

Chinamen from running away before their debts are paid. They claim that all Chinese in this country belong to one or another of these six companies, except the Young Men's Christian Association, which is supposed to have a membership of about 1,000; but they never claim, and they deny the charge, that they have ever imported any of these men who belong to their companies.

The masses of Chinese here are ignorant of, and take little interest in, our politics; but among the merchants, and especially among the young men attending the schools, are found very many who take an intelligent interest in the politics of this country.

The most of the Chinese now in America were common laborers, farmers, and such like in their own country, mostly poor, industrious people; their physical condition is as good, if not better, in this country than in China, and is constantly and gradually improving.

The population of China is from 350,000,000 to 400,000,000.

Chinese civilization.

The civilization of the Chinese Empire is the oldest known in history. The Government, which is Abrahamic or patriarchal in theory, is sufficiently powerful to hold in check and comparative order the immense mass of 400,000,000 of beings. As a people they are eminently conservative, the same school-books, the writings of Confucius and Mencius, have been used in their schools for hundreds of years. This has stamped a common character upon all the people. The written language, common in all parts of the empire, is not a spoken language in any part of the country. There are various dialects in different localities. These different dialects are almost as numerous as are the great cities of China, and differ almost as do the spoken languages of Europe. The Chinese of one locality have but little affinity for or sympathy with those of a different locality. As to scholarship, the average Chinese scholar knows little or nothing about geography, mathematics, natural philosophy, chemistry or astronomy. His knowledge of history is confined to an epitome of the history of his own country and people. He knows no language except his own, and yet he is no mere novice, his memory is truly wonderful; his knowledge of the relations and duties between man and man, between the people and the rulers, is remarkable; and in diplomacy the Chinese have no equals. Schools abound in China. Probably not one-fifth of the population have what might be termed a common school education. The masses know the written characters representing the common articles of food and clothing without being able to read a single page of literature. In the arts the Chinese have made no progress for centuries.

What the Chinese "scholar" knows.

Stagnation.

For many hundred years no new inventions have appeared in China. Their system of printing from the first has been the same as now. They cut it on boards, the size of the page, and it stands out in relief. In science, government, and religion, everything is stereotyped; everything runs in the same old rut. The religion of the educated may be formulated as blind fatality; the religion of the masses, a heartless, superstitious idolatry. The whole land is full of idols. The whole civilization of China has stood still for centuries, and to purify it, it needs to be moved and stirred from centre to circumference by contact and friction with the Christian civilization of America and Europe. They have always discouraged emigration from their shores, and have been constantly and bitterly opposed to every attempt by outside nations to settle among them. Living thus, the Chinese people seem generally to be filled with the strange conceit that they are superior to all other nations of the earth. For centuries the civilization of the Chinese has been in advance of the nations and peoples of Asia, with whom

Regard themselves as superior to all other nations of the earth.