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## CHINA'S NATIONAL LIFE

How It is Moulded by Literary  
en-Popular Reverence for  
Books and Learning.

Capricious Government a Bar to  
Social Progress—Extortions  
the Mandarins.

Letter to London Telegraph.

the Chinese homes the great

seem to be that the girls

must have small 7 et to win husbands

and the boys large brains to gain office.

To effect the one object the poor maid-

will undergo untold suffering;

to achieve the other the boys will show

exampled industry. In the government

of this unique country there seem to be

blended the two antagonistic principles

of absolutism and democracy. The head

of the state is an autocrat with unlimited

power; under him the real rulers of the

land form a supposed aristocracy of

gent. Every man of them, according

to theory, has sprung from the people,

and owes nothing to wealth or birth, but

everything to birth.

Beneath the Emperor you seem to have

an ideal commonwealth, in which you

find under existing conditions, you see a

system that admits of every form of ex-

ortion and tyranny, as far from the de-

ocratic form of government as the mind

can imagine. A native writer clenches

his argument that "the barbarians" in

this case the English are unfit to in-

struct the Chinese by the charge that

"they allow the rich and noble to enter

office without any literary examination

and do not throw open the road to ad-

vancement, as we do, to the poorest and

meanest in the land. For thirteen cen-

turies every Chinese lad, who was not

the son of an actor, jailer, executioner, or

outcast, has had free access to power.

He had only to stuff his memory with

and sixth, crystal and white shell; the

next two, gold and the ninth, silver.

Similarly, the birds on the back and

front of the robes are respectively in

rank the manchu crane, the pheasant,

peacock, wild goose, silver pheasant,

egret, mandarin duck, quail and jay.

The clasps also run from jade and gold

set in rubies, to worked gold, silver and

horn. For special services your great

man may be allowed to sport a peacock's

feather. The military mandarin is dis-

tinguished in like manner, only with

much less brilliancy.

Moreover, those who are the eyes,

hands and ears of the throne must not

hold office within two hundred miles of

their birthplace; they may not possess

property, nor, above all, marry a wife

in their district, and they are forbidden

to occupy the same post more than

three years. Then, also, etiquette does

not allow one of their class to go afoot.

As far back as the days of Confucius

that rule has prevailed. Some one sug-

gested to the philosopher that he might

be a little more lenient. "Nay," replied

the Master, "being a kwan, I may not go on foot." Lastly,

the philosopher asked, "Why are the

others exempt from torture—that fol-

est stain on the record of China, which

another four hundred years will not

erase from the escutcheon.

All these things make the office-holder

be the viceregent, governor, or magis-

trate, a supposed aristocracy of

gent. Every man of them, according

to theory, has sprung from the people,

and owes nothing to wealth or birth, but

everything to birth.

Beneath the Emperor you seem to have

an ideal commonwealth, in which you

"What do you wish me to do for you,

my good dame?"

"The fame of Your Honor has come

in advance. You always pity the needy,

and I have been told that you will give

every poor family a donkey."

"I shall think about that; but while

am thinking you may go and buy me

a pound of salt."

The good woman departs, and it ap-

pears on her return that she has had to

pay about three times the regulation

price. The shopkeeper is sent for and

the magistrate informs him, which he

hands over to the applicant, saying,

"Now go and buy your donkey."

I suspect that would be the model

magistrate for the Celestial mind, whe-

ther the fine were just or unjust. The

ordinary Chinaman has the basest idea

indeed, of the rights of the citizen.

His language has no terms for

it. When the last war with France

broke out, the President of the Tientsin

College was commissioned to draw

up a statement of international rights

for the use of the government. It then

appeared that there was not a syllable

in the whole vocabulary to convey the

idea of rights. Of duties and respon-

sibilities it was equally deficient. In

fact, the only word of a civil, national

and international rights never a

solitary word, and Dr. Williams, the

missionary, now part of the

language. The Chinese student of En-

glish history can understand what the

British Empire is, and he would

be the first to acknowledge it. But

he is not a native. He is a foreigner.

He is not a native. He is a foreigner.

He is not a native. He is a foreigner.

## RUSSIA'S POLICY IN CHINA.

What the Czar's Ambassadors Are Seeking to Accomplish.

Russian policy in China at the moment

may be said to be aimed in two entirely

opposite directions. The one affects

Manchuria; the other concerns the future

rather than the present. The latter is

an attempt to pave the way toward a

future accession to Muscovite influence

in the Celestial Empire. The recent

series of events in the Lia-tung Penin-

sula, unexpected though it was by peo-

ple in this country, was, nevertheless,

the outcome of a carefully conceived se-

ries of plans which were put in execution

at varying intervals ranging over a long

series of years. The steps which led up

to so vitally important, and, from a British

standpoint, so disastrous a denou-

ement, are not being repeated. It is a

series of events in the Lia-tung Penin-

sula, unexpected though it was by peo-

ple in this country, was, nevertheless,

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ries of plans which were put in execution

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ement, are not being repeated. It is a

series of events in the Lia-tung Penin-

sula, unexpected though it was by peo-

ple in this country, was, nevertheless,

the desire to express our confidence in

our government as advisers of Her Ma-

esty in this, one of the brightest stars in

the constellation of the East. Once more

welcome you to North Yalo.

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce

Association, we subscribe ourselves,

MRS. CLARK, Vice-president.

G. WENTWORTH SAREL, Sec.

Mr. Wm. McAllen is a nice young

man and means well. To be sure he

has a number of vices, but to his credit

but in time he will get over them. What

he needs just now more than any other

is a good sensible wife.—Conox News.

This from the Nanaimo Review is

rather severe on Joseph Martin, S. Perry

Mills and the other aspirants for the

attorney-generalship: "No, no, Mr. Smith

is too honest a man to be amongst the

fraternity of the law."

The government candidates for the

city will address a meeting at the school

house, Foul bay, to-morrow evening.

Hon. Mr. Eberts, the same evening, will

address a meeting at the Agricultural hall,

South Saanich.

Postmaster Brown has found that in

Cowichan as well as in the farming dis-

tricts of the Mainland, there are a

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How this small cry or call or signal is pro-

duced nobody understands. The major

portion of sounds in a hive is, of course,

caused by the vibration more or less rap-

idly of the wings of the bees. But whoever

has examined the delicate machinery with

which the grasshopper makes its chirp

would not be surprised to find that the

queen bee has also some peculiar contri-

ances by which she delivers what may be

called the royal speech on the one or two

great and signal occasions of her ex-

traordinary life.

We should, however, confine the subject

in the boundary of far to close a fancy if

it were imagined that sound was the only

way in which speech and intercourse may

pass among these humble creatures.