. Money, power and brains have their place, and they exert an influence in temporarily deciding a man's position and recognition, but the standard of the ages, by which any one and every one is tried, is character; and in God's sight, which is the final and determining sight, men are what they are in wishes and purposes. It is not, then, too much to say that the supreme ambition of a person's life should be to secure a worthy character. Everything else, however important, is merely subsidiary. Beauty of person, brilliancy of achievement, acuteness of intellect, sway of authority are secondary, while goodness is primary.

Moliere's Last Day.

It is told of Moliere, that on the morning of the day on which he died, his wife and friends, seeing how weak he was, tried to prevent him going down to play that night, but in vain. "A man," said he, "suffers long ere he dies; I feel that with me the end is at hand; but there are fifty poor workmen who have only their day's wages to live on, and who is to give them bread tonight if I play not?" So he went down, and played his great composition, the "Malade Imaginaire"—dying all the while, then went home to bed, and died.

A Powerful Search Light.

The largest search light in the world was exhibited at the Columbian exposition, in Chicago. The reflecting lens, 60 inches in diameter, weighs 800 pounds, and is mounted in a brass ring which weighs 750 pounds. The reflected light from the great electric lamp is equal to that of 375,000,000 candles. A newspaper could be read by its light a hundred miles away.

OUR BUDGET OF FUN.

SOME GOOD JOKES, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

A Variety of Jokes—Jibes and Ironies Original and Selected—Fleam and Jestam from the Tide of Humor—Sure Thing.

The Benedicite's Lament. Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight; Make me a "back" again, just for tonight; Fix it so that I can come home once more Without catching fits as I enter the door! Take from my neck the sad yoke that I wear; Oh, let me come in without losing my hair— The boys have invited me down to the club, But Time won't turn backward, and there is the rub!

Bleeding Patients.



"I had supposed, until yesterday, Doctor, that the days of the bleeding of patients were past." "And so they are. But what changed your mind?" "The bill you sent me."

A Smart Boy.

"Mamma," said Benny Bloombumper, "Mr. Trivet sent his little boy on an errand to get a hundred things, and Jimmy didn't forget one." "That's the right kind of a boy to have," replied Mrs. Bloombumper. "I wish you were like him. I can't send you to the store for half a dozen things but you forget one or two." "But I can remember all the things Mr. Trivet told Jimmy to get." "What were they?" "A hundred postage stamps."

His Impression.

"Hiram," said Mrs. Cornstossel, who had been reading a Latin quarter novel, "what's a lay-figger?" "Well," replied her husband, after long and serious thought, "I couldn't do no more'n make a guess at it. But eggs is only bringing us 12 1/2 cents a dozen now."—Washington Star.

One of Many.

Thompson—You look pale and thin, Johnson. Why will you persist in killing yourself working night and day such weather as this? Johnson—I am trying to earn money enough to pay the expense of a week's rest in the country.—New York Weekly.

Quite Possible.

"Do you think I wear my heart on my sleeve?" she asked, scornfully. "I don't know," was his humble reply. Then he looked at her. "There's more room in the sleeves," he added, "than there is in any other part of the waist, any way."

A Definition.

Mrs. McLuberty (looking up from her newspaper)—Phwt is an epigram? McLuberty—Hear that, now! It's mighty little good yure 'radin' is after doin' yez. Shure, an epigram is a feller that is partickler about phwt he ates.—Puck.

A Record.

"Did your Comed Co. make a good record last season?" "That's what they did. From Echony to Finch's flats in four hours. No other company ever walked it in less than six."

Sure Thing.



He—"I met Mrs. Smeerwell. Friend of yours, isn't she?" She told me people at the hotel think you and I are brother and sister." She—"No; she's no friend of mine."—Pick-Me-Up.

Perfect Stranger.

Glucose—"I say, who is this fellow Hops, who is mentioned in the pure beer bill in the legislature?" Corn Meal—"I don't say. I have been in this brewery for years and I have never seen him."—The Week World.