

# 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 Tsu, 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 worshipped 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 worshipped 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 worshipped 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 Kiou-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, Tallenwan 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 Late Senator Gear.

The late Senator Gear was one of the most familiar figures at the capital, having been a member of the Fifty-first, Fifty-second and Fifty-third Congress, 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



Senator Gear.

of the clearest-headed business men. He was a member of the ways and means committee in the Fifty-first Congress, and his knowledge of business affairs made him one of the valued advisers of Chairman McKinley, who entrusted 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.

## STATE BOARD IS DEAD

Judge Munger of the Federal Court Rules to This Effect.

## REDUCTION OF RATES RESTRAINED

Encouraging Reports From Counties Throughout the State Regarding Crop Outlook—Rural Free Delivery Service in Nebraska—Miscellaneous Notes.

**Says the State Board is Dead.**  
OMAHA, July 20.—Judge Munger has issued a restraining order preventing Attorney General Smyth and the putting in effect a reduction of freight rates upon certain commodities. The Burlington road has asked the restraining order. In his opinion Judge Munger held that the state board of transportation had no legal existence. He ruled that the title of the act of 1897—creating the state board—signed by the governor, was not adopted by the legislature.

## Confesses to Cattle Stealing.

HEMINGFORD, Neb., July 21.—A severe hail storm visited this section Saturday night. The hail stones were as large as goose eggs and fell thick and with terrific force, passing through shingled and roofed buildings and in some instances coming through the plastered ceiling, and breaking showcases in stores. The siding on buildings were broken and splintered into kindling. Board awnings were shattered, thus affording little protection to the glass store fronts and nearly every building in town will have to be re-roofed and sided on the west side.

## HELD FOR STEALING CATTLE.

A Former Respected Citizen in an Unpleasant Predicament.

SIDNEY, Neb., July 22.—William Watkins of Angora, a small station on the new Burlington route, was bound over to the district court, the bond being fixed at \$8,000, which was quickly furnished. The examination took place today at the county court house and the building was packed with stockmen, who had come more than seventy miles to assist in the prosecution. Attorney Robert Nobleman of Alliance assisted County Attorney Henry Gopen in conducting the prosecution. Watkins is charged with the killing of two head of cattle belonging to the Carey Cattle company and the hides were found buried in a lot of rubbish near his home ranch. Watkins has always borne an excellent reputation and his many friends are surprised at the charge against him.

## Have a Kick Coming.

OMAHA, July 21.—Train men and employees of the operation department of the Union Pacific are causing quite a stir over what they consider hardships imposed by the company on them. The rigid physical examinations imposed on the men, and the fact that it is usually oldest employees of the road who are hardest hit. After such examination many of the old employees have learned that they were not needed longer by the company, and this fact has caused much of the ill feeling. Besides this the employees are required to go to Omaha to be examined, and this causes them much loss of time and inconvenience.

## Founded by Hail.

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## Incendiary Work at West Point.

WEST POINT, Neb., July 22.—The fire bug whose intention it seems to be to burn up the town was abroad again here. Two attempts were made to set fire in the center of the city, in the midst of a district filled with frame buildings and within a few feet of a lumber yard. The contents of a shed in the rear of a barber shop on Main street was set on fire about 9 o'clock but was quickly extinguished. About twenty minutes thereafter the frame barn occupied by the team of County Superintendent Manning was discovered in flames and the fire department again called out.

## Says He Needs a Guardian.

COLUMBUS, Neb., July 21.—County Judge T. D. Robinson handed down his decision in the Barnum case, declaring it his belief from the evidence that a guardian is needed for the aged Hon. Guy C. Barnum, his large property interests not being safe in his own hands while there is at least doubt of his sanity. Gus B. Speick, ex-clerk of the district court, for whom Mr. Barnum had expressed a preference, was named as the guardian.

## Lyons Creamery Robbed.

LYONS, Neb., July 22.—Some person or persons broke into the Lyons creamery, entering the building by one of the north windows by prying off the window fastener and sliding back the iron bolts of one of the back doors. They took ten tubs of high grade butter, weighing 600 pounds, valued at \$100. It is thought by those in charge of the creamery the theft was done by parties who have been camping near town in a covered rig for several days.

## Good Wheat Yield.

DAVID CITY, Neb., July 16.—Frank Coon, who lives on his farm one mile south of town, has just threshed twenty acres of wheat which averaged thirty-five bushels to the acre, machine measure. The wheat is of excellent quality and will test more than this.

## Girl Attacked by Bulldogs.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., July 18.—The little 13-year-old daughter of Henry Hoffman is dangerously ill at her home as a result of injuries received from two bulldogs. They jumped upon her, and before she could be rescued her hands, arms, legs and face had been lacerated in a terrible manner. The dogs were killed immediately. The girl will recover.

## Wheat Yielding Well.

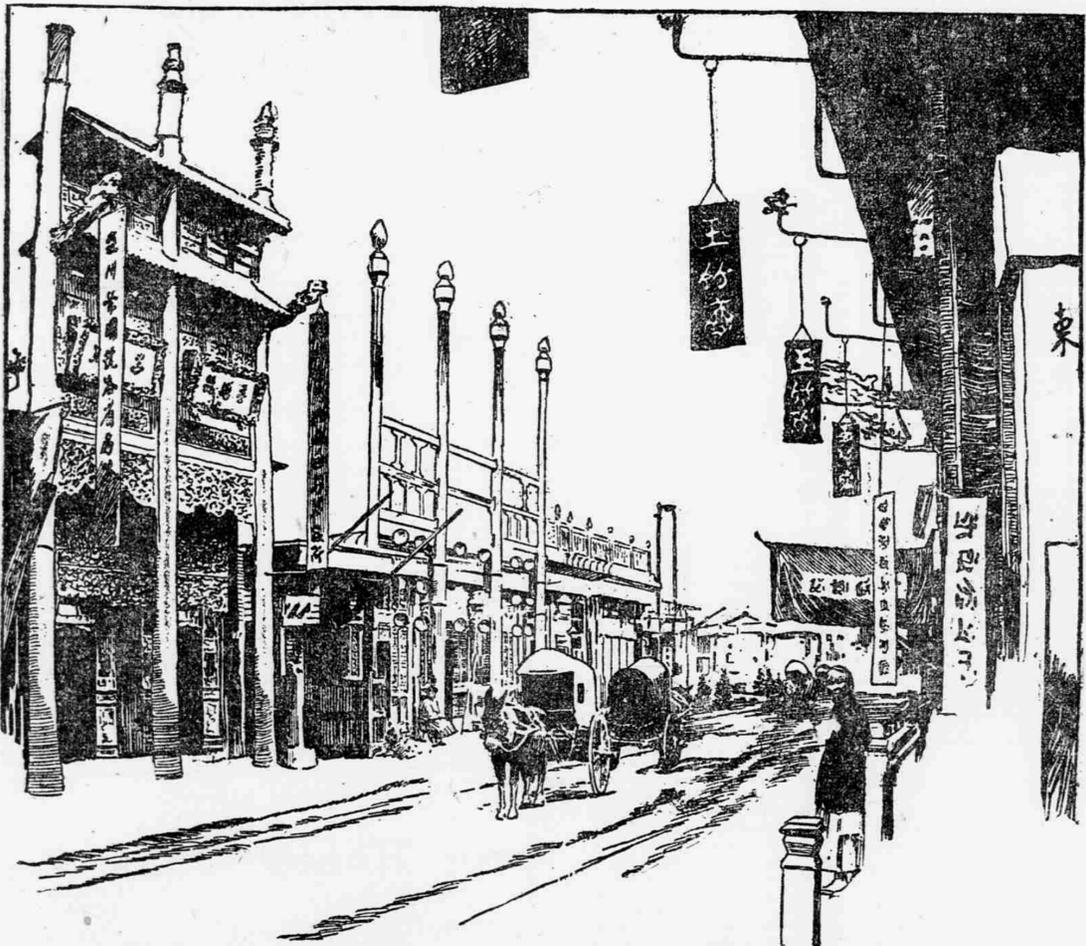
SEWARD, Neb., July 21.—Many of the farmers are threshing their wheat and rye from the shock. Wheat is yielding well, much of it going from thirty to forty bushels per acre, and is one of fine quality. Gats harvest is about over, and is a light crop. The recent fine rains have greatly benefited the corn and the prospect is good for a big crop.

## Ended His Own Life.

BLAIR, Neb., July 22.—Mr. Hinman, a blacksmith running a shop at Vacoma, a small country place twelve miles northwest of Blair, shot and killed himself with a musket which he kept in his shop. He had returned home after a ten days spree in Blair. He was a fine workman and did a good business when sober.

## Sued for Insurance Assessment.

FREMONT, Neb., July 22.—The Nebraska Mutual Fire Insurance company of Omaha has brought suit before Justice Hinman against a number of farmers of this county who had certificates in the concern for assessments varying from \$12 to \$27. Several others who were insured in the same company have paid up in order to save expense, but these six will evidently resist payment of their assessment on the ground that the company exceeded the powers given it by law.



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