

Marvels of the Sacred Forbidden City

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The parade of the allied forces through the sacred Forbidden City of the Chinese on August 28 was a pageant which will go down in history as one of the great spectacles of the world. It is not likely that any person living will see such a procession again. This famous city, the Holy of Holies, from whose precincts all Chinese are prohibited, but to which they look for impulse and direction, has thus for the first time been desecrated by the profane feet of China's conquerors.

Chinese pride has been humbled and it is to be hoped that the arrogant and stiff-necked Empress Tsi An, who for a second time has been compelled to flee from her palace to escape the avenging armies of civilization, has been taught a lesson which will last her the balance of her life.

The Northern City or Manchu part of the Forbidden City consists of three enclosures, one within the other, but each surrounded by its own wall. The innermost or Forbidden City, through which the allies marched, is the enclosure which surrounds the imperial residences of the Chinese emperor and includes the great national library of China, together with a number of government offices.

The Chinese emperor is called by the people "The Solitary Man" because he is the only man who dwells within the walls of this sacred city. Princes and high officials may come and go to audiences, but the emperor alone remains. The only other persons allowed within the city are the em-

northern gate of the city, rises the beautiful artificial mound covered with shrines and pavilions known as the Mei Shan, or Coal Hill. The Great Pure Gate is a low, ugly building with three doors built of heavy oak timbers and covered with sheets of iron. It impresses one as a shabby looking affair for the outer entrance to such a renowned enclosure as the famous Nai Kung, or city of the royal palaces. Its appearance, however, is accounted for by the Chinese principle that interior magnificence should not be visible or suggested in external surroundings.

In the Second Enclosure.

Passing through this gate another large area stretches out before a second gate which stretches to give some hint of the magnificence to be expected within. A wide stone causeway extends north through this courtyard up to the gate which is called by the Chinese the Tien An Mun, or the Gate of Heavenly Rest. This is the so-called Great Pink Gate, so named because its pillars and woodwork are heavily enameled with a red lacquer, which has become faded and now presents a pink appearance. The three arches through the gate are faced with white marble, over which are twined splendidly carved dragons. On the comb of the roof and running down on the projecting eaves of the pagoda-like structure over the gate are grotesque porcelain ornaments, the heads of Phoenixes and Griffins.

Within this gate is still another courtyard, on the north side of which stands the

courtyard within the gate runs a small canal which lead five marble bridges with magnificently carved balustrades and impressive stone lions guarding their entrances. From each of these bridges runs a magnificent avenue paved with fine marble leading up to an immense building called the Tai Ho Tien. This impressive building stands on a marble basement about twenty feet in height and rises to a total height of over 110 feet. The ascent to the building is made by five flights of steps with carved marble balustrades leading from each of the five avenues which run across the courtyard. The central one of these avenues is very broad and is reserved for the use of the emperor alone. The two avenues on either side of this are for visiting princes of the blood and officers of the highest rank, while those on the extreme right and left are for the use of all others. Back of the Tai Ho Tien is the gate leading to the palace proper.

The palace buildings consist of four large structures and two smaller ones arranged around the courtyard within the gate. The central building is called the Cheng Kung, or The Palace. Those which flank it on either side are called the Tung Kung and Si Kung, or the eastern and western palaces, while the fourth one, which faces the palace proper, is called the Hall of the Golden Dragon. The smaller buildings are those reserved for the empress dowager and her suite. The palace building, like the great audience hall in front of it, is long and wide, reaching almost across the court in which it stands, built with red bricks which, according to Chinese law, are reserved for use in the imperial buildings, with marble facings ornately carved and surmounted with a double roof, the second one of which covers a gallery supported by pillars, the roofs being covered with yellow porcelain tiles and all the woodwork covered with a heavy red enamel.

According to the native descriptions the interior of the palace is painted with the famous imperial vermilion. The floors are covered with priceless yellow silk-velvet carpets of native make and the furniture, which follows the design and shape common in China, is constructed of heavy red ironwood and highly polished. In the emperor's own rooms the frames of all the furniture are of solid gold. The Chin Luan Tien or official reception room is carpeted with an immense rug of rough velvet worked in with yellow dragons. It contains no seats or other conveniences except the throne itself, for among the Chinese no one, however high his rank, is permitted to assume any other than a prostrate position while in the terrifying presence of his emperor. The throne itself is placed on an elevated dais. It is carved staircase and supported by a large copper dragon heavily gilded. Around the hall is a gallery for the use of the orchestra which plays while official receptions are going on.

A Wonderland of Palaces.

This palace is considered by the Chinese as the most important of all the imperial buildings. It was the scene of the famous reception given by the emperor Kang Hi in A. D. 1722, when on the sixtieth anniversary of his reign he invited to the palace as his guests all the men of the empire who were over 60 years of age. This tribute to old age was repeated by the Emperor Kien Lung in A. D. 1785, on the fiftieth anniversary of his reign. No living white man has ever before seen the palaces within this city. The only foreigners who are known to have

been in them were the Jesuit priests who obtained such favor in the Manchu court in the latter part of the seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries, several of whom have left very interesting descriptions of the life of those within. Within the present century the late Dr. S. Wells Williams was probably the only foreigner who has ever seen enough of them to give any kind of a comprehensive account.

North beyond this throne building stands the "Palace of Earth's Repose." Here "Heaven's Consort," as the empress is called, rules over the harem of her imperial master. Between the palace and the northern wall of the Forbidden City are the royal flower gardens or pleasure grounds of the palaces. The gardens are adorned with dainty pavilions, while marble bridges cross the canals and reach out to artificial islands which, dotted with temples and covered with groves, stand about in miniature lakes. Fountains and artificial mountains complete one of the most beautiful bits of landscape work in the world.

The Forbidden City is divided into three parts by two walls running entirely through it from north to south and the portion of the city which has just been described is in the central section between the two partition walls. The eastern division of the city is given over to the officers of the Chinese imperial government. It also holds the boards of treasury. In the northern part of this section stands the Hall of Intense Thought, a temple dedicated to Confucius and the other great sages of China. A short distance north of this stands the imperial library, called by the Chinese the Hall of Literary Abyss. Near these two stands the Fung Shen Tien, or imperial chapel, the temple set apart for the emperor's private devotions, to which he comes to worship his ancestors. The western division contains a great variety of buildings, memorial halls dedicated to famous emperors and distinguished statesmen, the government printing office, the board of imperial auditors or comptrollers, who regulate the assessment and collection of taxes throughout the empire, and the Ching Hwang Miao, or guardian temple of Peking.

A Remarkable Artificial Mountain.

Back of the Palace of Earth's Repose is another gate, separated by a courtyard from the Shen Wu Mun, which is the north, or rear, gate of the Forbidden City. Without this gate another bridge crosses the moat and enters the enclosure which surrounds the famous Coal Hill. This artificial mountain, which is also called by the Chinese the "King Shan," or Capital Hill, stands just north of the Forbidden City, within the area of the Huang Cheng, or Imperial City, and is really a part of the imperial pleasure grounds. It is built of coal brought down on camels' backs from the mines in the northern part of the province. This remarkable mound is over 150 feet high, covered with earth and planted with trees and flowering shrubs. Pavilions and shrines dot its side and crown its summit, while paved marble walks wind up around it. From its top a beautiful view is obtained over the whole city. It has been the scene of many a dramatic tragedy. From that point the last emperor of the Ming dynasty watched the sack of his capital by the Manchu hordes, who founded the present dynasty; then, refusing to seek safety in flight, he hung himself with his yellow girdle from a tree on the summit, saying: "Better die since the empire is lost."

The western part of the enclosure about the Hill is occupied by the Si Yuen, or

Western park, which is one of the most beautiful spots in the Chinese capital. An artificial lake, more than a mile long, occupies the center. It is supplied with water from the famous Black Dragon springs, which lie ten miles north of Peking and from which a magnificent aqueduct called the Tung Hwan Ho conveys the water to the imperial palaces. The lake is full of the most beautiful and fragrant varieties of the Chinese lotus. It is crossed by a marble bridge of nine arches which is architecturally unsurpassed. At the end of the bridge stands a large tea house, white gardens, walks and rockeries line the banks of the lake. The prettiest of their sacred city will have a profound effect upon the Chinese and go far toward preventing their giddy leaders from ever forgetting their "lost face" of prestige.

Stories About Preachers

The story of the church in Alabama which had over one of its doors the words "This is the Gate of Heaven," with the modifying inscription "some distance below." "This Door Closed in Winter Time," recalls a somewhat similar story which Cardinal Manning used to tell of his publishers. He was a man who did not keep his own books in any great number on his private shelves, and so one day found it necessary to go to his publishers for a copy of his volume, "Confidence in God." To his surprise this conversation took place in the loudest voice between the front and back offices, the men calling to each other at the top of their lungs. "Say, you send up some of Manning's 'Confidence in God'." "Can't do it," Manning's "Confidence in God" is all gone."

Three men once stepped up to a noted revivalist at the close of one of his evening meetings, relates Youth's Companion, and asked him to decide a point concerning which they had been disputing. "One of my friends here," said the spokesman, "contends that you are a Baptist."

"Why does he think I am a Baptist?" interrupted the evangelist. "Because he has seen you assisting enthusiastically at a baptism by immersion. My other friend is equally sure you are a Methodist."

"Why?" "Well, he has heard you say 'amen' with such fervor when some good Methodist brother has been praying. I differ with both. I say you are either a Congregationalist or a Presbyterian."

"Why so?" "Well, I notice you always stand when you pray."

"My brother," was the reply, "I have almost forgotten, but I think each one of you is right. I belong to all four of those denominations."

This, in the larger sense, was doubtless true.

"The incensiveness of Rev. Harry A. Handle's recital of St. James' Mission, Mosker, Colo., conspicuously evinces entertaining features for the old and young, attracting interest to the mission," writes Stanley Stokes in the Ladies' Home Journal. "He is an accomplished artist and makes photographs for everybody. An immense saw, saws and other entertaining features have been erected by him in the factory yard, where everybody in the town enjoys them. The preacher spent part of his earnings for a phonograph with a set of fifty rolls, which drew big crowds to see the wonderful talking machine. Nearly every day when the stage comes in, Mr. Handle changes his working clothes and goes to the hotel to acquaint himself with the strangers arriving, and invites them to the rectory, all of which is unusual and unbooked for on the frontier. And that is one of the ways by which so many people in his parish, which is of greater area than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined, have become acquainted with the popular 'Little Minister of Rio Blanco,' as he is called."

Worry

Detroit Journal. Hereupon we spoke of evolution.

"After all," I observed, "worry has been the mainstay of human progress."

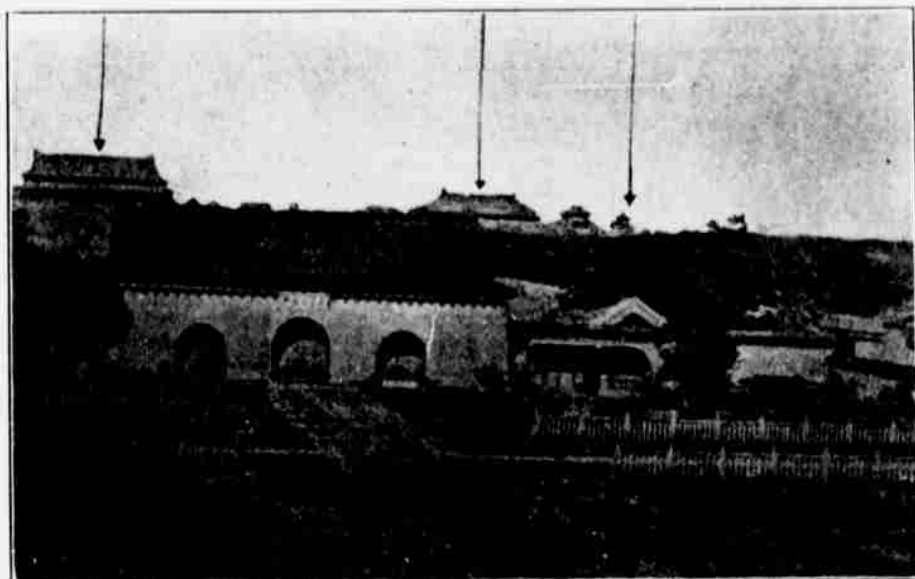
My new acquaintance agreed with me perfectly.

"The monkey and the man," said he, "started even. The monkey kept his hair on while the man did not. Yes."

This, it struck me, was a notable instance of the vertebrate lending itself to the expression of scientific truth.



WONDERFUL CITY OF THE "SOLITARY MAN"



GREAT PURE GATE—WHERE ALLIES ENTERED THE FORBIDDEN CITY.

presses, the members of the imperial harem and the eunuchs, 3,000 of whom are retained as the servants of the royal household. Death is the certain penalty for any man found within its mysterious precincts and the exact nature of the doom of the few who have surreptitiously ventured there has never been known.

Massive Guardship of the Walls.

This inner city is called by the Chinese the "Kin Cheng" or Prohibited City. It is about two miles in circumference and surrounded by a wall almost as massive as those around the outside Tartar City itself. This surrounding wall rises abruptly from the waters of a moat which surrounds the entire city to a height of nearly fifty feet. It is faced with red glazed brick and the top of the wall is covered with the royal yellow porcelain tile, which from a distance glistens brilliantly in the sunshine.

The city is entered through gates on each of the four sides, over bridges which cross the surrounding moat. Before each gate is an open area for the gathering of troops and the forming of state processions. Around each of these areas are buildings and barracks for the accommodation of the guards who defend the approach to China's "Dragon Throne." Watch towers at each corner of the wall and over each of the gateways furnish points of view from which any suspicious movements outside may be detected. The interior of the Forbidden City is made up of a succession of courtyards and apartments which in their massiveness and ornate and profuse decoration far exceed anything to be found elsewhere in China.

According to the Chinese themselves it is the city of gold and silver. To their Oriental vision the pavements of marble within lead from gilded palaces to gilded palaces, where gold and silver pillars uphold gold and silver roofs, and the fortunate inhabitants pluck flowers growing in gold and silver vases or play with gold and silver fishes swimming in crystal globes. Their imaginations comprehend nothing which they do not believe exists somewhere in the imperial palaces of their emperor.

Viewed from the great square or open place before the Da Tsing Mun, or Great Pure Gate, which is the outer barrier and extreme southern entrance to the imperial palaces, the Forbidden City stretches away to the north with a succession of tall palace buildings with pagoda roofs supported by immense pillars, heavily lacquered with red enamel, covered with roofs of different colored porcelain tile, yellow, green and deep red. The variegated colors of these roofs glistening through the beautiful trees which abound in the royal city make up a scene of architectural and arboreal beauty absolutely unequalled, while far in the distance, just back of the



THE HILL OF COAL SEEN FROM WITHOUT THE WALL.