

stant privilege of examining and this fault of directing attention to the perfectly obvious humour or pathos they see fit to introduce, is so common that I have seized this opportunity to discourse upon the exacting and fastidious taste of contemporary readers.

A Missionary from China.

Dr. Murdock, a missionary from China who escaped across Mongolia and over the Trans Siberian railway to St. Petersburg related her interesting adventures to Lincoln audiences last week. In company with other foreigners fleeing from Chinese rage, Dr. Murdock crossed the Mongolian desert in a springless wooden cart, drawn by a camel and driven by a boy on a pony. Dr. Murdock's camel was a fast animal with a longer stride than is customary even to camels. It required for the poorly mounted and equipped little missionary caravan, fifty days to cross the twelve hundred miles of the Gobi desert. Her caravan was in the wake of the empress' retinue, which escorted H. I. H. into the Chinese interior over the same route, a few days ahead of our missionaries. All the nomadic inhabitants who met them, had a story to tell about the groans and screams of the aged empress as her sacred bones in the lumbering cart were jolted over the rough roads. The wheels of the cart are solid pieces of wood closely mortised. The cart is set directly upon the cross pieces holding together the two wheels. A journey of 1200 miles over atrocious roads in such a conveyance is therefore no more describable than the torture produced by suspending a man by his thumbs. Rather than ride, an *efficient* fellow-traveller walked the whole twelve hundred miles. The refugees were obliged to travel by night on account of the peculiar grazing habits of the camel, which nibbles a tuft of grass and steps two yards before snatching another mouthful. It is an inveterate habit and hobbling only slightly lessens the flight of this ship of the desert. A grazing camel can easily, if unhobbled and unburdened travel fifty miles in one night. It was therefore necessary to pasture the camels in the day time when they could be herded and driven back to the camp. If the missionaries had any sins they expiated them on this trip of fifty days across Mongolia.

The camel is only attached to the torture cart by tugs. He is not harnessed except by a ring through the cartilage of the nose. A rope is tied to the ring and a boy on a pony is attached to the rope. The occupants of the cart are therefore, eventually at the mercy of the boy, who if the camel decides to run away can allow him to, without danger of abrasion to his own skin. Dr. Murdock's boy was a lad in imminent need of sleep after the voyage was a week old. The occupants of the cart had to waken him every half hour. He rode with his body fallen forward over his pony which was also asleep, the spirited, never-sleepy, never-tired camel pulling at the same time the heavy cart loaded with four people, the pony and the boy. It was a journey devoid of comfort but novel and full of surprises. For instance, where there was sparse grass at the edges of the desert the air was full of nightingales who sang in angelic chorus, all night and springing skylarks took up the refrain when the nightingales went to bed at sunrise. With the beginning of the desert sand forty miles deep, the birds no longer sang to the caravan. Their place was taken by beetles, fleas and moths which followed the caravan in swarms. It was difficult to prepare the rice and keep

out the insects. The ration of the missionaries was mutton and rice without change.

When the caravan reached Kiachta on the Russian frontier the travelers changed vehicles. They rode to Irkutsk in a tarantass, a carriage swung on leather bands like the ancient stage-coach and drawn by three horses, two abreast, and the other one hitched in front. This would have been comfortable had the horses been allowed the gait of civilized carriage horses. But they were driven at a gallop, and over obstacles which an American Jehu would have driven around.

When they reached Irkutsk, the terminus of the Trans-Siberian railway they found the cars in which they were to travel to Siberia, very comfortable and clean. The cars are built in compartments for four. There is no extra charge for sleeping accommodations. Every traveller carries his own bedding and makes up his own bed. There is no porter to wait on the passengers but a man comes in twice a day and sweeps the floor. Every morning the floor is scrubbed and every day the windows of the car are washed. At every station there is a sanovar of hot water for the passengers who can fill their teapots for steeping tea. Food is very cheap. A plump, broiled spring chicken costs only ten cents. The entire Siberian route is through magnificent forests of pine and fir, which have not been destroyed by fires or by the much more fatal lumberman. The five thousand mile trip from Irkutsk to St. Petersburg costs only sixteen dollars second class. The only difference between the second class and first class cars, apparent on examination is in the curtain and materials of upholstery. The second class cars are upholstered in wool and the curtains of the first class cars are of silk and the upholstery is a finer quality of woolen goods. The guards are very polite and attentive, not for tips, but because the whole policy of the railroad directorate is solicitous for the travellers' comfort and determined to encourage patronage of this great Russian adoption of an institution of the Western world. The cars are much higher than American cars and have an airy comfort also quite in contrast. The comparatively slow rate at which the cars are run would not be popular in America which is a new country and makes up in speed for her late start in the race of nations.

Dr. Murdock reports that the churches and mission buildings are all burned. Although the Chinese government will probably be forced, to replace all missionary property which the Boxers have burned or looted, diplomatic arrangements are a long time in the consummating and it will be years perhaps before any governmental reparation is made. We have not collected the Turkish indemnity yet. In the meantime Dr. Murdock advises church members not to desert the thousands of Christian converts made by the missionaries in China and as soon as peace is declared she thinks the missions should be rebuilt and the missionaries sent back there.

It is in the interior of China where the foreigners are scarcely known and where foreign institutions have not intruded that the strongest opposition to foreigners has developed. It is therefore to be inferred that, the outbreak has been incited at least as much by prejudice and by ignorance as by patriotism. The devotion of the thousands of Chinese converts to their adopted religion is also a tribute to their sincerity and a rebuke to those who assert that every dollar spent on foreign missions is an un-

warrantable attempt on the part of foreigners to denationalize a half-heathen people. The rage of the Boxers has been directed especially against the Chinese convert who has given up his life rather than recant with the steadiness and cheerfulness of the Christian martyrs. If his conversion were for the sake of food and education he would recant when steadiness meant death by torture.

and near the cities where rapid transit has been introduced the Chinese mandarin may be frequently overheard conversing on the merits of the progressive foreigners and their machines. In the interior, foreigners are real devils in the imagination of the Chinese. Dr. Murdock said that the sick flock to the missionary dispensaries. In three months in the Peking dispensary of which she was the head, four thousand Chinese patients applied for medicine or treatment.

Dr. Murdock herself is the embodiment of cheerfulness, good will and the benevolent spirit, which is not satisfied until it has offered up all its possessions, its comfort and its leisure on the altar of altruism.

Republican Responsibility.

With a republican governor, and state officers, with a republican senate and house of representatives, the republicans of Nebraska can for the first time in years open the books of a new administration with a clean conscience on a clean page.

Nebraska is a republican state. It was lost to republicans by the unspeakable corruption of a state house ring. With the return to power, the machine responds to the energy that is simultaneously connected to it. State Treasurer Bartley's dethronement was but a culmination of improper practices long in use in the treasurer's office. The apple was so rotten that it dropped. The time had come. Republicans lost the state because state conventions nominated corrupt politicians and afterwards the cry was raised about loyalty to party nominees, etc, which is never used to whip men into line for square candidates. It is the cry and threat which has elected, criminals, and degenerates into office since nominating conventions were first instituted. The whippers-in are particularly active and vociferous in Lancaster county, and in this county politics is at the lowest ebb. The Douglas county legislative ticket was weighted down with the name of an elderly man who has accumulated a reputation during his long residence in Nebraska that is offensive to the fastidious Douglas clan. Douglas county republicans almost elected the fusion ticket just because of certain moral considerations of force in Douglas county. Lancaster voters despise such considerations and refer to them as sickly sentimentalism etc. The local election in this county firmly established the futility of all appeals to the conscience of Lancaster county. Political treason and commercial obliquity in Lancaster county do not disqualify a candidate. Not in this county. The hope of the city and county is in the sturdy justice and judgment of the citizens of the state, citizens who are uncorrupted by the subtle and pernicious influence of the old ring whose members used to control the state house patronage and are now attempting to influence and make themselves of large size in the horizon of Governor-elect Dietrich. The low moral tone of Lincoln is a distinct disadvantage to its citizens who are passively responsibly for it. The citizens revile the office holders and a jury puts them in the

penitentiary when they are caught stealing, but the citizen's poor judgment and apathy is what the ring counts on for the next time. When the state institutions located at Lincoln apply for their biennial appropriations the reputation of Lincoln in the state, conferred upon it by a comparative few residents, operate to create suspicion and has lowered the sum of money voted by the legislators for the support for two years of institutions located here.

The incoming administration and legislature has a chance which Nebraska republicans have not had for many years to make a clean record.

The Color Line.

The Chicago Woman's club has appointed a committee to consider and take preliminary action in the matter of the refusal of the General Federation to accept Mrs. St. Clair Ruffin's credentials as a delegate to that body from the New Era club of Massachusetts. The membership of this club is composed entirely of colored women. The committee appointed by the Chicago Woman's club is composed of these well known women: Miss Jane Addams, Mrs. Ella W. Peattie, Mrs. Robert B. Farson and Mrs. Granville M. Holt. This committee has asked the biennial board to furnish a report in detail of the deliberations and action in Mrs. Ruffin's case. The report, when received will be duly laid before the club. At the recent meeting of the Illinois Federation at Rockford the color line controversy was disposed of by referring it to a committee which should look into the matter and report to the general board if advisable.

The abolitionists of all social and racial distinctions between blacks and whites have induced every state federation which has met since last Summer's Biennial, to discuss this question. But it has been handled and discussed gingerly. Reckless sentimentalists have suddenly grown careful while handling this bomb of a subject. The South is solid against the admission of colored women to clubs and I believe that the greater number of northern women agree with the southern on this subject. In the first place northern and southern women in a body have come close together again in the Federation. It is a common meeting place and the hospitality, naturalness, tact and charm of the southern women are qualities that make them ideal club women. They are not stand-offish and reserved. They are volatile, humorous, never pedantic, they work with rare energy and effectiveness and the Federation without them would lose in energy, comeliness and enthusiasm. It is not old enough to deprive itself of so valuable a part of its membership for the sake of accomplishing a debatably quixotic measure. To preserve the integrity of the Federation is of much more consequence than that a few colored women, here and there be admitted to fellowship. The negro race, as a whole, has not yet reached the degree of development where women, white and black can associate together as members of the same club. As students of varying attainments and progress are sorted into different classes to facilitate their own better instruction and to preserve the sanity of the teacher, so the grade schools were established. The very large majority of white women are many grades yet above the negro women. At the recent meeting of the Nebraska Federation two negro women from Omaha attended the sessions as visitors. They had pleasant manners, an intelligent expression, and joined in the hunt for culture