

CHINESE INNS.

Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D.

Our nights were usually spent in the native hosteries. Chinese inns do not impoverish even the economical traveler. Our bill for our tiffin stop was usually 100 small cash, a little less than three cents, for our entire party of about a score of men and animals. For the night, the common charge was 700 cash, about twenty cents. Travelers are expected to provide their own food and bedding, and to pay a small sum extra for the rice and fodder used by their servants and mules, but even then the cost appears ridiculously small to a foreigner. Still the most thoroughly seasoned traveler can hardly consider a Chinese inn a comfortable residence. It is simply a rough, one-story building enclosing an open courtyard. The rooms are destitute of furniture except occasionally a rude table. The floor is the beaten earth, foul with the use of scores and perhaps hundreds of years. The windows are covered with oiled paper, which admits only a dim light and no air at all. The walls are begrimed with smoke and covered with cobwebs. Across the end of the room is the inevitable sang—a brick platform under which the cooking fire is built and on which the traveler squats by day and sleeps by night. The unhappy white man who has not been prudent enough to bring a box with him feels as if he were sleeping on a hot stove with "the lid off."

There is no privacy in a Chinese inn, the doors, when there are any, being innocent of locks and keys, while the Chinese guests as well as the innkeeper's family and the people of the neighborhood have an inquisitiveness that is not in the least tempered by bashfulness. But nothing was ever stolen, though some of our supplies must have been attractive to many of the poverty-stricken men who crowded about us. On one occasion an inn employee who was sent to exchange a bank note for cash, did not return. There was much excited jabbering, but Mr. Laughlin firmly though kindly held the innkeeper responsible, and that worthy had admitted that he knew who had taken the money and refunded it. He was probably in collusion with the thief. This was our only trouble of the kind, though we slept night after night in the public inns with all our goods lying about wholly unprotected. Occasionally, especially in the larger towns, there was a night watchman. But he was an uneducated nuisance to convince his employers that he was awake, he frequently clapped together two pieces of wood. All night long that strident creak, clack, clack resounded every few seconds. It is an odd custom; for, of course, it advertises to thieves the location of the watchman.

The inns between Ichau-fu and Chung-chou, in the Siantung Province, were the poorest I saw, and a man has dropped in one of them, he has been fairly incited into the discomforts of traveling in China. But wherever one goes, the heat and smoke and bad air, together with the vermin which literally swarms on the kang and floor and walls, combine to make a night in a Chinese inn an experience that is not easily forgotten. However, the foreign traveler soon learns.

One of the most notable conversions that has been made to Christianity in a long while, says the Lutheran Observer, is that of Nan Boon Pan, a prominent and well-known Siamese Buddhist priest who had ministered to the Laos King and Princes. The medical work of the American Presbyterian Mission Hospital was the instrumentality which proved the means of bringing him to recognize the truth of the religion of Jesus. He was treated there for a disease which was thought to be fatal, and with healing of the body, as in the time of the Master's ministry, came the healing of the soul.

50,000 PEOPLE SEE EASTERN CANADA.

G. T. R. Exhibition Car Travels 6,000 Miles, Attendance of 50,000.

The Grand Trunk Railway exhibition car, with pictorial views of Canada and trophies of the angler's art and hunter's craft, has nearly completed its three months' trip through the States, having travelled considerably more than 6,000 miles and drawn an aggregated attendance of 50,000 people in fifty-one American cities.

The crowds have been so great and the desire manifested to know about Canada so eager that the director of ceremonies has been at his wits' end to furnish accommodation.

The car is now travelling in New York State, and will move upward over the Lehigh Valley Railway, stopping at the principal cities between New York and Buffalo. It will finish its American tour on June 13. It will be brought over the Grand Trunk main line through Canada, stopping at Hamilton and Toronto, to Montreal, where it will be on exhibition to give the people an idea of the kind of advertising the Grand Trunk are doing for Canada, as well as giving them an opportunity of seeing what the "Highlands of Ontario" have to offer in the way of summer resorts.

The car has been all the way through the Southwestern States and the Mississippi Valley. From towns other than those on its line of route there have been received many written requests that they should be included in its itinerary. Whenever it was possible these requests were complied with. This is considered beyond all question the most successful advertising tour of its character that has been undertaken.

PITH OF SPEECHES ON CHURCH UNION.

Principal McLaren—The deliberations so far do not look to me like organic union, but rather the confession that it is impracticable.

Rev. J. Knox Wright—Where are we at?

President Forest—The amendment amounts to this, Let the work of the joint committees stop, for if it goes on, it might succeed.

Dr. Lyle—Our duty pertains to organization, not life; we are to develop life through organization.

Sir T. W. Taylor—When I was ordained to the eldership, I took a solemn vow to defend the same. Am I to break it for a phantom?

Dr. Duval—There is no other alternative to organic union but uneasy rivalry.

Dr. McMullen—The so-called basis is lamentably weak in doctrine, and does not contain anything like the orthodoxy of the Methodist Church.

Dr. Sedgwick—As a church, we have taken sweet counsel together, but this is the beginning of trouble. A Presbyterian I was born, and a Presbyterian I will die, is my motto.

Dr. Ramsay—Let us face the issue, Is organic union practicable. The facts say yes, rather than no.

Rev. J. A. McDonald—This is not a leap in the dark, but faith in God.

Mr. T. C. James—We should develop ourselves along our own line, not giving up, but holding fast to principles.

Dr. Campbell—This proposed union is more feasible than desirable.

Principal Falconer—This amendment is twenty years too late.

Principal Patrick, in closing—If this assembly meant anything two years ago, it was that in the event of union being found practicable, it was to be consummated.

News from Dr. Torrey, at Atlanta, tells of crowded audience rooms, of great plainness of speech, of hundreds seeking Christ, and of a city stirred in all its environs. Our prayer is with and for Dr. Torrey in Atlanta and elsewhere as God sends him.

KEEP CHILDREN WELL.

In thousands of homes throughout Canada there are bright, thriving children who have been made well and are kept well by the use of Baby's Own Tablets. In many homes parents say this medicine saved a precious little life. Dr. A. Daniels, I.D.S., Riviere du Loup, Que., says: "At the age of five months we thought our little girl dying. Nothing we did for her helped her until we gave her Baby's Own Tablets, and only those who have seen her can realize what a change this medicine has wrought in our child. She is now about eighteen months old, eats well, sleeps well, and is a lively, laughing child, and weighs 57 pounds. We always keep the Tablets in the house now for we know their great value." If mothers wish to feel absolutely sure they should keep a box of Baby's Own Tablets in the house always. They cure all the minor ailments of children and are absolutely safe. Sold by medicine dealers or sent by mail at 25 cents a box by writing The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

LORD'S DAY LEGISLATION.

The special committee on the Lord's Day Bill presented their report to the House of Commons. All labor or the employment of labor for gain, is prohibited, save as allowed in the proposed Act or by previous legislation of the provinces. Among the works of necessity that are permitted are anything that would be required, such as the repair of furnaces for the carrying on of industrial process of such a continuous nature that it cannot be stopped without serious injury to the produce, or to the property or plant used, or in without such work on the Lord's Day such process cannot be carried on continuously or safely.

When necessary work in connection with transportation has been allowed. Trains and vessels in transit when the Lord's Day begins may proceed. Work by the crews of railway yards is permissible up to six o'clock in the Sunday morning and after eight o'clock at night.

Any ocean-going vessel may be loaded or unloaded when otherwise would be unduly delayed in her schedule date of sailing, or any vessel which otherwise would be in imminent danger of being tied up by the closing of navigation.

The running of ferries is allowed, but Sunday excursions by steamer are prohibited. Bakers may set their sponge after 4 o'clock on Sunday.

In certain of the exceptions it is provided that the employee working on Sunday shall have his day off during the week.

Jews and Adventists who actually observe Saturday instead of Sunday, may work on Sunday, as long as they do not disturb others in their observance of the Lord's Day, and their places are not open to traffic.

Parks and places of amusement where a fee is charged must be closed.

The Minister of Justice proposed to add the following to the list of exceptions, but it did not carry in committee: Between 15th of September and close of lake navigation, carrying grain in trains loaded exclusively therewith; transshipping grain at lake or river ports and returning grain cars to shipping points. Loading and unloading at ocean ports and conveying, in trains loaded exclusively therewith, freight passing through Canada in bond from one foreign country to another. Any work which the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, having regard to the object of this Act, shall unanimously deem necessary to permit in connection with the freight traffic of any railway.

Prince Bernadotte, of Sweden, who has resigned his post as an admiral in the navy that he may have more time to devote to Christian work, visits the prisons, and does missionary and evangelistic work.

Forests of leafless trees may be met with in some parts of Australia. They respire through a little stem which apparently answers the same purpose as a leaf. The tree is known as "the leafless acacia."