

THE CHINESE HABIT OF DOING THINGS BACKWARD.

We find the Chinese are a peculiar people, odiously practical. Despotically governed, they are abominably free. Ugly in features, they are substantial in color and appearance, and make a Caucasian who has his photograph taken with them look milk-and-watery. Proverbially polite, they are impertinently inquisitive! Lovers of proverbial truth, they are a nation of liars. Reliable, substantial, industrious and conservative, they are yet non-committal, lazy, and to use Mr. De Quincy's words, "unrelyuponable." They work for nothing and board themselves, supporting their families out of what they can make by such an opportunity.

But one of the most peculiar traits of the Chinese is the way they have of doing things backwards, or diametrically opposite to what we do them in Europe and America.

In America when two persons meet they raise their hats and shake each other's hands; here to raise the hat would be an insult, and each man shakes his own hand.

When a friend or relative dies they wear white mourning instead of black, and allow themselves to become dirty, instead of keeping themselves clean.

They turn to the left when they pass each other on the street, instead of turning to the right.

And when they address their friends they use the family name first and the surname last. Thus John Smith in China would be Smith John.

Enter a school and you hear a tremendous noise as of a hundred persons talking at once; it is the pupils studying, they all study aloud.

The carpenter when he uses his line, instead of using dry white chalk, uses wet black ink.

When women sew, instead of pinning the garment to their knee and sewing toward them, pin it to their bosom and sew from them.

They read down their book instead of across, and from the right side cover toward the left, putting the foot-notes at top of the page, and the running titles along the left side of the leaf; printing on one side of the paper only; folding it at the outer edge and cutting it along the back.

Instead of blacking their shoes they whiten only the edges of the soles.

They wear their sleeveless garment, corresponding to our vest entirely on the outside, each outside garment being a little shorter than the one under it; as if our undercoat were longer than our overcoat.

In company they keep their hats on while we take ours off.

We stick the candle into the candlestick and waste about an inch; they stick the candlestick into the candle and burn it all.

Our ladies wear their bangs on their foreheads; the Chinese ladies wear theirs on the back of their necks.

We build the best side of the house toward the street, and very often throw the dirt in the back yard. They build the windowless side of the house outward, and throw all the dirt into the street.—*Gospel in all Lands.*

A TEAK FOREST.

Since in India there are not many really durable timbers the teak is held in the highest estimation. Once seasoned, it does not shrink, split, or change its shape and suffers but little from the depredations of insects. Beams of the wood in good preservation are often found in buildings several centuries old. It takes a beautiful polish like mahogany, and has a delicious aromatic odor. The leaves are one or two feet long and are used by the natives for wrapping parcels and for thatching. The small white flower in dense panicles terminate the branches. When growing alone the trees put forth side branches quite low down, but in forests, as you see in the picture, the trees are destitute of branches till near the top. Most of the teak timber produced is used in the country, but the British Government is taking pains to increase the supply so that other nations may have the benefit of this beautiful and valuable wood.

THE London *Missionary Chronicle* gives an account of a little boy six years old, in Scotland, who heard a missionary sermon that made a deep impression on his mind. He often spoke to his mother of the sermon, and said: "I must be a missionary when I grow up." A few months ago he was taken sick, and when told that he must die his chief concern was that he could not bear the gospel to the poor heathen. He was comforted by the assurance that our Heavenly Father knew their wants, and would raise up missionaries to preach in every land. Turning to his mother, he said: "Mother, the preacher said a teacher could be supported for £10. I want a teacher to preach the gospel for me. I have £11 8s. 6d. in the bank. You must send to the minister £10 to support a teacher, and spend the rest for Bibles." The wish of the dying boy was complied with by his mother, and a teacher is preaching for him among the heathen.

THE Russian Government is just now experimentally shoeing its cavalry horses with aluminum. This is as strong as steel, but lighter. These men mean to win, and if so little a thing as the lightning of a horseshoe can turn the scale from defeat to conquest, they intend that victory shall perch on the banner of their Czar.