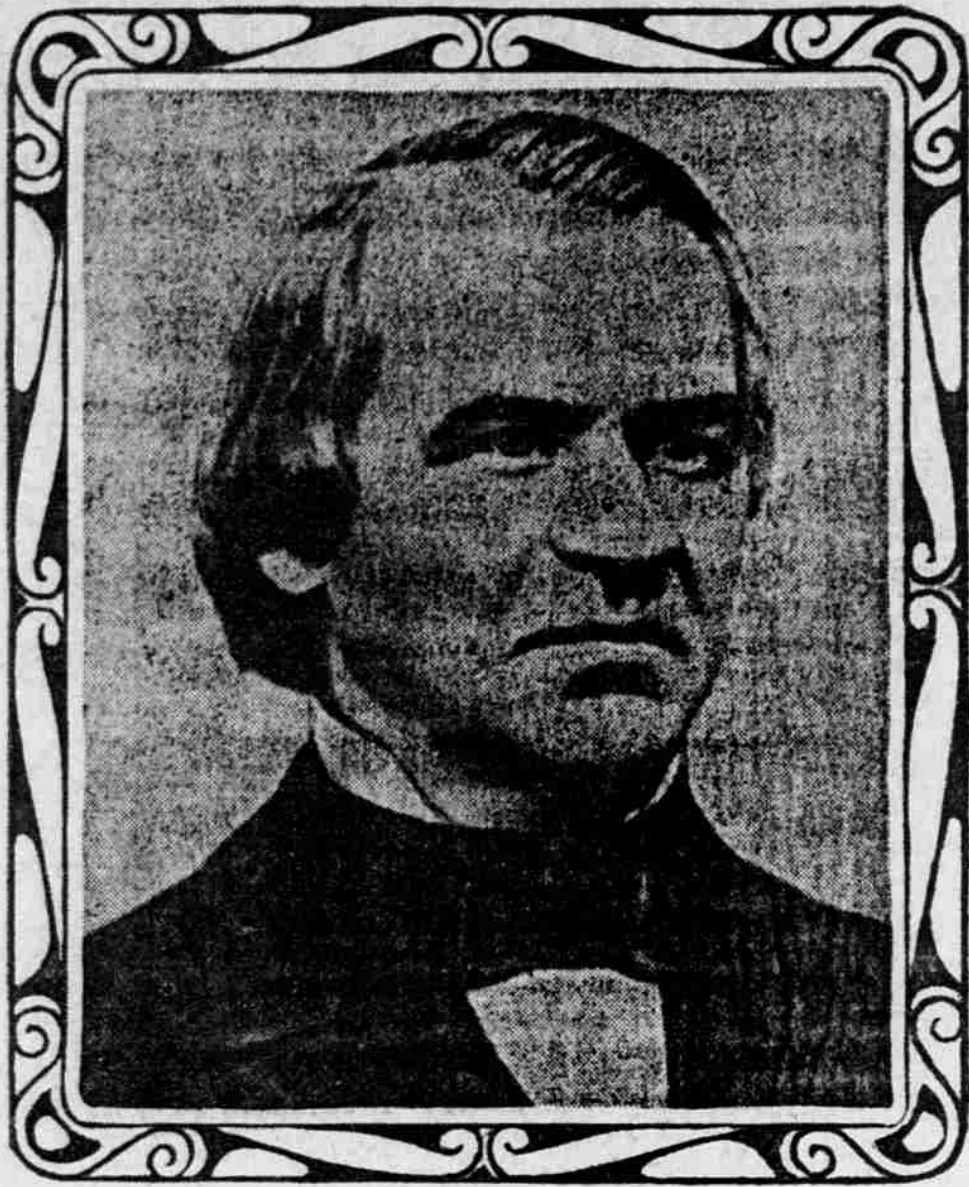


OUR PRESIDENTS



ANDREW JOHNSON.

The seventeenth president of the United States was born at Raleigh, N. C., in 1808. He served in both houses of congress and as governor of Tennessee. He was elected vice president on the ticket with Lincoln in 1864 and succeeded to the presidency upon the death of the latter, April 15, 1865. The president was impeached in 1868 after a long series of disagreements with congress, escaping conviction by a single vote in the senate. The acquittal of Johnson is now generally approved. He was elected to the senate from Tennessee in 1875 and died in office a few months later.

China Wakens

Something Doing These Days in the Flowery Kingdom—New Reform Programme of the Dowager Empress Tsi An—The Empire's New Constitution.

THERE is something doing in these days in China. At last there is an awakening in the ancient empire, and things are happening which nobody would have dreamed could occur. Not only have various measures of reform of a radical character been promulgated, but steps are actually being taken, under the progressive influence of the real ruler, the dowager Empress Tsi An, for the formation of an elective body resembling in some ways a parliament and for the adoption of a constitution.

The rest of the world awoke to the fact that strange things were occurring in the Flowery Kingdom when a cable dispatch from Peking announced recently that the dowager empress had appointed Yuan Shi Kai to be a member of the board of foreign affairs and a grand councillor of the fourth class and that he had been summoned to Peking to consult with the empress; also that Chang Chi Tung had been appointed a grand councillor of the fourth class. Chang Chi Tung is China's greatest scholar, and Yuan Shi Kai is the most liberal and progressive of the Chinese statesmen. The empress is surrounding herself with these men to subjecting herself and her government to the advice and influence of the most learned and progressive minds in her realm.

Hitherto Yuan Shi Kai has not been popular at court because he is not an



THE OLD AND NEW IN CHINESE FASHIONS. admirer of the poetry of the dowager empress and is so great an innovator as actually to propose the simplification of Chinese literature by the introduction of a new alphabet of fifty letters in place of some 6,000 ideographs, or picture letters, now in use. But it is

believed that the logic of events compelled the aged woman who holds the destiny of China in her hand to summon him to her aid. One thing that brought this about is the growing hostility between the Manchus, who form the ruling class in China, and the real Chinese. To lessen this antagonism the court has abrogated or modified certain customs of ancient authority so as to lessen the distinctions between the Manchus and the Chinese. Most significant perhaps is the decree pertaining to the abolition of the binding of the feet of Chinese girls of the upper class. This change is closely related to the change in popular estimation as to the occupation of a soldier and the growth of the military spirit. Formerly the soldier was looked upon as belonging to the very lowest class in the community. He was placed at the bottom of the ladder along with the poor fellow who gathered up the offal from the streets. But now that an army of 100,000 foreign drilled men has been created by the new imperial war department and the new national spirit demands the service of men able to defend the empire a new honor has been conferred upon the soldier's calling. The cry has gone abroad that a woman who binds her feet is not fit to become the mother of a soldier; hence the success of the crusade of the Viceroy Chang Chi Chung and the Viceroy Yuan Shi Kai against the time honored institution of foot binding.

The impact of western ideas has forced the Chinese to alter their ways, their habits of living, dress, methods of work and even their religion. Yuan Shi Kai and many of his followers are forsaking the tenets of Confucius and the customs founded upon them. The visitor to China now finds Chinamen riding in automobiles, setting type in printing offices, working as telegraphers, engineers and surveyors, though the time has not yet arrived for Chinese to build their own railways without foreign aid. Much of the progress made in recent years is due in part no doubt to emulation of Japan, but whether this bodes well or ill to Japan itself is a matter for debate. Some think that it makes even less probable than before any alliance or defensive agreement between the mikado's empire and that of the son of heaven.

Didn't Want Much.

Here is an advertisement from an old copy of an English provincial journal: "Wanted, for a sober family, a man of light weight, who fears the Lord and can drive a pair of horses. He must occasionally wait at table, join the household prayer, look after the horses and read a chapter of the Bible. He must, God willing, arise at 7 o'clock in the morning and obey his master and mistress in all lawful commands; if he can dress hair, sing psalms and play at cribbage, the more agreeable. Wages, 15 guineas a year."

Nerve.

"By the way, Jinks, can you pay that hundred I lent you last week? I just lost all my ready money at bridge."

"Look here, Binks, I hope you don't think I'm going to pay your gambling debts."—Brooklyn Life.

His Mistake.

Gallyer—What mistakes men do make! I was just reading that Columbus thought he had discovered the Indies. Aspley—There are worse mistakes than that. When I married first I thought I had discovered paradise!

There are so many kinds of mistakes that a man can go through life without repeating one and yet never do right.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

STAGE FRIGHT.

Actors Have Been Known to Die From the Malady.

Perhaps the most terrible malady which can attack the actor in the course of his performance in the peculiar disease known as stage fright. Through its evil effects strong men and women have been known to faint, break down and do many other queer things, and there are even on record several cases of people who have died through this horrible seizure.

Some years ago a young novice who was to appear for the first time arrived at the theater very white and shaky. Brandy being given him, he appeared slightly better, but no sooner had he set his foot on the stage than he clapped his hand to his heart, with a low cry, and fell down dead. The overwhelming sensation induced by stage fright had attacked his heart, and his theatrical career ended thus even at its beginning.

Quite as ghastly was the case of the young amateur actress who, strangely enough, had never experienced stage fright when playing with her fellow amateurs, but who was seized with the attack on making her first professional appearance. She went through the scene aided by the prompter, her eyes glazed, her hands rigid, and when the exit came it proved her exit from life's stage as well as the mimic boards, for she staggered to her dressing room and fell into a comatose state, from which she never recovered.

Perhaps, however, the most peculiar instance of all was that of the veteran performer who had gone through thirty years of stage work without experiencing this malady. One night, however, he confided to a fellow player that a quite unaccountable nervousness had suddenly taken hold of him and that he did not think he could ever act again.

His comrade laughed at the notion and urged him to go on, as usual, but his astonishment may well be conceived when the poor old player went on the stage and, after making several vain efforts to speak, fell back and expired. The doctor who made the post-mortem examination stated that death was due to failure of the heart's action, evidently induced by the presence of an attack of stage fright.—Pearson's Weekly.

TYBURN TREE.

Lord Ferrers' Tragical Journey to the Famous Old Gallows.

Park lane was Tyburn lane, and it seems as if the gallows—described in an old document as movable—at one time stood at its east corner. It was there the ferocious Lord Ferrers was hung in 1760 for murdering his servant. Horace Walpole's words paint the picture well: "He shamed heroes. He bore the solemnity of a pompous and tedious procession of above two hours from the Tower to Tyburn with as much tranquillity as if he were only going to his own burial, not to his own execution." And when one of the dragons of the procession was thrown from his horse Lord Ferrers expressed much concern and said, "I hope there will be no death today but mine."

On went the procession, with a mob about it sufficient to make its progress slow and laborious. Small wonder that the age of Thackeray, with Thackeray's help, set up its scaffolds within four high walls. Asking for drink, Lord Ferrers was refused, for, said the sheriff, late regulations enjoined him not to let prisoners drink while passing from the place of imprisonment to that of execution, great indecencies having been committed by the drunkenness of the criminals in the hour of execution. "And though," said he, "my lord, I might think myself excusable in overlooking this order out of regard to your lordship's rank, yet there is another reason, which, I am sure, will weigh with you—your lordship is sensible of the greatness of the crowd; we must draw up at some tavern; the confluence would be so great that it would delay the expedition which your lordship seems so much to desire." But decency—so often paraded by those who outrage it—ended with the murderer's death. "The executioners fought for the rope, and the one who lost it cried—the greatest tragedy, to his thinking, of the day!"—London Sketch.

When to Lift Your Hat.

In answer to the question, "Please tell when and where, or is, the correct time for a gentleman to lift or remove his hat," we reply: Without consulting authorities of etiquette, in fact giving it to you offhand, so to speak, we should say at the following times and on the following occasions, respectively, the hat should be lifted or removed as circumstances indicate: When mopping the brow, when taking a bath, when eating, when going to bed, when taking up a collection, when having the hair trimmed, when being shampooed, when standing on the head.—Wichita (Kan.) Beacon.

A Curious Anomaly.

Until a few years ago the Philippine Islanders held their Sunday on the day which was Monday to the inhabitants of the neighboring island of Borneo. This curious anomaly arose from the historic fact that the Philippines were discovered by Spanish voyagers coming from the east round Cape Horn, while Borneo was discovered by Portuguese coming from the west, and sailors lose or gain a day according to their direction in crossing the Pacific.

His Title.

"Papa," said little James, "what do they call a man who writes comic operas—a composer?" "No, my son," the old man answered; "he is usually called a plagiarist."—Los Angeles Times.

A Wasted Present.

"What in the world shall I send Aunt Betsy, John?" demanded the masterful lady of the mild little man.

"A workbasket or a book?" he suggested.

"Don't be a fool, John! You've no taste. I'll send her one of those fancy boxes of soap."

And she lifted to her nose a box containing six round tablets of perfumed soap.

"Yes," she continued, "this is the very thing!"

"But, my dear, really!"—he protested.

"You be quiet, John! Now, wrap this up, miss!"

Two days later a packet arrived from Aunt Betsy, and in haste they opened it to see how she had taken their thoughtful present. Under the wrapping was the affectionate message:

"Niece—Herewith I return the box of shaving soap you sent me. I am too old to appreciate the joke of being regarded as a bearded lady. Your aunt, Betsy."

Then, but only for a moment, the mild little man smiled.—Pearson's Weekly.

A Dreadful Assault.

Justice Ball, an Irish judge, was noted for his amusing manifestations of ignorance, but whether they were real or pretended has never been clearly established. He tried a case in which a man was indicted for robbery at the house of a poor widow. The first witness was the young daughter of the widow, who identified the prisoner as the man who had entered the house and smashed her mother's chest.

"Do you say that the prisoner at the bar broke your mother's chest?" said the judge in astonishment.

"He did, my lord," answered the girl. "He jumped on it till he smashed it entirely."

The judge turned to the crown counsel and said: "How is this? Why is not the prisoner indicted for murder? If he smashed this poor woman's chest in the way the witness has described, he must surely have killed her."

"But, my lord," said the counsel, "it was a wooden chest."—Cornhill Magazine.

The Buds.

Old Dr. Ryland, clergyman and educator, was greatly beloved in the south, and his visits were always enlivened by his former pupils and parishioners. In his later years it was his custom to offer prayer whenever he made a ministerial call. On one occasion he called at a house where three of his former pupils were staying. These ladies were all past the thirtieth year mark, but in the eyes of the old gentleman they were still girls, which explains the petition he offered:

"Lord, bless these dear girls, just budding into sweet womanhood."

This was too much for one of the number, who, taking advantage of the doctor's deafness, added this clause sotto voce: "Alas, Lord, budded, bloomed, faded and still unpicked!"

Got His Discount.

"The other day I was in a village general store," said a drummer, "endeavoring to make a sale of jewelry when a farmer entered.

"Give me," said the farmer, 'a half pound of tobacco, three bars of soap, five yards of blue baby ribbon and a pair of good suspenders.'

"The articles were brought forth, inspected, approved and wrapped up. They came to 95 cents.

"Yes," said the farmer, '95's right. But there's the discount. You advertise a 5 per cent discount, don't you?'

"We do, sir," said the clerk, 'but only on purchases of \$1 or over.'

"On the counter lay a basket of pocket combs marked at 5 cents apiece.

"Well, I'll just take one of these," said the farmer. "That'll make us square."

A Stingy King.

In the beginning of the eighteenth century the now so powerful German empire was nothing more than the little kingdom of Prussia, having just dropped its title of duchy of Brandenburg. The country was very poor and the military discipline very harsh. Frederick William I. was hard, cross and stingy and did not even know what it was to make a present. His reputation was so widely spread that it became a byword to say that a man had worked for the king of Prussia when he had done an unprofitable task.

Maximilian and "La Paloma."

Wherever that haunting air, "La Paloma," is played the memory of the Emperor Maximilian, shot by the Mexicans on June 19, 1867, should be preserved. Maximilian's final request was that "La Paloma" should be played while he stood up to meet his doom. He died with the tune in his ears, and his wife went mad with the shock of his execution.

Papa Is Brave.

Elschen—Mamma, is papa ever brave? Mother—He is always brave, I hope. But what makes you ask? Elschen—Because I thought if he were he wouldn't let my governess pull his ears so.—Fliegende Blätter.

Lincoln's Sarcasm.

Probably the most cutting thing Lincoln ever said was the remark he made about a very loquacious man. "This person can compress the most words into the smallest ideas of any man I ever met."

Certain Differences.

"Do they never forget their differences?" "Why, yes, in a way. He forgets that he's a gentleman, and she forgets that she's a lady."—Puck.

CITY LODGE DIRECTORY

A. F. & A. M. McCook Lodge No. 135, A. F. & A. M., meets every first and third Tuesday of the month, at 8:30 p. m., in Masonic hall. CHARLES L. FARNESTOCK, W. M. LON CONE, Sec.

DEGREE OF HONOR McCook Lodge No. 3, D. of H., meets every second and fourth Fridays of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall. Mrs. LAURA OSBORN, C. of H. Mrs. MATTIE G. WELLES, Rec.

EAGLES McCook Aerie No. 1514, F. O. E., meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall. Social meetings on the first and third Wednesdays. W. H. CUMMINS, W. Pres. H. P. PETERSON, W. Sec.

EASTERN STAR Eureka Chapter No. 86, O. E. S., meets the second and fourth Fridays of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Masonic hall. Mrs. SARAH E. KAY, W. M. SYLVESTER CORDEAL, Sec.

G. A. R. J. K. Barnes Post No. 207, G. A. R., meets on the first Saturday of each month at 2:30 p. m., Ganschow's hall. J. M. HENDERSON, Cmmdr. J. H. YARGER, Adjt.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS McCook Council No. 1126, K. of C., meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall. C. J. RYAN, G. K. F. G. LECHLEITER, F. Sec.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS McCook Lodge No. 42, K. of P., meets every Wednesday, at 8:30 p. m., in Masonic hall. J. F. CORDEAL, C. C. C. W. BARNES, K. R. S.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR St. John Commandery No. 16, K. T., meets on the second Thursday of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Masonic hall. EMERSON HANSON, E. C. SYLVESTER CORDEAL, Rec.

LADY MACCABEES Valley Queen Hive No. 2, L. O. T. M., meets every first and third Thursday evenings of each month in Ganschow's hall. Mrs. W. B. MILLS, Commander. HARRIET E. WILLETTTS, R. K.

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS McCook Division No. 623, B. of L. E., meets every first and third Saturday of each month, at 8:00 in Berry's hall. W. C. SCHENCK, C. E. W. D. BURNETT, F. A. E.

LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN McCook Lodge No. 599, B. of L. F. & E., meets every Saturday, at 8:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall. W. S. BIXLER, Sec. W. R. PENNINGTON, M.

MODERN WOODMEN Noble Camp No. 968, M. W. A., meets every second and fourth Thursday of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall. JOHN HUNT, V. C. BARNEY HOFER, Clerk.

ODD FELLOWS McCook Lodge No. 137, I. O. O. F., meets every Monday, at 8:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall. E. H. DOAN, N. G. SCOTT DOAN, Sec.

P. E. O. Chapter X, P. E. O., meets the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, at 2:30 p. m., at the homes of the various members. Mrs. C. W. BRITT, Pres. Mrs. J. G. SCHOBEL, Cor. Sec.

RAILWAY CONDUCTORS Harvey Division No. 95, O. R. C., meets the second and fourth Sundays of each month, at 3:00 p. m., in Diamond's hall. JOE HEGENBERGER, C. Con. M. O. McCLURE, Sec.

RAILWAY TRAINMEN C. W. Bronson Lodge No. 457, B. of R. T., meets every Friday at 8:30 p. m., in Berry's hall. H. W. CONOVER, M. F. J. HUSTON, Sec.

WORKMEN McCook Lodge No. 61, A. O. U. W., meets every Monday, at 8:30 p. m., in Diamond's hall. WEBB STEPHENS, M. W. C. B. GRAY, Rec.

R. A. M. King Cyrus Chapter No. 35, R. A. M., meets every first and third Thursday of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Masonic hall. CLARENCE B. GRAY, H. P. CLINTON B. SAWYER, Sec.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS Noble Camp No. 862, R. N. A., meets every second and fourth Thursday of each month, at 2:30 p. m., in Ganschow's hall. Mrs. MARY WALKER, Oracle. Mrs. AUGUSTA ANTON, Rec.

R. S. M. O. C. O. B. of Council No. 16, R. S. M., meets on the last Saturday of each month, at 8:30 p. m., in Masonic hall. RALPH A. HAGBERG, T. I. M. SYLVESTER CORDEAL, Sec.

W. O. W. Meets second and fourth Thursdays at 8 o'clock, in Diamond's hall. CHAS. F. MAREWAD, C. C. W. C. MOYER, Clerk.

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