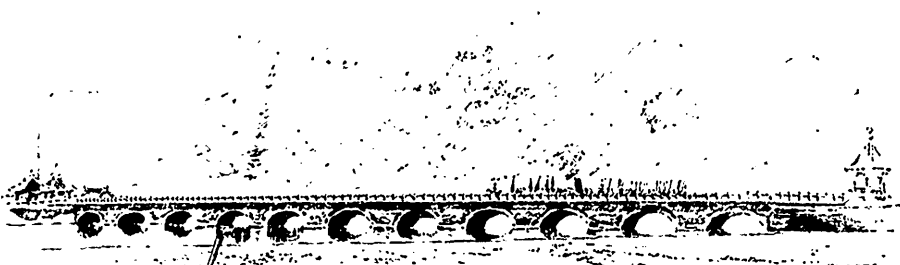


Methodist Magazine and Review.

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CHINA IN TRANSITION.



MARCO POLO BRIDGE IN PEKIN.

We see going on under our very eyes one of the most extraordinary movements that the world has ever witnessed. The great empire of

China, which is estimated to contain one-third of the human race, has been for centuries the symbol of arrested development and immobile stability. Four thousand years ago it had reached a civilization almost as great as that which it possesses to-day. China has a consecutive history, dating back two thousand years, and more, before the Christian era, when it had an elective monarchy. The names and dates of fifty-eight monarchs before Romulus founded Rome are extant. "Its authentic annals reach back beyond Abraham. It was substantially what it is now— and what it had been for three thousand years—when the shores of Britain echoed the first war-cry of our invading barbaric fathers."

"The history of Rome," says Dr. Gracey, "is compassed by about a thousand years. But China has had a settled form of government for forty centuries. Ancient Turanian and Aztec nations, Greece, Rome, Persia, Assyria, and Babylon, have risen, culminated and declined, while the Chinese government has survived through thirty changes of dynasty. China was consolidated as a government B.C. 1088, and substituted her present form of government for the feudal two hundred and twenty years before Christ, thus emancipating her people from the feudal system before the Christian era. The half-dozen nomadic tribes from the region of the Caspian Sea, who settled in the basins drained by the Yellow and Yangtse rivers, are to-day the greatest multitude of people gathered under one government to be found on the face of the globe, and Peking (till last August) the oldest existing capital of any country.

"A thousand years before Romulus dreamed of building the Seven-Hilled City the Chinese were a peaceful and prosperous