

## A Circulation Row.

"It is a good while since you were here last," I said to Blanco Watson when I met him in the smoking room the other evening.

"I have been traveling," he replied. "I have been to Peking, in fact."

"To Peking?"

"Yes, I wanted to see what the Chinese thought of the Chinese question."

"You found them very excited about it, I suppose?"

"Not at all. The secretaries of state had been instructed to grant all building leases applied for by European powers, and that was considered to have ended the question. I was disappointed."

During the time I was in Peking a certain cause celebre was the only subject of conversation. England, Germany, Russia and France were never mentioned.

"What was the cause celebre?"

"It was so purely local that an account of it would weary you. Yet perhaps not. Li-Hung-Chang shone in it, and that might make it interesting. You saw him when he was in London, I think?"

I nodded.

"You did?" he continued. "Very well, I will give you the account. I was in court throughout the trial and took full notes. But a brief summary will be all you want."

"It was a newspaper affair. For long the Tel-Le, a paper sold at a cash, had advertised that it had the largest circulation in the world. No one had disputed the statement, for the Tel-Le undoubtedly had the largest circulation in Peking, and Peking and the world were at that time held to be synonymous."

"But a year or two ago a paper called the Mi-Il appeared. Owing to its being but a half cash and to the gay youthfulness of its staff it became very popular. On the 1st of every month it contained an accountant's certificate as to the copies sold during the previous month. The figures steadily advanced, and the people began to talk of them in connection with the statement of the Tel-Le. At last the issue was made clear. In terms identical with those of the Tel-Le the Mi-Il advertised that it had the largest circulation in the world."

"You cannot imagine the sensation this caused. Those who subscribed to one of the two papers argued and fought with those who subscribed to the other."

Railway companies found it necessary to label some carriages 'The Tel-Le' and others 'The Mi-Il.' Preachers protested against the inconsistencies of the advertisements. Candidates for public office began their election addresses with a declaration as to which they believed. Mathematicians discussed the possibility of both papers having exactly the same circulation."

"Simultaneously the proprietors took action. Counsel representing the Tel-Le applied for an injunction restraining the Mi-Il from continuing its advertisement, and counsel representing the Mi-Il applied for an injunction against the Tel-Le. Li-Hung-Chang, the chief judge, announced that he would consider the two applications together and appointed a day for hearing the arguments."

"The day came. The excitement in Peking was extreme. It is probable that the court had not been so crowded since the famous trial of Bo-Bo and Ho-Ti for eating roast pig. Every available place was occupied. Mandarins of high rank stood in a corner of the reporters' box. The prettiest of the actresses of the Kik-O theater were on the bench beside Li-Hung-Chang. I myself, disguised in a wig and gown, sat with the members of the bar."

"The counsel for the Mi-Il was called upon first. He said his clients were confident that their paper had the largest circulation in the world. They welcomed the investigation. He had with him a statement showing the sales of the paper since the first number, every entry duly certified by a leading accountant. He handed it to Li-Hung-Chang and challenged comparison with a similar statement in respect of the Tel-Le."

"There was some applause at the end of the speech, but it was immediately suppressed by the usher. After threatening to behead for contempt of court anyone who interrupted again, Li-Hung-Chang called for the arguments on the other side."

"The counsel for the Tel-Le said that his paper had started many years ago with the determination of upholding

the dignity of the state and the family. It could place its hand on its heart and look the whole world in the face for it had not failed. Every day it had given minute details of the doings of the emperor; every day it had been a motherly way with literature, music and the drama; every day it had been a voice speaking in the parlors of the Peking suburbs."

"Here Li-Hung-Chang remarked that the subject under consideration was the circulation and not the mission of the Tel-Le. In spite of the threat of beheading, the ladies of the Kik-O theater applauded the remark."

"The phrase, 'the largest circulation in the world,' had been used by his clients so long that he believed they had acquired a legal vested interest in it. He had been instructed, however, to waive this point and to apply for the injunction simply on the ground of fact. He had with him a statement, duly certified by a leading accountant, showing the total number of copies of the Tel-Le sold during the past 20 years. He handed it to Li-Hung-Chang and challenged comparison with a similar statement in respect of the Mi-Il."

"The counsel for the Mi-Il at once protested. His paper had been in existence part only of the 20 years, and the number of copies sold was not, of course, so great as in the case of a paper

20 years? The ambassador replied.

"All in the court, except the ladies of the Kik-O theater, looked grave. Li-Hung-Chang compared the replies of the ambassador with the statements which had been handed to him by the counsel for the Tel-Le and Mi-Il. Then he inquired whether the proprietors of those papers were present, and, finding that they were, directed that they should be taken into custody. Amid general consternation this was done."

"Li-Hung-Chang stood up. Neither the Tel-Le nor the Mi-Il, he announced had so large a circulation as La Petit Journal. The proprietors of both had deceived Peking by advertising that their papers had the largest circulation in the world. They must be punished. He sentenced them to three years in the cage without food or drink, to be followed by five years' police surveillance."

"There was a silence. The prisoners collapsed; the ladies of the Kik-O theater looked at them pityingly; the two counsel frowned. The silence ended. One of the mandarins in the reporter's box clapped his hands, and suddenly people realized that their great judge had again proved his greatness. The noise of clappings and cheering grew loud. The ushers cried for silence in vain. It is probable that such a scene of enthusiasm had never occurred in the court since the close of the famous trial



Three Years Without Food or Drink.

which had been in existence the whole time. The totals for the past week, or at most the past month, should decide the question. The counsel for the Tel-Le replied that he had little doubt the sales of the Tel-Le for the past week or month exceeded those of the Mi-Il."

"The matter was so important, however, that he must insist on the 20 years. In a short period various chances might influence the result, but in a long period this would not be possible."

"It was now that Li-Hung-Chang shone. He motioned the two counsel to be silent, and told the usher to call the French ambassador. Everybody was astonished at the direction, and still more astonished after the usher had obeyed it. For the ambassador squeezed into the court and entered the witness box as if he had expected the summons."

"Presently we knew that he had expected it. Li-Hung-Chang smiled, and reminded him of a conversation they had had about a French paper called Le Petit Journal, and of his promise to give evidence as to its circulation. The ambassador smiled, and replied that he was prepared to give the evidence at once. He had with him a statement of the sales of Le Petit Journal, completed to the present date by telegraph, and duly certified by the French government. Should he read it?"

"Li-Hung-Chang said that would not be necessary. It would be sufficient if he would answer two or three questions. First, what was the total sale during the past week? The ambassador had made some calculations, and replied. During the past month? The ambassador replied. During the past

of Bo-Bo and Ho-Ti for eating roast pig. "That is the story of the cause celebre," concluded Blanco Watson, and he looked at me inquiringly.

"As you said," I remarked, "interesting because Li-Hung-Chang shone in it; otherwise too purely local to Peking."—Edgar Turner, in Black and White.

### Deeded to Dewey's Son.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The deed transferring the Dewey home from Mr. and Mrs. Dewey to the admiral's son was recorded in the office of the registrar of deeds today. During life the home is preserved to Admiral Dewey and his wife in the following provision:

"Subject, however, to the express reservation that the parties of the first part do hereby expressly reserve to themselves and to each of them during and for the period of their natural lives respectively a life interest in and to the premises herein described, which life interest in case of the death of either of the parties to revert to the other."

The instrument bears date of November 14, the same date borne by the deeds from Admiral Dewey to Lieut. Crawford and Lieut. Crawford to Mrs. Dewey.

### Perfectly Satisfactory.

"Does your portrait look like you, Dorothy?" "Yes; it looks just exactly as I would look if I were prettier than I am."—Detroit Free Press.

Warm offices for rent in the A. C. Co. office building. M. I. Stevens, Room 3, agent.

## THEATRES.

### OPERA HOUSE.

NEW PEOPLE.  
NEW PEOPLE.

The Latest Songs and Dances.

Entirely New Sketches.

UPROARIOUS LAUGHTER. SUPREME JOLLITY.

Every Monday night a complete change of program. Come early and see the fun. Under management of

OPERA HOUSE COMPANY.

### THE Monte Carlo

...THEATRE...

Crowded To The Doors Each Night.

Entire Change of Program Every Week.

SEE OUR NEW PEOPLE.  
The Monte Carlo has recently been newly refitted and is now the handsomest theatre in the northwest. Drop in and have some fun.

### THE BOARD OF TRADE

Under New Management.

25c For Drinks or Cigars.  
Our Liquors are the finest money can buy.

CAFE ATTACHED.

Games Run in Connection With The House.

NEWLY FITTED THROUGHOUT

Remember the Location.

North of Monte Carlo, First Avenue.

### ARCTIC MACHINERY

DEPOT,

Second Ave., South of Third St.

### Mining Machinery

Boilers, Engines, Pumps,

Hoists, Sawing Plants, Belting,

Piping, Fittings, Etc

Sole Agents for the McVICKER Pipe Boiler.

AIR-TIGHT HEATERS AND

ROADHOUSE RANGES

AT...

McLENNAN, McFEELY & CO., Limited

Front Street, Dawson.

### D. A. SHINDLER,

Hardware...

Building Material

PAINTS, OILS, GLASS, LAMPS.

Front Street, Dawson.

### MRS. C. F. BOGGS,

...TYPEWRITING...

Office in Green's Grocery

GRAND FORKS

### A Good Bed

Well Cooked Food and the Comforts of Home.

YUKON HOTEL

J. E. BOOGE, Prop.

### A Gentleman

Is never well dressed without spotless linen. Try

CASCADE STEAM LAUNDRY,

and see what modern methods does.

Abbott & Curtis, agents at the Forks.

### To the Trade

WE HAVE IN STOCK

"Clear Havana Cigars,"

Also MEDIUM GRADES.

Do you want goods? If so, we can do business with you.

One Door North of Yukon Hotel.

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