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Suffering for the Faith. Reports from China by despatches and letters continue to show that much persecution has been suffered by Christian missionaries and their converts in that country. So far as appears, no general statement has yet been made as to the number of missionaries who have fallen victims to the anti-foreign and anti-Christian fanaticism of the Boxers. Most of the missionaries have now presumably reached positions of safety, but for the native converts, for whom removal from the country is impossible, the situation is one of great danger. From recent despatches it appears that the fanatical spirit is now manifesting itself more strongly in Southern China, and that in the vicinity of Canton Christian converts have suffered severely. It is stated that at Kum Chuk on West River a boat load of native Christian women was fired upon and that the women were afterwards taken ashore and butchered in cold blood. As a consequence of the dangers to which they are exposed the native Christians are flocking to Canton for protection. It is stated that a despatch has been received in New York from Shanghai to the effect that 45,000 native Roman Catholics have been massacred in different parts of the Empire. The R. C. Bishop Fantosati and a priest named Quirine are also reported to be among the slain. Recently published statements of Rev. Dr. Hykes, agent of the American Bible Society in Shanghai, tell of horrible barbarities suffered by Christian women at the hands of a Chinese mob. A Mr. Williams, an American, who has had a missionary experience of thirty-four years in China, lately reached London with a party of missionaries after an overland journey through Mongolia and Siberia. On the night of June 10 an assault on their missionary compound at Calgan forced them to evacuate it and seek safety in flight. The Chinese magistrates did what they could to secure the safe exit of the missionaries from the country, and they went northward into Mongolia, expecting to find an asylum there until it should be safe for them to return. But at every stopping place the authorities assured them that the Boxers were on their heels and their only hope of safety appeared to be in a journey across the great Gobi desert. In this they were joined by a company of Swedish missionaries, some of whom had already met with terrible experiences. In crossing the desert the missionaries underwent frightful sufferings. For eight days they travelled over nothing but sand. The air was like that of an oven. After 38 days of terrible sufferings, and of anxiety because of unfriendly Mongols, they reached Urga on the other side of the desert. Here they met with kind treatment from the Russians, but were assured that it would be unsafe for them to remain there on account of the Mongols. They were therefore obliged to push on, reaching Kiakhta August 13, where they remained a fortnight, and through the intercession of the United States Ambassador to Russia secured transportation over the Siberian railway to St. Petersburg, where they arrived September 18, having received very kind treatment from the railway authorities, the railway being at the time, as Mr. Williams states, choked with troops which Russia was hurrying into Manchuria, and accordingly closed to civilians. This movement of troops led the missionaries to believe that Russia was preparing to sieze Manchuria, but they were told at St. Petersburg that the American legation there had been informed that Russia had no such intention.

through so arduous a campaign without losses. I am sorry that some of you are obliged to return sooner than the rest of the regiment, but I recognize the urgency of private affairs. I am confident that the Queen and the British people will never forget your services. If it should ever be my good fortune to visit Canada, I hope to meet you all again." After the troops had given cheers for the Queen and the Field Marshal, the latter shook hands with the Canadian officers and presented them one by one to Lady Roberts.

A Good Class of Immigrants. Probably the most valuable immigration now coming to Canada is that which is entering

the Northwest from adjacent territory in the United States. Many of these new settlers are Swedes, who had settled on poor lands in Dakota and Minnesota, where their efforts to make a home for themselves had been attended with very indifferent success. These people are now learning that much more favorable conditions are to be found on the northern side of the boundary, where excellent land, with plenty of wood and water, is to be obtained at merely nominal rates. As a result of the work of Government colonization agents, and the reports which advance settlers in Canadian territory have sent back to their friends, there are now, it is said, more than five thousand Swedes in Alberta, and more are coming. The Swedes are regarded as very desirable settlers. They are industrious and resourceful, do not want separate schools, but are ready to learn the English language and become incorporated with the national life of the new country. Next to the English speaking peoples the Scandinavians are without doubt the most desirable class of immigrants obtainable for the Canadian Northwest.

The Irish Constabulary. The retirement of Sir Andrew Reid from the office of Inspector General of the Royal Irish Constabulary, which he had held for the past fifteen years, is the occasion of calling attention to the character of the Irish Constabulary which has the reputation of being both in organization and physique the ablest body of its kind in the world. It has served as a model for the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police and for like forces in Australia, New Zealand and other British colonies. It is probable that a similar body will be established in the Vaal River Colony in South Africa. The Irish Constabulary now numbers a little over eleven thousand men all told and affords police service to every town in Ireland except Dublin which has its metropolitan police. The force, it is said, was never in better condition or more efficient than at the present time. Important improvements have been effected within the past few years. It is asserted that great advance has been made in knowledge of police work, and that the establishment of gymnasiums for the men, with excellent instructors and equipment, has greatly improved their physical character and appearance. Much has been done also to promote the comforts and the intellectual and moral welfare of the men connected with the force. It must be felt to be a matter of regret that a national constabulary force is still a necessity in Ireland, but so long as it must be maintained it is well that it should be made efficient and in every way worthy of respect.

The Boer Bubble Burst. Recent despatches from South Africa tell of the utter collapse of the Boer army. The British troops under Generals Ian Hamilton and Pole-Carew occupied the frontier town of Koomati Poort without resistance. When the Boers, numbering two thousand, evacuated Koomati Poort, they moved to a strong position in the neighborhood where they might have made a vigorous resistance. Being convinced however of the futility of such a course, and receiving from the Portuguese authorities assurance of safety and of being sent back to their own country free of charge, they abandoned the position they had taken up and proceeded to Lorenzo Marquez, where their presence is said to be a matter of some embarrassment to the Portuguese Governor. The final retreat of the Boers from Barberton and along the railway to Koomati Poort was marked by great destruction of property, the devastation including hundreds of wagons, trucks and carriages which were burned, together with all kinds of stores—clothing, ammunition, forage and provisions. General Pole-Carew secured hundreds of locomotives.

In the Crocodile river, a correspondent reports, there were visible literally acres of damaged gun ammunition, wagons, limbers, dynamite detonators and war stores of every sort and description. As he passed through Koomati Poort he saw, beside the burning stores, hundreds of tons of ammunition—all kinds of caps, gunpowder and other explosives, and ready fused shells for guns, from the pom-pom to the six-inch, broken rifles, and cannon. The enemy had left standing many tents. Besides this destruction of movable property the bridges have been dynamited, the stores, building and homesteads looted and burned, as had been also the railway property, all the chief stations being mere masses of smoking ruins, among them Kaap Muiden, Hector Spruit and Koomati Poort. At the last place there is an enormous area over which the Boers have wrought destruction. It is altogether probable that most of the burghers would ere this have laid down their arms and gone back to their farms in acceptance of Lord Roberts' conditions if they had known the facts of the case and had been permitted to act freely. But the rank and file have been kept in ignorance of the facts, and have been deceived by their leaders, as they have been from the first, as to the character of the treatment which they might expect from the British.

In China. There is but little information as to the situation in China which can be accepted as trustworthy. Of the conflicting reports which are received from day to day as to the diplomatic movements of the powers, and the attitude of the Chinese Imperial authorities, it is impossible to say how much is fact and how much fiction. There seem to be sufficient reason to believe that Russia is acting in China with a view simply to her own interests, and that her aim is to secure Manchuria and perhaps other territorial concessions as the price of withdrawing from Peking and refusing to unite with the powers in a demand for the punishment of the Chinese leaders chiefly responsible for the outrages upon foreigners. The policy which Germany is pursuing suggests a determination on her part to force a war with China as a means of securing an enlargement of territory. Great Britain's attitude toward China as to the settlement of the account for the Boxer outrages has not been declared. It seems probable that the British Government will agree with the demand of the United States, that China shall punish the guilty parties, rather than with that of Germany, that those parties shall be handed over to the powers for punishment as a condition precedent to negotiations between the latter and China. Lord Salisbury's reticence in the matter may be due to the exigencies of national politics. As to China's attitude, we are told one day that Prince Tuan, generally recognized as the chief leader in the anti-foreign movement, has been honored by the Chinese Government by an important appointment, and the next day that he has been degraded and will be tried with others for complicity in the anti-foreign outrages. It appears that there is in Washington a disposition to credit this latter report, and also that it is connected with a statement to the effect that Prince Tuan and other Chinese anti-foreign leaders are to be brought to trial before what is known as the Imperial Clan Court, "the supreme judicial tribunal" of China, and the only one having jurisdiction over the members of the Imperial family. Of this court Prince Li is president, and Prince Ching, vice-president, both of whom are regarded as belonging to the progressive party in China and favorable to foreigners. There are said to be five other members of this court—all of them distinguished personages. The Chinese officials in Washington are reported as saying that the reference of the case to this court is itself the fullest assurance of the gravity with which the Imperial authority of China regards the matter. Despatches from Shanghai declare that edicts have been issued by the Chinese Emperor, Kwang Su, which indicate a conciliatory disposition toward the foreign powers. According to these advices, in addition to the edict ordering Grand Councillor Kun Kang to offer oblations before the coffin of Baron Von Ketteler and the edict directing that Li Hung Chang's entire plan be followed in regard to the punishment of the princes and high ministers of state responsible for the anti-foreign outrages, and the decree ordering that funeral honors be paid in Peking and Tokio to the remains of Sugi Yama Akira, the murdered chancellor of the Japanese legation, Emperor Kwang Su has addressed further letters to the Czar and the Mikado renewing his request for their aid in the peace negotiations. These reports may be true but not much confidence can be placed in them until they receive further confirmation.

The Farewell. Some four hundred Canadian soldiers of the first contingent are coming home from South Africa, taking steamer at Capetown and making the voyage direct. A considerable number who had been invalided to England have already returned, while a part of the contingent remains for the present in South Africa, and when their services are no longer required there will return by way of England. The Canadians who are now coming home were reviewed at Pretoria by Lord Roberts on the eve of their departure, in the presence of Lady Roberts and their daughters. The men are described as being in very good health and making an excellent appearance. After the march past Lord Roberts briefly addressed the Canadian soldiers, thanking them and expressing his appreciation of their loyal service and excellent work, especially at Paardeburg, on Feb. 27th. "I am sure," said the great soldier, "the people of Canada will be pleased to hear how gallantly and how splendidly you have behaved in action. Deeply I regret the losses you have suffered. I should have been happier if you had returned in your full strength; but no one could expect you to pass