

CHRISTIANITY IN CHINA.

CHANGES IN THE VIEWS OF CHINESE RULERS WITH REGARD TO IT.

The Poles and Kublai Khan in the Thirteenth Century—The Jesuit Fathers in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth—Work Done by Discussions Among Christians.

In the year 1280 the father and the brother of Marco Polo returned to Europe from China after a long stay in the Orient. They were merchants, but their advice and counsel had been sought by the Grand Khan of Tartary in his capital city of Cambalus, Peking.

Kublai Khan was a grandson of the fierce Jenghiz Khan and had elected to remain in China as Emperor, while his brothers, nephews and cousins, divided the vast territory that had been overrun by the Tartar hordes between the Caspian Sea and the Pacific, between the Arctic Ocean and the Persian Gulf. The Tartar tribesmen had conquered people of far higher civilization than their own. The Chinese of those days were masters of many arts and of much learning. The problem of Kublai Khan was to consolidate the huge empire of which he was master and to complete the conquest of Southern China. Like a great statesman, as he was, he saw the importance of a State religion and he had many conversations with the Poles in this regard. He heard what they had to say of Christianity and approved it. When they returned to Europe they were the bearers of a letter from the Khan to the Pope of Rome in which the Khan begged the Pope to send to China, under the guidance of the Poles,

SOME SCORES OF PRIESTS and missionaries and educated men. It was the Khan's intention to proclaim Christianity a State religion and the priests were to be its expounders. These pioneers would soon have been followed by others, and if this plan had been carried out, there is little doubt that Christianity would have made its way throughout the Empire, and that China with its 400,000,000 inhabitants, would to-day be a Christian country.

How the project failed is well known. The brothers Polo arrived at Acre in the year 1269. The Pope was just dead and there was an unusually long interregnum. Only two Dominican priests could be found to accompany them to China and these two were soon afflicted with the perils of the journey and turned back. Europe sent no missionaries, and the Emperor had recourse to India. Buddhism, which had been in the field for twelve centuries, took the place that Christianity failed to occupy, and its hold in China is to-day as strong as ever. Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism, or a mixture of them, are the doctrines by which all Chinese, high and low, live and die.

Once more the Christian religion obtained a strong foothold in China. In the year 1575 Jesuit missionaries were sent from Rome to Macao and Goa, and for a hundred years their influence steadily grew. During the reign of Louis XIV. in France they had enormous power in China. The Chinese Emperor of that day and his counselors at Peking were deeply impressed by the science and learning of the Jesuit leaders. Under their direction the great astronomical observatory of Peking was built—or rather the observatory that they constructed was a revival of a still older establishment due to the Tartar astronomers of Ulugh Beg's school.

ITS BEAUTIFUL INSTRUMENTS are on the city walls to-day.

The Jesuits found a way to reconcile what we call the Chinese worship of ancestors, it is, in fact, not worship but simply profound reverence, with Christian doctrines. They were making many converts. The highest officials of the Court, and the Emperor himself, protected them. Whoever will read the memoirs of the time cannot fail to conclude that the Jesuits were then on the way to evangelize all China. The example of the Court and of Peking, would have soon been followed by the great provincial noblemen and cities. It may fairly be said that China was once more in the way of becoming a Christian country.

The success of the Jesuits in China raised up enemies for them in Rome and their enemies obtained an edict from the Pope declaring that the toleration of ancestor worship was a grievous error. The discussions of Jansenists and Jesuits in France helped to fan the flame of discord. Chinese politics was discussed at Port Royal as one may see in the Memoirs of St. Simon, for instance. The Jesuits in China were recalled about 1720 and they were replaced by other missionaries less intelligent, if more orthodox. Once more the Empire of China was lost to Christianity.

The noble efforts of our missionaries in recent times are well known to us all. This success has not been great, measured by the standard of numbers, though their progress has been steady, and especially in late years very wisely directed. The present

situation wipes away, as with a sponge, the whole result. Everything must be begun anew. Only the memory of past endeavours remains.

SCHOOL GIRL FIRE BRIGADE.

Fire drill is becoming quite a popular feature of the British school girl's life as it not only lessens the danger in case of an outbreak of fire, but provides a first rate form of exercise in the meantime.

At a leading college for girls, Westfield College Hampstead, one of the suburbs of London, the pupils, who are mostly young women of the strapping English variety, and well able to tackle propositions that are usually considered beyond the feminine strength, have formed a regular fire brigade, and have hose and fire apparatus, in the use of which they are drilled and trained until they have become adepts at fighting fires, and would no more think of losing their heads in an emergency than would a professional fire-fighter. The school drill includes such feats as descending from the roof of the school-house to the lawn, sliding down ropes, lowering each other to the ground, from dizzy heights by means of improvised apparatus, attending and resuscitating those who are supposed to have been overcome in fires, using the hose to the outside of the building, to get accustomed to the work, arousing the house, and turning the place out-of-doors in the quickest time possible, and drilling with the hand pumps and the buckets, which are placed ready for use in case of a small fire that does not call for the use of the large hose.

In the college of St. Hilda, the fire brigade is made up of about forty of the stoutest and most self-reliant of the pupils, and these are sub-divided, into small squads under their own officers. It is considered one of the greatest honors to obtain a place in the fire brigade, and to become an officer of one of the squads makes the girl selected the envy of an entire college of discarded applicants. The girls who belong to the fire brigade have certain privileges and are released on occasions from tedious school duties for the most interesting frolic of fire drill. They don waterproof costumes and revel to their hearts' content in the exercises of the fire drill. The directors of the fire brigade can have it in their power to make themselves and their crops obnoxious to the rest of the school, for they can start a fire alarm at any hour of the day or night and, as no one knows but that it is a genuine one, there is no shirking by anyone at the call to quarters.

On the first signal referred to being given it is the duty of certain girls to go through the house alarming the drowsy ones, taking the utmost care that none of the girls or the servants are overlooked in the search. If a girl has taken it for granted that the night alarm is a bogus one for drill purposes, these searchers are sure to find it out, and compel her to join the crowd hurrying from the imaginary danger. While these girls go through the house the officers of the fire brigade marshal their forces, and arrange them quickly around the hose, or the fire pumps. Orders are given quietly and quickly and are promptly obeyed.

There is no loitering, no excitement, Everything moves like clockwork, until the girls are dismissed and allowed to return to their dormitories again.

It is really an impressive sight to see the fire-drill at one of these up-to-date girls' colleges. The entire building will be silent as the tomb, every inmate with the captain of the fire brigade and her assistants wrapped in dozen shrill whistles ring through the corridors. This is the fire alarm, and the corridors a few minutes later will be filled with half-dressed figures, hurrying to their positions at fire drill. To be awakened in this way is the reverse of pleasant, but the feeling of security that the girls have in the knowledge that the danger of a fire tragedy is reduced to a minimum more than makes up for the discomfort of the drill.

PUTREFACTION IS LIFE.

Putrefaction is probably not death, but the contrary—the life that follows death or a sort of resurrection. The laws of conservation, and of conversion apply to vital as well as to inorganic forces. (Fermentation or putrefaction is a vital process, reciprocally generated by and generating inconceivable millions of impalpable organisms, which charge the atmosphere and are everywhere at work, transmuting dead organisms into elementary living ones—and why not passing on the vital activity into higher forms?)

DENMARK'S CROWN.

It is one of the peculiarities of the laws of Denmark that the crown must be worn by a Christian and a Frederick alternately. The system originated with Christian II, who reigned from 1513 to 1523; and was succeeded by Frederick I.

CHINA HAS A GREAT ARMY

SHOWS THE MARVELOUS EFFECT OF RECENT TRAINING.

Skill and Discipline Exhibited in Addition to Valor—Veteran European Commanders Shake Their Heads Over the Question of Invasion.

The stiff fight put up by the Chinese forces about Peking and Tien-Tsin, whether by the Boxers, or the regular troops, has opened the eyes of European and American writers, who, remembering the ease with which "Chinese Gordon," marched across the empire with less than 10,000 men, had imagined that the allied armies would have an equally easy time. We are now awakening to the fact that since the Gordon invasion German, Japanese and Russian officers, who have been timely employed drilling the natives, have made good fighters out of fanatics—always easy to do if you know the trick. In consequence of this the veteran commanders in charge of the various contingents of the Powers on the scene are moving with great caution. If the few beleaguered foreigners in the coast cities can be saved, they will consider themselves exceedingly fortunate, while as to proposals of an invasion, of the interior the Generals are dubiously shaking their heads.

SUBJUGATION NO EASY MATTER. The subjugation of the Chinese Empire is not to be a matter of a moment, even if the Powers come to any certain agreement as to apportionment and action. The empire will put up a good fight and is overwhelmingly the stronger in point of numbers. Supposing that the Chinese Empire armed in the same proportion as do other states, the army of the yellow men would be incomparably the largest in the Eastern Hemisphere. Russia stands next, then comes France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and, finally, the tiny standing army of England. Above them all towers the Yellow Giant with an army of no less than 5,000,000, or the population of London. Fancy 5,000,000 fighting men! The idea is appalling. This is the size of the army which China would possess if she armed her population in the same proportion as do the Powers. In France there is one soldier to every eighty inhabitants. A similar proportion in China gives the above.

STAGGERING RESULT.

Supposing that the inhabitants of the Flowery Land were to be roused from their torpor and imbued with a military spirit and a desire of conquest, what could Europe do to keep these myriads of armed men within their own borders? Why, all the armies of Europe put together would total up to a number far, far below the strength of the Mongolian hosts.

Happily, the Chinese are not a warlike nation as the pitiable performances of the Imperial troops before the redoubtable "Boxers" testify at the present time, repeating the lesson of the Sino-Japanese war. Mr. Harold Gort, an English war correspondent of note, in his informing book on "China" refers to the Mongolian "army" as "a mere disordered rabble, who took to their heels and scarcely paused to fire a few pebbles out of their antiquated matchlocks." This does not sound very formidable and when we remember that the Celestial soldier is in a chronic state of almost mutinous discontent, by reason of very much deferred pay, our contempt for the pitiable heathen as a fighter becomes intensified. The Chinese army is really composed of peasants and laborers, who give their spare moments—if they have any—to military exercises. . . . A thorough drill is under these circumstances out of the question, and the exercises which are indulged in are better calculated to develop a body of muscular athletes than an army of trained soldiers. Playing catch with dummies, marching on parade, blowing calls and signals, bawling words of command, are the chief items of drill in the Chinese army. There is little target practice, because it is considered a waste of money to expend powder and shot in times of peace.

Yet, despite lack of discipline, the teeming millions of China, if armed, would be more formidable than at first sight appears, and recent events have proved that they are learning some formidable tricks from their teachers.

A RUSH OF VISITORS.

Mistress—Did any one call while I was out?
Bridget, the new housemaid—Yis, mum; foive leddies an' two gentlemen.
Mistress—Where are their cards?
Bridget—There was no need o' thim lavin' any.
Mistress—Why not, I should like to know?
Bridget—Oi was at home.
Mistress—You?
Bridget—Yis, mum. They called on me, mum.

MOTOR FIRE ENGINE.

The new motor fire-engine of the Paris Municipality is doing excellent work. It carries six men and travels at the rate of 13 miles an hour.

LING CHEE.

The Highest Form of the Chinese Executioner's Art.

Executing is a favorite amusement in China, and the ceremony of Ling Chee is the height of the executioner's art. First, the criminal is bound to a cross, and, as the wretch with bulging eyeballs looks upon the scene in horror, the gentleman upon whom devolves the principal work advances with drawn sword. Possibly the offence was a light one, or it may be that the wretch has obtained partial remission, in which case he will have the felicity of being killed in eight strokes instead of 24—or possibly 72. At the first stroke the executioner nimbly whisks off one of the eyebrows so neatly as scarcely to draw blood. Hey, Presto! off comes the other. With a slight horizontal sweep he slashes a shoulder clean from the body, performing a like operation on the other side a moment later. Then the breasts are similarly treated, and with a lunge forward quick as lubricated lightning the executioner plunges his weapon into the victim's heart. After that all that remains is to decapitate the lifeless and maybe still quivering body, and the execution is complete.

This is the lightest form, of Ling Chee. When, however, full Ling Chee is performed it is a lengthened business, and the various operations of the executioner are watched as keenly by the onlookers as is a great actor in a new part on a first night. He rises to the occasion feeling that much is required of him. When he has removed the breasts as in the first method he has still a long and expert carving operation before him till the moment when he shall dispatch the wretch; each forearm, then each upper arm, then a slash from each thigh followed by dexterous slashes at each calf, and finally after the heart has been pierced, the hands, feet and other parts all come under distinct operations.

Minor offenders guilty of rebellion or murder may get off with strangulation. Crucifixion takes place, but the victim is left to die with a string tied tightly around his throat.

SPEAKING TO KINGS.

How Rulers Are Addressed By Their Humble Servants.

The simple title Madame—reduced, in practice, to Ma'am—is all that serves, between Queen Victoria and her court, to mark the former's dignity as the ruler of a world-wide Empire. Had Britain a king, he would be no more than Sir, the old French form of sir, sacred to royalty, the term Your Majesty is only for servants and ceremonial occasions.

There are few other courts where this wholesome simplicity prevails. The Emperor of Germany is Majestät, there is no pronoun in the title even to his family, except when in absolute privacy. The Emperor of Austria is Eure Majestät, at all times and under all circumstances; the King of Greece is Votre Majesté—French being the court language, and the King of Sweden, is Ers Majestät. Their royal consorts are addressed with the same formality.

Only at courts of Belgium and Italy may the sovereign be greeted as Sir or Madame, though the etiquette of the Russian court permits it when the French language is being used. When Russian is being spoken, Nicholas II. is to his courtiers and officials Czar—employed, like the Prussian Majestät, without a pronoun. To the lips of a Russian peasant, face to face with his sovereign, the time-honored Little Father, or Little Mother would spring, as would Excellence, to those of an Italian—that melodious southern tongue having no other equivalent for Majesty.

It should be noticed in passing, that not even their most privileged courtiers may speak to monarchs unless they are spoken to. This piece of etiquette does not work out quite so stiffly as might be expected; once embarked on a conversation remarks and opinions may be offered with a due amount of tact. But only the sovereign can draw this or that courtier into his immediate circle or otherwise set the conversational ball rolling. Also, if the person, when first spoken to, be not seated, as, for instance, at dinner, it is his duty to bow, or, if a lady is the favored one, to curtsy. An officer in uniform does not bow, or, for the matter of that, salute either, instead he straightens up like the proverbial ramrod.

CHANCE FOR MANUFACTURERS.

The Bavarian Government has just set aside the city ordinance preventing the use of automobiles on the streets of Munich. This opens up one of the best German cities for manufacturers of horseless vehicles of every sort, and wide awake agents should be promptly sent to this field, so promising because of the large class of wealthy residents. Munich is the third largest city in the German Empire. The streets are well paved, bicycles are popular and horses dear.

EYEBROWS AND INSANITY.

It is said that irregular eyebrows are an indication of insanity.

THE AFRIKANDER BOND.

Methods by Which It Proposed to Bring About a United South Africa.

In view of the frequent references that have been made in the news from South Africa to the Afrikaner Bond, and of the influence which it exercises as an organization in the politics of the Cape Colony, a brief account of its programme and constitution will be of special interest.

The first clause of its programme of principles contains an acknowledgment of the guidance of Providence in the destiny of countries and nations, and the aim, as given in the second, is, under the guidance of Providence, to form a pure nationality and to prepare the way for a united South Africa. The third, fourth and fifth clauses deal with the methods to be employed in bringing this about. They relate to agriculture, commerce, industry, labor, education and language, and aim at a firm union of the different European nationalities in South Africa. The rights of numbers, of property and of intellect are acknowledged, and purity of election politics is prescribed. Paragraph D in the fifth clause particularly insists on the right of the South African colonies to regulate their native questions themselves, and paragraph E clearly enunciates the principle that "foreign intervention with the local concerns of South Africa is inadmissible, thus squaring paragraph B of clause III, which reads: "To promote the self-dependence of South Africa."

In clause 6 the Bond acknowledges the existing Governments and its obligations toward them, but considers that they also have duties which they are bound to perform for the common welfare and the promotion of the interests of South Africa. In the seventh and last clause the Afrikaner Bond announces itself as a self-dependent party ready to co-operate with all others when it can do so without violation of principles.

The general constitution provides for the formation of local bonds in the different States and colonies of South Africa, and details in ten clauses with sub-sections the manner of organizing and working them.

The Provincial Constitution for the Cape Colony deals with all matters of organization, finances and representation, in the Colonial Legislature, in fourteen articles with sub-sections.

The aim of Bond was, in view of the rapid increase and preponderance of the native element in the population, to unite the white races with the ultimate intention of forming a South African nationality, to lead in time by a natural process to the establishment of the United States of South Africa. It was to put a stop to the progress of this advanced idea that the suppression of the independence of the two republics was determined on by the British Government, and the reduction of the colonies and States of South Africa to the condition of crown colonies is to be brought about.

AUSTRIA'S MURDERERS.

Austria is the country most lenient to murderers. In 10 years over 800 persons were found guilty of murder, of whom only 23 were put to death.

OCEAN'S BOTTOM.

Recent studies of the ocean bottom near the coast line of continents have shown that rivers of considerable size sometimes enter the sea beneath the surface.

OOM PAUL'S SCARE.

On notable occasions Paul Kruger wears a big Major General's scarf over his coat, decorated with the Prussian order of the Red Eagle of the Fourth Class and a Portuguese medal.

The strike at Rotterdam now involves 12,000 men.

The Shah of Persia is visiting the Czar at St. Petersburg.

Seven terrific earthquake shocks took place on Sunday last at Caracas, Venezuela, doing great damage to the buildings.

There were 9,928 cases of cholera in the famine districts in India during the week ending July 7, of which 6,474 were fatal.

Trouble between British subjects and Venezuelans is on the increase at Ciudad, Bolivar, according to a Kingston, Jamaica, despatch.

The sister of Edmund Rostand, the French dramatist, was robbed of jewelry worth \$24,000. Burglars broke into her country residence.

The last living descendant of Sir Francis Drake has been discovered in New Zealand. Mrs. John Angelo nee Drake, the wife of a settler.

Byonets had to be drawn on Newfoundland strikers in order to unload the cargo of the schooner Hector McGregor at Belle Isle, Nfld.

The London Express Lorenzo Marquez correspondent sends the sad news that Kruger has had his hair cut and his whiskers shaved off.

A Kingston, Jamaica, despatch says that after investigation nearly half the militia who volunteered for service in Ashanti were rejected.

Interesting Items.

SPEAKING IN PARABLES.

What sort of a table do they set at your house? asked the prospective boarder.

Table of waits and measures, said Asbury Peppers, in reply. The first long, and the latter short.

PEARLS IN COCOANUTS.

In the cocoanut palms of the Philippine Islands small pearls have been found, which, like the true pearls, are composed of carbonate of lime. Opals have also been found in the joints of the bamboo.

MERELY JUDICIOUS INVESTMENT.

Angelina, you are spending a big lot of money on artistic dyes for your stationery.

Well, what of it? If I ever get to the poor house I'll have something to prove that I've seen better days.

WRAPT IN THOUGHT.

The best case of absent-mindedness of which we have lately heard was that of a famous professor. While he was crossing the street a watering cart let its flood loose upon him. The professor quietly raised his umbrella and walked through two streets before he discovered that the sun was shining.

NOT HIS FAULT.

You married me for my money! she exclaimed.

Oh, well, he replied soothingly, don't blame me. I couldn't get it any other way, you know.

CHINESE NEWS BEARERS.

According to the ancient practice of Oriental monarchs, the Chinese Emperor rewards those who bring him good news, and punishes those who bring bad news.

A VICTOR.

I understand he had the best of the debate, said one statesman.

Yes, answered the other. He made everybody so sleepy they couldn't talk back.

INTERNAL EVIDENCE.

I wish I knew what woman wrote this book.

How do you know a woman wrote it at all?

It's style is so hideously masculine.

HUMAN BONES.

The bones of a human being will bear three times as great a pressure as oak and nearly as much as wrought iron, without being crushed.

A DISTINCTION OF TERMS.

Aren't you going to give any entertainments of any kind this summer?

No, answered Miss Cayenne. As a social rule we don't give. We merely receive.

LOVE OF CHANGE.

Milliner—This hat will last you several seasons, Miss Flyhigh.

Miss Flyhigh—Oh, I don't want that kind of a hat; show me one that won't be fit to be seen in about four weeks.

FLAX INDUSTRY.

New Zealand's flax industry has revived and flourished exceedingly, owing to the war in the Philippines having shortened the output of Manila fibre.

AN ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIAN.

Aunt: "How are you getting on with your music?"

Niece: "Well, of course, it wouldn't be proper for me to compliment myself; but some of the neighbours have told me that they have stayed awake at night for hours listening to my playing."

INVITATION NOT TO BE ACCEPTED.

Doesn't that look inviting? she asked as she finished arranging the sofa pillows.

Well, I should think it did, he replied as he made a move in that direction.

No, no, no, she interposed; you mustn't do that. It's only one of those formal invitations, you know, that's never to be accepted.

NOT WORTH HAVING.

No; he'll never propose, she said with a sigh.

Why do you say that? asked her dearest friend.

We went rowing in the moonlight last evening, and he just rowed and rowed.

Never let the boat drift at all? Never once.

Oh, well, in that case, I should say he hasn't sense enough to be worth having anyway.

WORN BY QUEEN ELIZABETH.

It is not often that a woman is able to array herself in any fabric which 300 years ago was the property of a queen of England. The Countess of Pembroke had, however, this proud privilege at a recent drawing room, when her magnificent white and silver gown and light peach velvet train were trimmed with old point de Flandre which had once belonged to and had been worn by Queen Elizabeth. It is in admirable preservation, and consists of deep flounces, partly of floral design, and also displaying a terrace walk with birds on pedestals—quaint and curious.

Gloom and I

GIVE WAY TO VIGOR HAPPINE

An Attack of La G. Sufferer Weak, Enfeebled—A Victim and Heart Trouble.

Naturally every whom help is promised the remedy been successful has it helped? We answer these questions listing testimonials grateful people who as other sufferers may experience. One of ones is Mrs. Douglas Station, Ont. Mrs. "Three years ago I had an attack of la grippe, I left me in an extreme nervous and enfeebled nervousness was so almost resulted in St. Sleep forsook me. I of heart trouble, and endured were something had no appetite, and fading away; I was about the house and I could scarcely lift a was treated by a G. with no benefit. Al resorted to patent medicine several one after another disappointed by each, this condition until when a friend prevailed Dr. Williams' P began taking them, the pills helped me my strength gradually continued the use of ing to directions under eight boxes when I entirely returned, m splendid, the hear nervousness had ce blessing of sleep, o again returned. I thirty pounds in weight to do all my house In fact I had received life. I believe my cu as more than a year and I feel so strong venture to say there woman in this section enjoying better health for twenty years, a brought about by Williams' Pink Pills cannot say enough I believe they save son has also received benefit from the use of case of spring fever."

In The Jaws.

The gallant Major, S knocked senseless by a his arm. His thrilling jaws of death is only New Discovery for Cons saved thousands from de Lung troubles. "All d would die of Consump Overstreet, of Elgin, wonderful medicine co and saved her life, guaranteed by J. E. trial bottles free. Lar \$1.00.

You have a fine portrait, Miss Myrtill lovely? Every last one somebody I know.

Read It in

This is the age of br failure, of paralysis and You can read it in the you meet. Nervous d well on their own acc persistent use of Dr. Ch the only treatment th relied upon to stop t which saps vitality fr Chase's Nerve Food cre revitalizes the nerve cures all nervous disea

There was a vacant se Willie allowed the str although he looked very my little gentleman, you not take the seat; quite weary. So'd you yer father found out y mine did.

Bicyclists, young or bottle of Pain-Killer. I It cures cuts and wou quickness. Avoid sub one Pain-Killer, Perry I

Mother—Miss Catho voice, and you know it her to sing for Mr. Ric See that mirror in front. Well Mr. Richello sits, he can see her face. whitewashed chimpanzee

Children

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