

SOME SHORT STORIES ABOUT CHINA AND THE CHINESE.



The Religion of China.

Buddhism is the principal religious faith of the Chinese. Long as this religion has existed, it is little understood by Americans. Its founder, Buddha, was born 623 years before the Christian era. His theory of deity embraced a trinity, known as the Three Precious Ones. The moral code of the religion contains ten prohibitions—killing, stealing, lying, selling wine, charging interest on loans, speaking false of others, self-praise and back-biting, parsimony and scoffing, uncorrected anger and reviling the Three Precious Ones.

The Buddhist church in Tibet has its pope, its cardinals, its bishops, priests and nuns, exactly as has the Roman Catholic church. And more, it has infant baptism, confirmation, candles, sacred water and processions. The teachings of Buddha were reduced to writing 93 B. C. The entire canon of the faith was compiled in A. D. 400. In this Buddha is described as coming from heaven, being born of a virgin, welcomed by angels, received by an old saint, presented in a temple, baptized with water and later by fire. He is described as astonishing the doctors with his understanding, was later led into a wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil, and thereafter he went about doing wonders and preaching. He was a friend to the poor.

It seems doubtful when Buddhism was introduced into China. It is recorded, however, that in the year 63 A. D. the emperor, Han-Ming-Ti, had a vision wherein he saw a great golden image around whose head was a halo, and it was believed it meant truth. The emperor's brother, Prince Tau, having heard of Buddhism from India, said the vision was nothing but the great Buddha. A mission was sent forth, which returned after some years, bringing back a wooden image, a counterpart of the golden one, one book and a Hindu priest.

The great temple at Peking, called the Yung-Ho-Kung, or the Lama temple, is a Mongol Buddhist monastery, in which there are some 1,200 acting priests. Here the dogmas of Buddhism are taught under the control of a Gagan, or living Buddha.

The studies comprise a course of instruction in metaphysics, ascetic duties, astrology and medicine.

Many Chinese are Confucians. These follow the teachings of Confucius, which are the worship of ancestors. One of the provisions of this creed is that no son shall live more expensively than his father or mother.

Chinese Deities.

Contrary to general supposition, the deities of the Chinese are not mythical. Each of them is supposed to be

patterned after and to embody the noble traits of some man who has lived in the past. Confucianism is now well understood, and both Buddhism and Taoism have been so thoroughly explored that it is hard to believe that anything of importance relating thereto is to be discovered. At least one more book upon this topic, however, remains to be compiled—namely, a Chinese mythological dictionary. Such a work should contain an account of all the principal divinities actually worshiped by the Chinese, with authentic details of such as are historical, together with a record of the steps by which many of them have been promoted in the Chinese pantheon, until, like Kuan-Ti, the god of war, from very humble beginnings they have become "adjuvant of heaven." The number of these divinities is very large and includes many that have been continuously worshiped for over 1,000 years. Whether the Chinese have ever at any time in their long history had perception or conception of one true God, "Father and Creator of all things," is a question that has been long and learnedly discussed by scholarly students of their classical writings. It is still an open question. But there is no doubt at all that for many centuries past they have worshiped the sun, the moon, the stars and a host of ancestral deities. All the gods of China may be said to have been dead men, and, by the right of ancestral worship, it may be affirmed that in a sense all the dead men of China are gods. Temples are constantly erected, by the consent of the emperor, to men who, while living, have in various ways distinguished themselves. It is impossible to say that any one of these men may not, in the slow evolution of ages, rise to the highest place among the national divinities. There can, therefore, be no doubt whatever that as a nation the Chinese are polytheistic.

Chinese Superstition.

Similar in some respects to the celebration of Christmas in Christian countries is the observance of the devil's birthday in China. On this anniversary many costly gifts are laid upon the altar of the evil one. There are many other superstitions current. In sending the kitchen god to heaven every year, the Chinese housekeeper has to burn it and let the fumes ascend. It reports on the good deeds of the family for the year and brings good luck. Before burning it the housewife dips her finger in a jar of molasses and smears the upper and lower lip of the idol, so that when he arrives at the pearly city he may tell a sweet tale on the family and thus insure benedictions. A family, when gambling, will cover the eyes of the idol until the card playing is through.

A woman in Luhoh city went to the temple to pray for the recovery of her son from smallpox. He recovered, but was marked with the effects of the disease. She returned to the temple in a great rage, put a coil of rope around the idol's neck and soused it several times in the river, saying: "I'll teach you to lose your benign influence, you rascal."

Cessions to Foreign Powers.

Each conflict in which China has engaged has resulted in a loss of territory. The principal cessions made by the Mongol government as the price of peace have been the following: The island of Formosa was ceded to Japan in 1895, after the war with China. In 1897 Germany seized the port of Kion-Chou on the east coast of the Shantung peninsula, her excuse for so doing being a massacre of missionaries which had taken place there. Two months later she received from China a ninety-nine year lease of the port and district. In 1898 Russia obtained from China a twenty-five-year lease of Port Arthur, Tallienwan and their adjacent territories and waters. The lease can be extended by mutual agreement. The same year the Chinese government gave permission for Great Britain to occupy Wei-Hai-Wei for as long a period as Russia shall hold Port Arthur. To compensate France for the concessions given to Great Britain and Russia a ninety-nine-year lease was given her of the bay of Kwang-Chau-Wan, on the coast opposite the island of Hainan, and last year two islands at the entrance of the bay were definitely ceded to her. Hong-Kong was ceded to Great Britain in 1841.

The Chinese Treaty.

The treaty between the United States and China negotiated in 1858 and proclaimed in 1860 provided that the Chinese government should guarantee protection to the American minister in his journeys to and from Peking, and should protect him and his suite while in Peking. The treaty of 1868, negotiated by William H. Seward and Anson Burlingame, provides for the protection of American citizens, American property, and American trade. In article 1 it is declared: "Nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent the United States from resisting an attack by any hostile power or party upon their citizens or their property."

Technical Training.

One of the best testimonials to the value of technical training as fitting a young man to become a successful wage-earner immediately is found in the report of the Georgia School of Technology. The school, which is in

Atlanta, was established in December, 1897. The legislature appropriated \$10,000 on condition that friends of the school would add \$10,000 more. This was easily raised, and in 1898 about \$20,000 worth of machinery and \$13,500 of material was given it. The textile department, which is said to be one of the best in the country, was a new feature of education in Georgia, and one that became popular at once. Instruction is given in manufacture of all grades of cotton goods, in manual training, chemistry, dyeing, designing, and engineering. The report of the institution states that of the ninety-four living graduates all but nine are employed in pursuits for which they have been fitted by their training at the school. They are mechanical engineers, superintendents of cotton mills, in machine shops, chemical factories, oil mills, and other establishments of the same kind, nearly all being in positions of authority and commanding good wages. No better evidence of the practical value of practical training could be asked than this.

The Lute Senator Gear.

The late Senator Gear was one of the most familiar figures at the capital, having been a member of the Fifty-fifth, Fifty-first and Fifty-second Congresses, and a senator for the last six years. He was re-elected to the Senate by the Iowa legislature last winter, but the present term will not expire until next March. He was also assistant secretary of the treasury under President Harrison, after he was defeated for re-election to the Fifty-second Congress. In the House of Representatives he was one of the most industrious members, and also one of the clearest-headed business men.

He was a member of the ways and means committee in the Fifty-first Congress, which framed the McKinley tariff bill, and his knowledge of business affairs made him one of the valued advisers of Chairman McKinley, who intrusted to him the framing of the free-sugar clause in that work. The sobriquet of "Old Business" given to Mr. Gear while governor of Iowa followed him to Washington, and in the House and in the Senate he was familiarly called "Old Business."

The franchises of nearly 1,000 corporations in Texas have been revoked because of their failure to pay the state taxes.



Senator Gear.

LEFT BROKEN HEARTS

MYSTERY OF A LITTLE BOY'S DISAPPEARANCE.

Four-Year-Old Child Last Seen Walking on the Canal Bank—Citizens' Committee Aiding Distracted Parents in the Search.

On the morning of March 28 George Arthur Dent, the sturdy little 4-year-old son of Arthur G. Dent of Lowell, Mass., went down to play on the canal bank with two of his small companions—Aubrey Hunt and Jimmie McDermott. They had no right to be there. The canal is fenced off, but a hole had been scooped out near the corner of a mill and through this the little fellows crawled to get near the water. The two companions of "Artie" went home to dinner before noon, but the Dent boy failed to do likewise. He has not been seen since, and Lowell has for three months been in a maze of excitement mixed with sympathy for the maddened parents of the little boy.

The entire city has searched for him, hundreds of thousands in New England and elsewhere have joined in the quest, but not a scrap of trustworthy evidence pointing to the child's fate has been laid bare. Arthur G. Dent, father of the missing boy, keeps a "corporation" boarding-house at the extremity of a long row of "corporation" houses that lie between the great cotton mills of the Tremont and Suffolk and Lawrence companies. "Artie" is—or perhaps was—the youngest child of the family, as pretty a boy as could be met with in a day's march. Strong, swift, active and skillful in whatever his baby hands, feet or brain found to do he was the idol of parents and sisters and a favorite in all the neighborhood. When the first hue and

mysterious as it was in many respects, was not so baffling as this mystery of Lowell. In the former lamentable case it was plain that the child had been kidnapped for ransom. There is no such probability in connection with the disappearance of Artie Dent. In fact, neither the family nor the friends of the missing boy can offer any reasonable explanation of the mystery. Mrs. Dent has about given up hope of ever again seeing her child, but the father and sisters have not given way to their fears and express confidence that little Artie will ere long be restored to his home.

FIFTY CATS MOURN.

Newport's Hermit Miser Left \$50,000 to S. P. C. A.

The will of Miss Sarah E. Gardiner was offered for probate here this week, says a recent dispatch from Newport, R. I., but final action was postponed for two weeks, as Sarah Gardiner Graw of Detroit, through her counsel, objected on the ground that she was the next of kin. Miss Gardiner led the life of a recluse here for many years, having been disappointed in love in early life. She was generally believed to be very poor, as she had for many years made a daily round of the ash barrels of the city, gathering anything that might be of value as junk. She lived in a wretched hovel and allowed none of her neighbors to enter her house on any pretext, and she died unattended. A search of her miserable dwelling revealed a will and bank books showing deposits of upward of \$50,000. Miss Gardiner was passionately fond of cats, of which she had at least fifty, and by her will she bequeathed her estate to the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Sarah Gardiner Graw claims to be a cousin and E. M. Caswell of Detroit and New York also claims relationship. There promises to be a bitter contest.

LITTLE TOT A BOLD BRIGAND.

Six-Year-Old Colored Boy Robs Stores at Point of Pistol.

"Hol' up yo' han, mister white man, 'cause I've got de drop on yo'!" This startling command aroused the proprietor of a shoe store at Indianapolis, Ind., and he peered around the apparently empty store to see whence it came. Then he started to look under the counter. "None er dat, now! Ef yo' moves er finger I've gwine blow yo' head off!" Then the storekeeper discovered the bold outlaw—a 6-year-old negro boy—standing tip-toe to enable him to see over the counter. Keeping a watchful eye on his victim, the tiny bandit picked out three pairs of shoes and backed out of the store. Later he entered a grocery store, and, after covering the proprietor with his revolver, stole a quantity of candy. The boy was finally arrested while asleep on a board pile. A pistol was lying beside him ready to repulse an attack.

DIED WOUNDED AND CURSING.

Negro Murderer Shot by Sheriff and Then Led to Gallows.

Randolph Evans, a negro murderer, was hanged at Quitman, Miss., the other day, after having been first crippled by the sheriff. When the sheriff went to Evans' cell to lead him to the gallows, he brandished a piece of iron piping, and when the deputies entered attacked them viciously, one of them narrowly escaping a fractured skull. He swore he would kill any one who touched him. Sheriff Dobbs directed the deputies to hold the negro's attention and sent a bullet through each of his forearms, breaking them. Evans was then tied and carried to the gallows, where he died, cursing loudly through the black cap up to the time the drop fell.

INDIAN HEAP CIVILIZED.

South Dakota Couple Married with All the Modern Frills.

Samuel Earth Eater, a full-blooded Indian, and Weasel Bear, a full-blooded Indian maiden, were married at Fort Yates, S. D., the other day with all the display that attends some of the most pompous white weddings. The ceremony took place in the Catholic church in the presence of several hundred Indian friends of the young couple. The bride wore a beautiful light cream-colored gown, long veil, and white slippers, and a large bunch of orange blossoms covered her breast, all of which were very becoming to her shapely figure. In the evening the bridegroom gave a grand ball in the agency hall.

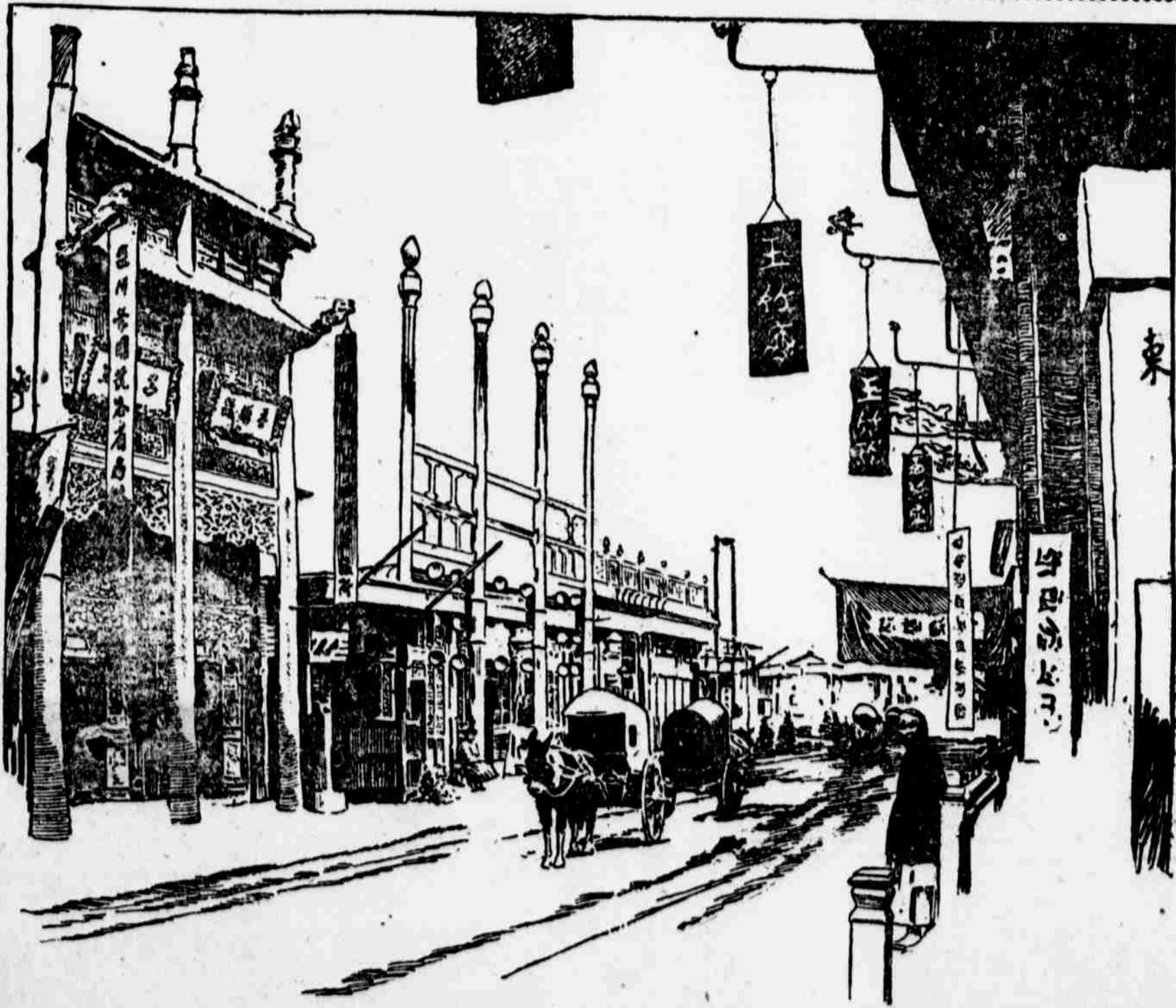
Ennio Fights a Man.

George Perry, a fisherman residing on Beaver Island in the Mississippi river, just below Clifton, Ia., had a desperate fight the other afternoon with a large eagle. Perry saw the bird in a tree near his house, and, with a double-barreled shotgun, slightly wounded it. Before he could fire the second barrel the bird was on top of him, and a lively fight ensued. Perry finally managed to kill the bird. It measured six feet six inches from tip to tip.

Gold Miner a Sultán.

Peter Betts, 44 years old, and part owner in the gold mine operated by himself and partners near Montana City, Mont., blew out his brains with giant powder. He was sick and despondent.

Four or five ounces of sugar is all that an adult in good health should eat with impunity in the course of a day.



ONE OF THE STREETS OF THE NATIVE QUARTER OF PEKIN BURNED BY THE MOBS OF FANATICAL CHINESE.