

RAILWAYS AND TELEGRAPHS IN CHINA.

We find from the remarks of an intelligent correspondent of the *Times*, residing at Shanghai, that during the past twelve months China has had a rude waking up. Hurried into a position of unmeaning defiance by the Chauvinism of hot-headed patriots, her statesmen, or those of them at the head of the provincial executive, were compelled, to justify brave words, to put the army on a war footing and the country in a state of defence. At every step their efforts were paralyzed by the want of those ordinary means of communication, the railway and the telegraph. To the advantages of these they had for years been keenly alive; but in deference to the old ladies of the Palace and their advisers, the dolts of the Academy, they had tried to do without them. The occasional reformer and the enterprising foreigner alike lost heart when they were told, even by officials of intelligence, that there was no hurry, and that men are just as happy travelling three miles an hour in a sedan chair as they are hurrying along fifty miles an hour in a train. So long as China drifted in the time-honoured grooves, adherence to the traditions of the past produced no extraordinary inconvenience. The want of roads and the difficulty and tardiness of inland communication were not felt in a country whose people knew nothing better, whose rulers preferred the ills they knew to those which the inventions of barbarian ingenuity might entail, and whose philosophers regarded the decay of public works and the silting up of rivers as the natural evolution of things, which, being sent by heaven, ought not to be interfered with. But last summer there came a time when there was hurry, and when men in sedan chairs were no longer happy. An army of defence had to be collected on short notice to repel an enemy who was at the gates of China. The officials charged with the task strained every nerve to get troops together, but they had the mortification of finding out that by their own folly in willfully shutting their eyes to improvements in other countries, or in refusing to give practical effect to the knowledge they possessed, they had shut the door to their own efforts and energies, and were impotent to utilize the force of men which the rulers of China might have had at their command. The one foreign novelty which they had allowed the introduction of—Chinese steamers of foreign type—was all they had to depend on, while their own antique methods were hopelessly inefficient. It was a bitter lesson.

Although the necessity for these preparations has passed away, there are signs on every hand that the experience gained will bear immediate fruit. I can write, I am happy to say, in a more hopeful strain than at any time during the past ten years, of the probability of a speedy introduction on an extensive scale of both telegraphs and railways. Regarding the former, I wrote last September, that the advisers of the Emperor, giving way to the pressing entreaties of the heads of the provincial Governments intrusted with the national defence, had sanctioned the creation of telegraph lines at once between the capital, Tientsin, and Shanghai, and that his Excellency Li Hung-chang had in consequence set about their construction, and had arranged with the Great Northern Telegraph Company for their working in the first instance. Material is now being imported and poles collected, and there is little doubt before the end of the year these lines will all be in working order. The utility of these for the purposes of Government alone, will be so marked that it does not require any gift of prophecy to foretell that in a very short time the system will be extended to all the great cities of the Empire. To railways, too, the attention of the Government is being earnestly directed by military officers, who have lately learnt that for purposes of defence they are even more useful than torpedoes and big guns. A proposal to connect the capital with Tientsin and the Yangtze by rail has been laid before the Throne by a most trusted general, and having been referred to the Governors-General of Chihli and at Nankin, it has been indorsed by their warm approval. But I hardly think the finances of China will permit her to embark on a scheme so extensive as this. All the money that she can scrape together from her impoverished exchequers or borrow from local banks will be required for the payment of the Russian indemnity. Although the highest figure at which rumour puts this is only 9,900,000 taels, even the raising of this small sum will tax the energies and the borrowing powers of the country. Were China to consent to give the requisite guarantee to Englishmen regarding construction and management, capital in plenty would be forthcoming for railways here. But these guarantees, with the newfangled ideas of sovereignty which diplomatists have furnished China with, and which in their Chinese dress are perilously like the arrogance of superiority, she is certain to refuse, and, without them, the purses of Lombard street will not be opened. However, a railway from Pekin to Tientsin would not be so very costly, and it is now quite probable that the Chinese will be allowed by their paternal Government to set about making it at once.

As far as the central Government is concerned, it should not be forgotten that the influential faction are acting in these matters on motives which had their origin in the fear of an invasion, and it is possible that as the fear is now dispelled, motives and actions may alike disappear. What is certain is that the events of the past few months, affording as they have done a clear

demonstration of the powerlessness of the country to avail itself of its resources for defence on any emergency, have brought mandarins to see that there are some things in earth not dreamt of in their philosophy. The pride of the whole official body has been deeply wounded, and wounded pride, a strong and abiding incentive, is driving Chinese officials who have been for years the most inveterate opponents of railways in this country, not only to unite with merchants in an outspoken desire for the improvement of inland communication by their general introduction, but to press such a reform as immediate on the rulers of the day. Their proposals, if not listened to, will become demands; the Government must inevitably yield; and China will at no distant date, if not immediately, take a new departure.

ECHOES FROM PARIS.

THE Duc d'Aumale has sold his mansion, 129 Faubourg Saint-Honoré, for 2,050,000fr. cash down.

AN exhibition of original designs for Punch by Du Maurier, Keene and others, is now open at the galleries of *L'Art* in Paris. The humor and fun of the British comic journal seem to be fully appreciated by the French, though most Englishmen are unable to appreciate the less-refined wit of the French *Charivari*.

AN echo in Paris from the Vienna wedding festivities relates that at the grand gala dinner the Prince of Wales kept up a lively conversation with Princess Clementine, the youngest daughter of the King of the Belgians, jestingly remarking after a while: "One of these days, Clementine, we shall all come together again to celebrate your wedding." The young Princess blushed and turned abashed to her father. The Prince followed her eye and said, apologetically: "I beg your pardon, Leopold; who knows but she may yet be my daughter-in-law!" To which the King nodded smilingly.

HERE is a toilet seen in the trousseau of Mlle. Henriette de Nerona, who is to marry the Vicomte d'Humieres: a cashmere dress, *chèreuse-dela-reine* collar, with a satin front covered with *ecru* embroidery. A peasant's fichu of the same kind of satin trimmed with embroidery done by the hand and passed under the belt. This fichu can be changed at will, and replaced by others suitable to the weather. Another costume in *bee-coloured* satin—brown and gold—a coat in *morose* velvet cloth with the tails turned back like the uniform of the Voltigeurs of the Republic, and trimmed with cords with steel ends. This is to be worn on cool mornings.

THE Hotel de Ville is gradually emerging from its outer bandages, so to speak, of scaffolding and plaster, and though its advance towards completion is not quite so rapid as might be desired, yet at present the general aspect which the new edifice will bear may be discerned. The monumental staircases are laid out, the iron framework is put up, the roofs are already on, and an army of three hundred sculptors are at work on the multitudinous ornaments and carvings of the façade. The new Hotel de Ville buildings will have a quadrangular form, with a pavilion at each one of the four corners; two other pavilions on the façade, which will then be separated into three even parts; two other pavilions facing towards the Place Lobau, being eight pavilions in all. On the façade of the Avenue Victoria will be a large entrance hall, similar to that on the side of the Caserne Lobau. In the centre will be two courtyards to the right and left, and between these two courtyards, on the first storey, a large covered hall, which will so to speak, be framed in by four staircases leading up to it. The Salle des Fêtes, where will be revived those Hotel de Ville balls which in the former building were so brilliant, will be situated on the side of the Place Lobau. The Prefect of Paris will inhabit that part of the building which "gives" on the quay, while the principal wing of the façade will be assigned to the use of the Municipal Council.

MISCELLANY.

CONSULATE DECLINED.—No, we are not a candidate for the Consulate at the Bifandovlandloosha Ghalba. We were, we admit that. But, learning that the last Consul was served up on toast at a State dinner, while the one before him was served raw at an informal lunch, we have withdrawn our acceptance of the appointment, in order to relieve President Garfield from complicating appointments, and leave the field clear to an Ohio man.—*San Francisco News Letter*.

IN California they are seeking to limit imprisonment for life to the expectation of life of the culprit, as determined by the tables of mortality in use by life insurance companies. By this mode, is a criminal sentenced to imprisonment for life should live up to the period of expectation, he would be liberated. This would mitigate the life sentence in many cases, and give the unfortunates a chance. It is a novel application of the doctrine of the expectation of life.

WHEN Queen Victoria entertained the late Czar, shortly after the marriage of his daughter

to the Duke of Edinburgh, gold plate to the value of \$10,000,000 was used. Here's where kings and czars have the bulge on editors. If we were to dine with the Queen we don't suppose she would place any more than \$2,500,000 worth of gold plate on the table. But when it comes to free passes for a circus the editor is ahead.—*San Francisco News Letter*.

THE University of Pavia, justly proud of a tradition to the effect that Christopher Columbus studied the art of navigation within its walls, is about to erect a monument in its library to the memory of the great seaman. This monument is to have the shape of a pyramid; a small jar containing some of his ashes will be placed inside, and the mausoleum will bear the following Latin inscription:

"Reliquias hic Christopheri admiræ Columbæ Ignotum mundum cui reperisse datum."

IN the Bray Chapel at St. George's Chapel, where the memorial to the late Prince Imperial has just been erected, two figures of angels, sculptured in white marble, have been placed in the niches on each side of the central window of the south wall. The statuettes are about three feet high, and face the recumbent figure of Prince Napoleon, which lies beneath upon the sarcophagus in the centre of the little chapel. The figure on the right clasps a wreath of *immortelles* on its breast, while that on the left holds a skull in its hands. Both statuettes are finely sculptured and greatly improve the appearance of the Bray Chapel.

MR. O'BANNAN tells the following story of a Turkish physician:

Called into a case of Typhus, the doctor examined the patient, an upholsterer, prescribed and departed. Passing the house the next day, he inquired of a servant at the door if his master were dead. To his astonishment he learned that he was much better. Indoors he went to learn from the convalescent that being very thirsty, he drank a painful of pickled cabbage juice.

Soon afterward a dealer in embroidered handkerchiefs, seized with the same malady, sent for the physician, who forthwith ordered him to take a painful of pickled cabbage juice. The man died next day, and the doctor wrote in his memorandum book the following:

"Although in cases of typhus, pickled cabbage juice is an efficient remedy, it is not to be used unless the patient is by profession an upholsterer."

THEY do order those things better, or at least differently, in China than here, as witness the following extract from the *Pekin Gazette* of March 10th: "The Governor-General of Szechuen solicits the bestowal of a mark of Imperial approbation upon a young lady, 18 years of age, who starved herself to death upon the burial of her betrothed. The deceased died when she was only fourteen years of age, and it was only on the earnest exhortation of her parents that she did not then destroy herself. In deference to their prayers she desisted, but from that time forward she fasted continually, and spent her time in religious exercises. When the remains of her betrothed were about to be removed to their native place, she refused to take any sustenance and died. Honours are also solicited for the other females who have displayed their filial piety by self-mutilation."

DUMAS puts as a financier: One fine morning a shoemaker calls upon him to dun him for a 300-franc bill.

"I haven't any money to-day," says the author.

"No money!" echoes the shoemaker. "That is all very well for you to say, but here I am losing my time running after you. You don't think of that."

"I do," replies Dumas, "and as I don't wish to put you to any further loss on my account, here are 10 francs to pay for your time."

The fierce creditor retires; returns two days later; receives 10 francs for his trouble and loss of time; returns the third morning afterwards and gets 15 (it being a rainy day), and so on.

By punctuality and strict attention to business, the tradesman had received 360 francs from the author of *Monte Cristo* within the next three months, and Dumas' boot-bill remained unpaid.

A GOOD story was told *apropos* of a noble lord who was recently returning from the races. In the adjoining compartment were eight book-makers who, cleaned out by successive failures, were travelling without tickets, hoping by a turn of good luck to escape payment. At last one of them during a stoppage hit upon a brilliant idea. Pulling his cap down over his eyes and buttoning his coat he went to the carriage of the noble lord and his friends, and, assuming an official air, collected all their tickets. These he distributed among his own friends, and on the train reaching London the noble lord had a narrow escape of seeing himself and his friends taken into custody for attempting to defraud the railway company, for despite their assurances the officials declined to believe that anyone had been audacious enough to collect these passengers' tickets. The thing was too absurd. It was only by paying their fare a second time that the noble lord and his friends escaped from the clutches of the railway servants.

WRITES a Paris correspondent: Whether you live at the Barrière d'Enfers, or at the Bati-gnolles, at the Place du Trône, or the Trocadéro, you are pretty sure, towards nine o'clock in the morning, to be aroused by the long-drawn-out "*Ma bott' d'asperg's! Ma bott' d'asperg's!*" which some stout-lunged woman is bawling un-

der your window. One morning, Berton, the director of the Academy of Music in 1768, was startled at hearing the traditional "*Ma bott' d'asperg's!*" sung out, not in the ordinary *re*, but several notes higher. He ran to the window, looked out, and saw and heard a tall, well-built, intelligent-looking country fellow shouting the familiar street-cry. He called him. "Do you know, my boy, that you have a remarkably powerful voice? Are you never tired?" "Tired" ejaculated the vendor of asparagus. "Well, now! Why, it's to unbend a bit that I sing out so loud." "Do you wish to be engaged at the Opera?" "I have no objections." "To-morrow you shall have masters." The humble street crier became the famous Etienne Lainez, who charmed the ladies of 1770 as much as Sel-lier does the ladies of to-day.

THE English House of Commons, it is well known, has an elaborate ritual of the hat, and the other evening the Premier ignored it and came signally to grief. The Chairman of Committee was proceeding in the usual course, at the end of a discussion on the Land Bill, to "put the question," and order the House to be cleared for a division, when the Premier unexpectedly rose in his place and attempted to address the House. All Mr. Gladstone wanted to say was to propound a point of order. But the interposition of the Prime Minister at this unusual period was greeted with shouts from the Opposition, and counter-cries of support from the Ministerial benches. It was not only that Mr. Gladstone was addressing the Committee after its Chairman had already put the question, but he was guilty of the still more dreadful Parliamentary offence of speaking at such a juncture without his hat on. When a division has once been authoritatively ordered, the theory is that the House is no longer sitting, and therefore it behoves honourable members to make any remarks that they wish to utter, to without rising in their places or going through the polite ceremonial of uncovering their heads. Mr. Gladstone's hat, however, was not to be found, and consequently the Premier was some minutes before he could respond to the wishes of the House: when he did rise to speak, he was temporarily arrayed in the head-gear appertaining to Sir Farrer Herschell, Her Majesty's Solicitor-General, and, this being too small for the massive brain of the Premier, the incident naturally created merriment in the House, in which Mr. Gladstone himself joined. The event will probably not become historical, like the great hat scene in the German Parliament some eighteen years back, when the President, Herr von Bochum-Dolfs, threatened the disorderly Von Roon that he would "have his hat brought" to which the Minister of War replied defiantly, "I have nothing in the world to say against your hat being brought," but it shows the innate respect still existing in the House of Commons for those time-honoured customs which have gathered round its most ordinary proceedings.

HUMOROUS.

WHY are sailors like pugilists?—Because they are at home on the spar.

A MANUFACTURING wire-worker, in an advertisement, invites the public to come and see his wire-fence.

THE inhabitants of the Cannibal Islands have discovered trichina in an American missionary. This is a sad blow at one of the country's leading exports.

CANDID!—He (speaking): "Why should I fear to sip the sweets of each red lip?" She (speaking): "No necessity for alarm at all! I use a vegetable colour which is not poisonous!"—*Punch*.

CONJUGAL.—Monsieur: "Do I make the law in my own house, or do I not? Answer me!" Madame: "Possibly; but nothing shall hinder me from presenting amendments."

A FIRM at Cawnpore has contracted to supply boots for the army. Let us hope that in the making of them the firm will consider the soldier's pore-crowder.

SUCH A PROUD MOMENT, Too!—Proud father: "Oh—er—I wish to register the birth of a daughter." Registrar: "No, no; you must go back, my boy, and tell your father to come himself!"—*Funny Folks*.

FWED.—"Haw—what do you do with yourself to-night, dear boy?" Algy—"Nothing, and—er—precious little of that. Fact is, these light days it gets late so awfully early!"

IT was an Oxford student who, on being asked "Who was Egan?" replied: "Egan was a man who wrote fables, and sold his copyright for a mess of potash."

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The location is convenient to the principal railway stations, steamboat wharves, leading wholesale houses and Parliament Buildings. This hotel commands a fine view of Toronto Bay and Lake Ontario, rendering it a pleasant resort for tourists and travellers at all seasons.

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