

THE EMPEROR'S RED PENN

It Marks the Copy For the Daily Peking Gazette.

THE WORLD'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

Now in Its Eight Hundredth Year—An Abundance of Sensations—Horrible Punishment—Chinese Begars—The Civil Service.

Celestial Journalism

Persons. The China Daily is a Special Correspondence of The Bee. One of the oldest things in this capital of China is its newspaper. The Peking Gazette has been published almost daily for 800 years. It is the oldest newspaper in the world. It was read by the Chinese centuries before America was discovered. Its first copies were struck on sheets of paper made by hand in a printing press in Europe, and it was in existence 600 years before the Frankfort Gazette, the first daily paper of our civilization, began its publication in 1615. Age has, however, produced no more change upon it than upon the Chinese people, and its contents are much the same to-day as they were when it was founded in the beginning of the middle ages. Its method of printing is the same and it is still set up from movable type of wood and struck off in dark, low rooms by the long finger-nailed hands of these almond-eyed celestials. Still it is the most aristocratic paper in the world, and the Chinese emperors of the past have been its editors. It is the official organ of the Chinese government and it is simply a record of official acts and reports. It is a crime to add to or subtract from it in its republication. The Chinese government allows no comment upon its acts, and this is the only organ by which these millions of people, making up more than one-fourth of the whole world, can know what their ruler is doing.

EDITED BY THE EMPEROR. The Peking Gazette is edited within the holy of holies of China—in the forbidden city where the emperor lives. The reports from all parts of China and its provinces come in daily to the imperial editorial desk, and with a red pencil his majesty marks the characters which indicate whether they are to go into the waste basket or are to be pasted on the bill-boards of the palace, from which the scribes take them down for the use of the newspaper. The first copies are written, and these beautifully engrossed columns, colored in red, yellow, blue, and purple, are printed on a paper of a price of \$100 a year. Private printing firms buy these copies and republish them. They are set up in Peking and all over China, and are sold in many cases, almost as cheaply as are our American newspapers. Some editions go for a cent, some a half, and there are Chinese clubs, who subscribe together and take their turns at reading the various issues of the Gazette. John Chinaman does not move by the Peking Gazette. The Peking Gazette a month ago seems to suit him quite as well as that of yesterday.

A copy of the journal lies before me. It is bound in imperial yellow, but it looks more like a cheap patent medicine advertisement in the shape of a long, baby account book than anything else. The newspaper, you could make 500 Peking Gazettes of one of the Sunday editions of The Bee. It is a thick, heavy, official envelope, though its shape is much the same. Three inches wide and six inches long, it contains about sixteen pages of Chinese characters. The first page is the emperor's orders on each page, and these run up and down the paper from top to bottom, instead of from left to right, as in our official The Bee. The paper is of a tinted white, and between the lines are stripes of red, and the white is bound with two paper strings within a pair of red, and the beginning of its red matter is at the back of the book. The end of the paper is marked with red lines, and the red lines are marked with red lines. The paper is of a tinted white, and between the lines are stripes of red, and the white is bound with two paper strings within a pair of red, and the beginning of its red matter is at the back of the book. The end of the paper is marked with red lines, and the red lines are marked with red lines.

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Other extracts give some idea of his palace life, and some show that though infallible, he is not infallible. In this Gazette, it is stated that the emperor has ordered that twenty robes of ginseng, which is the curial of China, were sent to the emperor from the government. It is considered worth at nine and one-half ounces, and its value at about \$2,000. Ginseng is worth in America, I am told, about 100 cents a pound, but in China it brings more than its weight in gold. The full story of the emperor's coming marriage may be seen in this Gazette, and the condition of his wardrobe may be told by velvets and other things which are forwarded to the palace. It gives the full record of the receipt of the government, and I see that the emperor is sometimes sold, and that five literary ladies lately were sold by the emperor. The charities of the empire are also reported, and the celestial heart grows as tender sometimes as that of the Christian. On the 2d of May, 187, I see that Li Hung Chang has given 15,000,000 pounds of rice and more than \$100,000 to the sufferers of a famine in his province. On the 14th of June \$15,000 were collected for the poor in the Canton province, and that a literary graduate there has lately donated 2,500 to found a charitable school.

POLICE COURT SESSIONS. The crime notes of this official paper are numerous, and the business of the day may be read in the lines fixing the punishment. The sentences where the criminals are to be executed by death are many. Strangling is common, and decapitation is an easy method of taking off. The bastinado and flogging are found in nearly every issue, and I see that corrupt officials are, as in our country, being degraded from their ranks. In a country where ancestral worship prevails, the most terrible thing is the killing of parents, and the punishment is, in China, invariably ailed. The punishment of slicing to death means the cutting off of one member at a time. Flogging by inches, cut by inches, and the legs by inches until the criminal at last dies under the torture. Here is a decree of a punishment which shows that the in-

santly degree does not prevail in China, and that the insane murderer gets the same degree of punishment. The decree which was published on the 16th of last July, and the crime occurred in the province where I write this letter, says the decree verbatim. This article is headed: "A Parrot by a Man." It reads: Li Hung Chang reports having punished a man who killed his father during a fit of temporary derangement. When Tsan-tai had always been subject to fits of insanity, which rendered him unconscious of what he was doing as long as they lasted. As he was not dangerous his father had not reported his case to the authorities. He had, however, killed his father. One morning last March he went into a baker's shop and began to dance about wildly in one of his fits of insanity. His father, in order to get him home, ordered him to be picked up by a cleaver and struck the old man every blow of the hammer. Six or eight blows he was not able to talk and jabbered away in some kind of gibberish. The law says that the son who, sane or insane, kills his father is guilty of death by the sword process, and this is the sentence that has been passed in this instance. The neighbor who had not reported the crime to the officers, and who have therefore rendered themselves liable to the same penalty, are not for not reporting the commission of a murder, have been fined and given 100 blows each.

On the 27th of last September I see that a man who was sentenced to be strangled and the woman in the case was flogged with 100 blows for being living. It is almost impossible to conceive that such cruelties exist in this latter part of the nineteenth century, but they do exist here in all forms and degrees. The Peking Gazette, passes upon such sentences daily. Even the most ordinary punishments of China are horrible to us, and the tortures of the Chinese are higher by a long way than those of the most barbarous nations. One of the narrow streets near the Tartar city, which is the highest of the Chinese, was so fastened about his neck that he had just to turn his head through the hole in the wall to look at the world. His nose was unkened and black bristles two inches long had grown up all over his face. Whether he was a man or a woman, another man with a similar beard and hair, and the two were chained together. Upon these boards were inscribed the names of the Chinese characters, showing that they had been guilty of some petty offense and were doomed to wear these boards for weeks. The boards were fastened to their necks and they were to be shaved and howled as the cold winds from the Mongolian mountains blew upon them and took their photographs, but I cannot photograph the heart-rending sight in pen and ink.

Ones feelings are severely worked upon by the poverty and cruelties of China. I have seen beggars who shivered and howled for alms, covered by nothing more than a strip of loosely woven cloth sacking, and every two I go on the wide street which runs toward the palace I am pursued by a half naked boy with a stick. He holds up his bare stumps of shoulders at me and keeps "ace with my donkey until I throw him some money. Whether he has been as he is I do not know, but I am told it is no uncommon thing for parents and others to mutilate children in order that they may be used as beggars. Begging is a crime, and there is a priest here who goes around begging with an iron skewer stuck through his nose to make the people give him alms. The skewer continually sore and goes along with a brass basin which he dashes in your face as he asks for alms. He has a keen eye to the business, and he would not allow himself to be photographed for less than six Mexican dollars. He forms a horrible sight, and one gladly gives to get rid of him.

THE GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS. Speaking of the board of punishments, this board has control of all punishments of the empire, and it might be called the judicial department of the emperor's cabinet. The emperor is, you know, an absolute monarch. His word is the word of God to the Chinese, and he does as he pleases. He has, however, his cabinet and this great empire is ruled by the emperor's orders. The emperor has his grand secretary, consisting of chancellor and assistants, who assist him with all his duties. The emperor has his council of state, with which he consults every morning before he goes to the office. The emperor has a number of imperial princes, of secretaries, chancellors and other influential men connected with the six great offices of the empire. The emperor has his cabinet, which is called the cabinet council, and it is in this that the chief official appointments are made.

The six great boards administer the business of the government much as do our great departments at Washington. Each has two presidents, four vice presidents and a number of clerks and directors. The best of the offices are equally divided between the Manchus and the Chinese, for it must be remembered that the Manchus are the ruling race, and that a Tartar emperor has sat on the throne for hundreds of years. These six boards are the treasury department, the board of the civil office, the board of rites and ceremonies, the board of war, the board of justice, and the board of education, which might be called the interior department. It is the treasury department which takes charge of the government funds, which makes out the list of all the officials of the imperial harem, and which has charge of the revenues. I visited this great department of the government, and saw the emperor's private seal, which is a diamond, and which has charge of the revenues. I visited this great department of the government, and saw the emperor's private seal, which is a diamond, and which has charge of the revenues.

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NOT BORN TO BURN UNSEEN.

Some Poetic Roses Reasoned From the Bee's Waste Basket.

WEIRD MEDLEY FROM KANSAS

Souful Lines of the Whitman-Tupper Rives Order—A Passionate Nostalgic—What a Dollar Won—Jim Watkins.

Fledglings of the Muse.

The corn belt abounds in poets. This statement may seem somewhat startling at the first blush, but it is nevertheless true. The fact that they have made such an excellent record in cultivating the cereal has not prevented her sturdy youth from cultivating the muses also. Here are specimen gems selected at random from a vast number of poetic effusions which have found their way into The Bee's office. A patriotic Kansan sends a contribution under the modest title, "Original Lines," in which he declares that:

Though winds be chill
Yet freedom's flower
Ever blooming still
In sunshine or shower
On hill, in vale,
In storm or gale,
The right of man or wife
Through the sacred press
Where rules the English speaking class,
This production, as a whole, is a sort of poetic pot pourri both as to the variety of subjects treated and the style of meter employed. The diction seems to be a mixture of Walt Whitman, Martin Tupper and Amelie Rivers although the amorous realism which distinguishes the passionate Virginia poetess is wholly expended on such platitudes as "Exhausting Drama, Terrence and the 'Glorious West.'"

Here is a young lady who at one time betrayed symptoms of becoming a disciple of Ella Wheeler Wilcox, but she got rid of her passionately poetical impulses and was saved. What a vast volume of hysterical stanzas the public would be spared if other young ladies similarly situated would go and do likewise. She was standing by river side watching it as it rushed down to the sea. With its crashing, roaring, slushing, with its sobbing passionately,
"Why a strange thing happened,
For the water cried, 'O Foolish,' as they hurried to the sea.
With your crying, sobbing, sighing, with your great grief, with your great sorrow, but to-morrow let your heart be glad and free.
"So," the young lady concludes, "I dropped my load of passion to be buried in the sea."
Another contributor submits a ballad, entitled "What a Dollar Won." It occupies thirteen stanzas and tells how the author's pen was the possessor of a lottery, and thereby replenished the cash-box of a large and increasing family. In submitting it for publication the writer naively remarks that she had been offered \$15 for the poem, but had accepted of its present market value, "it being written upon a novel subject." It begins in this way:
Kind reader, listen now
By "a" and "y" and "i" and "o"
And see if you will say
It was fickle fortune or fate.
She then goes on to tell how the family was in straits, and how she had this with some other features of the situation made the outlook anything but cheerful.

No work husband could get
And the wife was a bit of a
And, alas, we expected soon
An increase in the family too.
Here is a stanza of a state of affairs.
But fortune smiled at last. A dollar
Was invested in a lottery.
In due time the drawing came off,
And I holding No. 17,807 & 39,
Soon found myself the possessor of
A check that looked like a gold mine.
There is little more to add. The check was cashed without delay, the house was repaired, the family had a surplus, and now, in the language of the poem.
A happier family cannot
Be found in any other sun.
A local aspirant for literary fame sends a production not without merit. There may be little genuine poetry in it, but there is no denying the fact that it is a good deal of rhyme and reason. It concludes in this wise:
No longer repine,
Adopt this design,
To the winds with despair
Begin the park to repair.
But the hall goes on Farnam street yet.
Another local author tells how—
On the 10th of morning
Before the night was done,
Before the bills were gild
I have heard a voice so gentle,
So still, so calm, so light,
That it melted the coming sunbeams bright,
I have sat upon the doorstep,
In the early autumn night,
When the moon was low and scattered,
And the moon not yet in sight,
Listening to that voice's echoes
Sighing through the leafy twigs.
And then, when the reader's expectations are strained to the highest pitch as to the owner of this strange, melodious voice, we are informed:
It was our neighbor down the alley
Calling in his pajamas.
"Is Marjorie's culture?" asks a Fremont child of the muse. Then he proceeds to answer this burning question of the hour in a lyric of ten stanzas, which tells how a gentleman named Watkins was led to the person by "a" and "y" and "i" and "o" who the dominion thus addressed:
We've come quite a p... in a ridin
most all night;
Pulled up at a tavern here, just as 'twas
in the night;
He wouldn't stop for breakfast, until the
clock was tied;
Which was Mrs. Watkins, and his
sweet and blushing bride.
So hurry up now, parson, and fix the thing
up right;
Before the folks at Hampton has discovered
of our flight.
And here's the license, parson; Oh, dear,
I've got it muddly;
And here's the ring, too, parson, I bought it
of old Grubbly.
It may be well to state here that the individual referred to in "Old Grubbly" plays no part in the story, but is merely introduced at this juncture to rhyme with the word "muddly." Four more verses are devoted to the wedding ceremony and then the poem ends:
This many years ago, Jim now is broken
hearted,
Years of labor has been lost, and from his
wife he parted;
She'll not let him to her farm, of his
money made a seep,
Just left him with the clothes he wore; poor
Jim, he's in the soup.
Marriage was a failure, to Jim as well as
others.
Look well before you take the step, and of
your own free will, get approval.
Loans closed and paid for without delay.
JOHN W. GIBB, Manager,
309 South 13th Street, First National Bank.

Robinson & Garmon
131 FARNAM

New Store!
JAS. MORTON & SON
Hardware
Have Removed from 116 S. 15th Street, Creighton Block, to
151 - Dodge St.
First Door West of Postoffice.

Developing the Features.
The human face is distinguished by its delicacy, beauty, and its numerous lines which it is capable of exhibiting. More than all, it is marked by the variety of its expressions and the facility with which it is capable of revealing the emotions of the mind. But beauty and delicacy are not sufficient to make the face attractive. Unless the features are in good condition, the eyes are clear, the complexion is clear, the accompanying illustrations show, not only a great change in the appearance of the face, but also a change in the expression of the face. This wonderful change is effected by the use of the new facial instrument which, when applied, places the face under a complete electrical current for a time and through its operation the face is naturally brought out sufficient stimulus to the aid of nature to complete its work. It is nature's own method of perfecting the face, and is safe and should be used upon the face of every man, woman, and child, and gentleman. Dr. John H. Woodbury, the well known oculist, has pronounced this the largest establishment in the world for the treatment of the face, and has become famous in the world for his successful removal of birthmarks, superfluous hair, freckles, and wrinkles. He has just issued the 4th edition of his 125 page book treating of all skin imperfections, which is mailed to any address on receipt of 10c. That the demand for this book is enormous is shown by the fact that it is sold out to his office, 210 West 42d St., New York City, daily. The book is very interesting and should be read by everyone.

TO WEAK MEN
KIDNEY and all urinary troubles easily cured by Dr. J. E. McGrew's...
DEAFNESS CURED
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LUDLOW'S
The 'LUDLOW SHOE'

Wasted Politeness.

Chicago Tribune: Polite man on suburban train (rising and calling out after two young women who are going down the aisle)—Here is a seat, ladies.

(Young women walk on and pay no heed to the invitation.)

Polite man (louder)—Ladies you will find a seat back here.
(Young women still ignoring the proffered courtesy.)
Polite man (growing red)—Of course, ladies, you can stand up if you prefer, but at the top of his voice) you can get a seat if you please back.
(Polite man sees young women accept a seat at the farther end of the car and proceed to converse with each other in the deaf and dumb alphabet, whereupon he goes into the forward car to cool off.)

Make no Mistake.

By dispelling the symptoms so often mistaken for Consumption, SANTA ABBIE has brought gladness to many a household. By its prompt use for breaking to the cold that too often develops into that fatal disease, thousands can be saved from an untimely grave. You make no mistake by keeping a bottle of this pleasant remedy in your house. CALL FORNIA CATARRH is equally effective in eradicating all traces of nasal catarrh. Both of these wonderful California remedies are sold and warranted by Goodman Drug Co. \$1 a package, 3 for \$2.

Entitled to an Extra Flourer.
New York Mercury: Younger Sister—"Mother, I think it is too bad I am sixteen; yet you make me wear such short dresses that it mortifies me terribly."
Mother—"My dear, you cannot wear longer dresses till your elder sister is married."
Younger Sister—"Well, she is as good as engaged to Mr. Doollittle, and I think I'm entitled to an extra flourer."

DELAYS ARE DANGEROUS
and many times will prove to you a great loss. He is furnished in every city, and your coming to our store. We are making a clean sweep of our entire stock of winter goods, and will name prices that will interest you.

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