

CRUISING AROUND THE WORLD

IV. MODERN AND ANCIENT CHINA
By Wm. G. FRIZELL.

Our ship reached Hongkong harbor at about 4 o'clock in the morning. Sampans surrounded us as we entered the port. Peculiar sailing craft, prominent for their huge sails ribbed with crossbeams, were scattered here and there, while above us the peak towered some 2,000 feet out of the sea. The island stands as a sentinel guarding the ap-

proach of the Pearl river, on the banks of which lies the city of Canton.



TYPICAL CHINESE STREET SCENE

The view from the deck of the Cleveland at night was glorious. The long stretch of flickering lights which crowned the mountain might easily have been mistaken for a new constellation. With an area of 20 square miles and many sheltered bays, this harbor, into whose protection we had sailed, is one of the finest in the world.

Since 1841 the island of Hongkong has been a British possession. The population is cosmopolitan, but out of her 300,000 inhabitants 250,000 are Chinese. Before British possession thousands of blood-thirsty pirates sailed up and down the rough coast. Today Victoria, by which name the city is known, is the "Gibraltar of the east."

We attended one of the largest of the Chinese theatres. Europeans pay twice the admission fee of natives, but the natives are driven off the seats to make room for foreigners. The Chinese theatre is primitive in the extreme. Much is left to the imagination of the spectator. The din and noise of so called musical instruments drown the actor's voice. The scenery is changed by simply shifting a few articles on the stage. During the most tragic and pathetic parts children play Chinese tag and other games at one end of the stage and at times are almost under the actors' feet. No woman appeared on the stage, their part being played by men.

On one occasion one of our party, being venturesome, acted as guide and, ignorant himself of what might be the result, volunteered to show us a native home. We went into one of the doors adjoining a Chinese shop on a small side street, climbed two flights of stairs and a ladder and found ourselves in the private apartments of a native family. Here they lived in poorly ventilated, close quarters, but in happy enjoyment of their humble home life. We admired the artistic work on a baby pillow. When we offered to buy it the money was refused, and it was presented to us as souvenir of our visit. This pillow was made of clay, burned and glazed and highly decorated. To soften the hard surface some kind of cloth is usually wound around it. We were becoming very

much interested when the man of the house entered and with angry tones and wild gestures ordered us to depart. Canton is situated 90 miles up the Pearl river. Our trip was full of experiences. Soon after leaving Hongkong our sympathies went out to a mother of bound feet whose baby had just died. The captain stated that gifts from her sympathetic fellow passengers, but she refused to be comforted. Some Chinese students of modern medicine among the second class passengers took advantage of the event by lecturing from charts posted on long poles. They sold a great many drugs on the way up. The country through which we passed

roof. There were but few villages along the shores, but many river craft of all kinds. The docks at Canton were crowded with curious Chinese to see our arrival. At the landing place we marched through a squad of a hundred policemen, all showing formidable revolvers. To get our sedan chairs it was necessary to walk through the narrow,

all crowded with a talking mass of humanity. There are no vehicles in these narrow streets, but everything is carried suspended on poles. In one of the streets we had to crowd up against the walls to let a wedding procession pass. Through the crowd came a straggling band with shrill, clanging instruments that announced the approach of the wedding. On poles were carried all sorts of fantastic, gaudily colored decorations. After this came something in carved ice that represented a castle. Farther down the street it melted and fell to pieces. Next followed a sedan chair full of very practical-looking men's shoes. There was more clanging, and the birds' sedan chair, all silvery white, approached. She was being carried to the groom's home to meet and marry him, whom probably a go-between had obtained and whom she had never seen.

We visited many of the shops and factories and saw their numerous gods and idols. We climbed on top of the old wall, centuries old. The ancient water clock, the curious city of the dead, the temple of Confucius and the abandoned examination halls were included in the round of regular sights.

Some visited the execution grounds. They are in a pottery, and the workmen go about their business with seeming unconcern while a big Chinaman with a heavy sword chops off heads. When the members of the eastern cruise were there some seven or eight decapitated bodies were strewn about the pottery.

The great sight of Canton, though, is old Canton itself. Here in the narrow streets are the moving crowds, mostly of men with waists bare or shirts loosely gathered around their necks, with heads half shaven and queues hanging down to their ankles. Now and then stalks leisurely a small footed woman.

There are streets of curios, streets of silks, streets of furniture makers, and streets of meat and fish and vegetable vendors, and streets of restaurants. These streets are twisting and bending and labyrinthine.

We came back to the Cleveland in the evening without any casualties. Some one says that Canton gives a taste of China. While it gives a flavor that will never wear off, yet it is rather a slum flavor and does not represent Peking and the great Chinese empire.

RECOGNIZED

Counsel for the defence began to cross-examine a witness.

"Your name, if I understand you correctly," he said, "is Ezra Egerton Smith. Is that right?"

"Yes, sir."

"Now, have you ever been arrested on a criminal charge?"

"No, sir," indignantly answered the witness—"never!"

"Did you ever commit an offence for which you might justly have been arrested?"

"Never, sir!"

"Now, is it not a fact that you once stole from your own father?"

Here counsel on the other side interposed, but the witness chose to answer.

"No, sir," he exclaimed—"never in my life!"

"Well, then," continued the cross-examining counsel, "suppose I say I know that you did steal from your father?"

"Gentlemen," said the witness, turning to the jury, "he's right. I remember now. When I was about twelve I stole a box of cigarettes from my father's shop and smoked them. Counsel, who was a boy then, put me up to stealing those cigarettes, and smoked half of them." To counsel: "How are you, Jim?"

KNOW THE WORLD

The teacher was trying to impress upon her class the necessity of regulating the sinful human heart, and to drive her point home she produced her watch.

"Now, boys," she said, "you all see this watch"—an assertion so obviously true that there was no danger of contradiction. "Now," she continued, "just suppose for a moment that it did not keep correct time, that I found it was willing to go any way but the right way, what should I do with it?"

There was the usual pause, which pupils indulge in because it flatters the teacher by making her suppose her problem is a very deep one, and that her wisdom is therefore very profound.

Then a bright little boy held up his hand.

"Please, miss," he said, "you would sell it to a friend!"

MACMILLAN—They're tellin' me the Hoose o' Commons is just arranged like a big public-house. The members can get drinks or anything they're wantin'.

TAMSON—Wi' a diff'rence, Mac, wi' a diff'rence. In the Hoose o' Commons a Bill is brocht in first, and then measures are cairrit. But in a big public-house the measure is cairrit in first, an' then the waiter brings in the bill. D'ye see, Mac?

That was a facetious bishop who went to preach a charity sermon a short time ago in a northern diocese. The vicar being ill, a curate received him, and, thinking to say something pretty, observed:—

"I am grieved that you should have come on such a windy day."

But the youth found his grief misplaced when he of the lawn sleeves replied, "Tut, tut, boy! Didn't I come to raise the wind?"

MADAME PATTI SINGS

At a benefit concert given two weeks ago at the Albert Hall, London, for Mr. Wilhelm Ganz, Madame Patti appeared. The Daily Telegraph thus speaks of her reception and performance:

The bright particular star of the occasion was, of course, Madame Patti. Over 30 years have elapsed since she and Mr. Ganz began that long association which was only terminated professionally by his recent accident; for it was in 1870 that she appeared at a concert which he gave at St. James' Hall, and sang his "Nightingale's Trill," to the immense delight of the audience. We intend no disparagement whatever to Madame Patti's nephew, Mr. Alfredo Barilli, who proved a most able accompanist, when we say that we missed Mr. Ganz's familiar figure sadly yesterday afternoon. Within the memory of the present generation no one else has played for her the accompaniments to "Voi che sapete" and "Pur dicesti." Tosti's "Serenata," and "Home, sweet home," and it seemed almost a desecration that they should have been entrusted to other hands, able though those hands most certainly were. Madame Patti herself, as was only natural, seemed to feel the situation, though, like the perfect singer that she is, she controlled her voice

wonderfully, and sang these four old favorites of hers in a manner that recalled her triumphs of former days, and made one regret all the more that it is only on rare occasions such as this that we are privileged to enjoy her perfect art.

After she had sung "Home, sweet home," there were several pleasant little scenes. First of all Madame Patti brought on Miss Georgina Ganz and gave the daughter the kiss which, it may be remembered, she bestowed upon the father at his diamond jubilee concert three years ago. Then Madame Tetrazzini came down on to the platform from her box and presented Madame Patti with a bouquet, for which the diva thanked her with the warmest of embraces. Finally, Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree appeared, and, in a charming speech, thanked Madame Patti on behalf of the committee for all that she had done for her old friend and coadjutor, reminding the audience that on the 16th of last month she celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of her first appearance in England, for it was on that date in the year 1861 that she first trod the boards at Covent Garden, laying the foundations in "La Sonnambula" of an unequalled and undying popularity. At the close of his speech an immense laurel wreath was handed up on to the platform, but Madame Patti was too much affected to face the audience again.

THE COMMERCE OF HANKOW

An astonishing impression of the variety and peculiarity of the natural riches of China is given by the storehouses and factories of the Hankow export firms. Whereas the export of tea, the monopoly of a few large Russian houses has for some years remained almost stationary, the value of the export of oil seeds from Hankow, to take one example of a comparatively unimportant article, rose from 3.8 million taels in 1907 to 10.5 in 1909.

Boats bring wood tar from the Upper Yangtse in big round baskets lined with paper to be refined and remelted in the factories; they bring astonishing masses of the greasy product of the tallow tree used in European technical industries, also cotton and beans, gallnuts, pigs' bristles; also skins, which are sun dried in the yards of the storehouses and packed by means of hydraulic presses for sea transport.

Millions of ducks' eggs are, during the few weeks of the season, manufactured by the hand labor of coolie women and children into masses of pure dried yolk and albumen, smelling like biscuits. The albumen is used in the photographic industry, the yolk in the European sweet stuff manufacture. On the same bank of the Yangtse are the new cold storage houses and the great tobacco factories of foreign firms, and near by are ore refineries, in

which antimony, lead and zinc are prepared for export.

In this rapidly increasing export trade of China, says the Journal of the American Asiatic Association, the Germans are taking a great share. Both in Hankow and Shanghai nearly seventy-five per cent of the export is handled by German firms, which look upon Hankow as the most important of their branches, which are spread like a net over China. The capacity of the German merchant, thanks to his knowledge of the world market and his zeal to discover new resources, by which even unlikely articles of export gradually present a lucrative side, has given him a leading position in the Chinese export trade, which the more conservative and less experimental English and the Americans, thinking far more exclusively about "big" things, are not likely to win except by following similar methods.

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RAPID TRANSIT IN CHINA



S.S. CLEVELAND IN CHINESE WATERS

packed, oozy streets for about ten minutes to the foreign quarter. Before the large foreign hotel were gathered a hundred sedan chairs, with three hundred and more chair men to carry us, and guides and soldiers. We were divided into squads of ten, with a Chinese guide and two soldiers to each squad. In these chairs we plunged back into old Canton. It has been described often as a great, seething bazaar. The streets are from four to eight feet wide, lined with substantial one-story brick buildings with open fronts to all the shops. The streets and shops are

EXAMINING THE EXECUTION SWORD

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