

Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Seventh Page.)

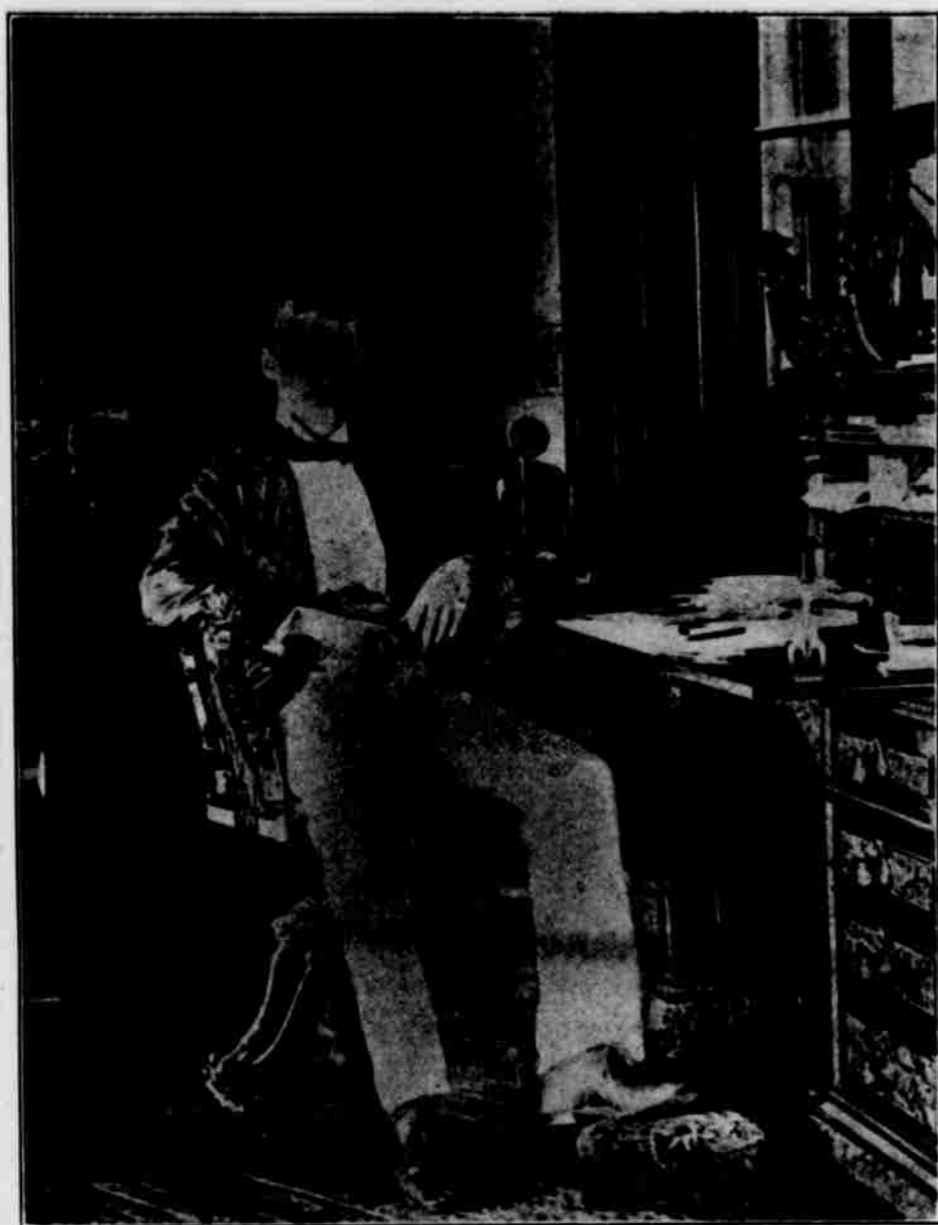
this may be caused by the orders from the State department, which are holding back both the diplomats and the army from doing things which they naturally would do. The Americans so far are the only soldiers who have not looted Pekin. The Russians have looted from the start, and when disappointed in finding little in a house they have killed the inmates without mercy. The Russian minister does not attempt to restrain them. He merely weeps and wrings his hands and says he can do nothing. It is the same with the French, whose soldiers have killed coolies, women, children and old men without mercy. The Japanese captured 2,000,000 taels, or about \$1,500,000, in the board of public works when they came in, and a little later on the French, Russians and Japanese organized official looting, their ministers either not caring or not attempting to prevent it. The English troops were at first forbidden to

anecdotes and personal experiences. One of the latter which he recently told is affecting as showing the heartfelt interest that some of our children have in the Chinese.

"When I left Brazil," said the American minister, "to come to China, I passed through my old town of Des Moines and while there the good people gave me a reception. I shook hands with them and was bidden Godspeed on my way to China. There were many children in the crowd that came to say good-bye and among them a sweet little girl whose earnestness I shall never forget. As she shook my hand she said:

"Major Conger, I do hope when you go to China you will take Jesus with you to the poor heathens.

"Ah! my little girl," said I, "I don't need to do that. Jesus is there already! He is there in the books your Sunday school has sent. He is there in that noble army of men and women martyrs, the Christian missionaries, who have gone out into that benighted land that the poor Chinese may have the light of our Savior's love." This



CONSUL GENERAL GOODNOW IN HIS OFFICE IN SHANGHAI.

loot, but after two days the British officers began a systematic collection of all kinds of treasures and brought them to the British legation. They sent out Hindoo siks with pack trains and brought silks, furs, jewels and silver into the legation and sold them there at auction. The proceeds are to be divided among the British soldiers.

Minister Conger and the American officers have succeeded in holding back our troops, much to the latter's disgust. One day the Americans found within their lines 500,000 taels, about \$425,000. The French immediately declared that the line was wrongly drawn and drew their guns on the Americans. An investigation was made and the Americans gave in and the French got the money. In the same way our soldiers allowed the Russians to take the imperial palace from them after they had done the fighting and lost eight men in taking it. The Russians also took the empress' summer palace, the railway and arsenal at Tien Tsin and other strategic points along the river. It is a question whether in these cases forbearance had not ceased to be a virtue, but at any rate Minister Conger probably carried out the orders of his superiors.

The position of our minister in the peace negotiations is a trying one. The Chinese, the Russians and the British all seem to be playing the part of the monkey in attempting to use the American cat to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for their respective countries, and vigilance, backbone and diplomacy are required in watching that they do not. Major Conger has had experience as a diplomat as minister to Brazil, where he succeeded well, and also during the present administration at Pekin. He has been popular with the Chinese, as well as with the Americans, and especially the missionaries.

There are altogether, not including the soldiers, something like 2,500 Americans in China and of these 1,700 are missionaries. Many of them are of sterling ability and worth and they have, I believe, been doing much good. They have colonies at all the ports and stations at many places in the interior. Minister Conger visits them and aids them. I have been told that he is a Unitarian, but his ideas as to missions are strong enough to please the most castron Puritan. He makes a good missionary speech, interspersing his remarks with

story had a great effect. The skeleton of it is probably true, but as I heard it I wondered whether Major Conger had not padded the bones with a little oratorical flesh and blood, for you will agree it was a rather long speech for a statesman to utter to a little girl in the intervals of handshaking and baby-kissing.

Former Minister Denby will probably have a big bill of damages against the Chinese government for its injuries to the American legation. Colonel Denby owns the legation building, so I understand. He bought it while he was minister for \$35,000 and has been renting it to the government for a big percentage on the investment.

When I first visited Canton this year I stopped with Hubbard T. Smith, who was then in charge of the American consulate, serving during the interim between Dr. Edward Bedloe and his successor. Every one knows Mr. Smith as the author of "Listen to My Tale of Wee," "Swinging in the Grapevine Swing" and other hymnal melodies, but all do not know that he is one of the best officers in our consular service. He is one of the few men on the permanent list, being used by the State department to go from place to place, fill all kinds of vacancies and straighten up mismanaged offices. In Canton I found Mr. Smith close, but not too close, to Li Hung Chang. He was popular with the foreigners and successful with the Chinese. He kept bachelor's hall in one of the finest buildings in the foreign concession of Shanghai, which he had fitted up with electric lights and all other conveniences for the incoming consul.

At Hong Kong I met Rounseville Wildman, a young man who is figuring much in the papers in his dispatches from Hong Kong regarding matters in Manila and China. He is our consul general at that place and his position is said to be worth in the neighborhood of \$10,000 a year. Mr. Wildman is not only a diplomat, but also an author. He has published good books about the Malays and Straits Settlements, and has just issued in a small volume an up-to-date history of China. He is a man of taste and culture with a penchant for Chinese snuff bottles and curious pets, one of his recent acquisitions being a young tiger cat, which he fondles in the intervals of his consular and diplomatic labors.

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