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**LI HUNG CHANG.**

Li Hung Chang, who is to pay Victoria a visit before very long, is China's ablest and most enlightened statesman. He has shown himself to be a reformer, but the difficulties by which he is surrounded are well nigh insuperable. The Chinese are, perhaps, the most conservative people under the sun. They have the greatest reverence for what is old, and the deepest mistrust for what is new. They are, too, as a nation exceedingly well satisfied with themselves. They believe that they are the wisest and the most learned people in the world, that what they do not know is not worth knowing, and that their methods—social and political—are the best possible. In consequence of this very high opinion of themselves and all that belongs to them they have a very low opinion of the men of other nations, whom they regard either as barbarians or devils.

A little reflection will show the reader how difficult it must be for a Chinese reformer to prevail upon his countrymen to adopt the ideas and the inventions of the despised barbarians. The prejudices of the common people might in time be overcome by a sagacious and astute statesman like Li Hung Chang were they not confirmed in their bigotry and hatred of change by a body of men high in authority to whom every scheme for the improvement of the nation must be submitted for approval. This body is called the Censors. These Censors, it seems, consider any departure from the old ways as wrong if not ruinous, and look upon the arts and the conveniences of progress as devices of the Evil One. "In the first place," says a writer in the July number of the Century Review, "no real progress can take place in China so long as the Censors retain the power to judge every proceeding of the Government by the light of Confucian ethics and to veto every reform because it is opposed to the apothegms of classical writers of the fossil age of China's existence. Will Li Hung Chang or his Imperial master have the daring to abolish by a decree of the Vermilion Pencil the Board of Censors, and put an end for ever to their absurdly antiquated but none the less fatal strictures on every suggestion of practical reform? I ask this question because, while the measure is radical and drastic, it is well within the compass of Imperial authority, and would not entail that serious interference with the elaborate civil service system of China that must follow any sweeping attempt to provide her with a new form of administration. Yet it is absolutely necessary for the success of any remedial measure in China that on the threshold of their being undertaken, a strong and, if possible, a fatal blow should be dealt to that literary class which has been supreme in China, and which has used its influence and position to prevent progress and to exclude all useful knowledge. It can only be reached in the first place through the Board of Censors, and no reforms will have any chance of success nor can the good intentions of the Chinese Government itself be carried out, as long as that clan of impractical and bigoted pedants is able to obstruct every act of the administration and to pervert where it does not prevent every beneficial measure."

From this it is to be inferred that the Emperor of China is not such an absolute monarch as he is represented to be, for it seems that it is in the power of the Board of Censors to thwart even his will. But it might be supposed that the disgraceful defeat that China suffered at the hands of little Japan would have shaken the conviction of even the Cen-

sors in their infallibility. But it seems that it has not had the slightest effect on them, or for that matter on the Chinese nation at large. The terrible lesson of the Japanese war while it had the effect it might be supposed to produce on the members of the Central Government, "did not affect nine-tenths of the Chinese people, who are still lulled in a sleep of fancied superiority and security." The chances of Li Hung Chang being able to give his country the benefit of any lesson he may learn from his visit to the civilized nations of the West do not seem to be very great or very many. Every attempt he may make to introduce the Western civilization will be met by appeals to the prejudices, the superstition and the national vanity of the masses. Such appeals have so far been effectual in preventing the introduction of reforms which the great Chinese statesman has believed to be necessary to arrest the downfall of the nation, and there is no reason to conclude that they will be less effectual when he returns to his native country.

**INJURIOUS TO BUSINESS.**

The free silver agitation is already having a deadening effect upon business in the United States. Times are hard in every part of the country, and are every day becoming harder. Business men are very unwilling to make long time contracts, and when they do they take very good care to stipulate that money payments shall be made in gold coin. We were, the other day, told of a Chicago banker who refused to enter into an engagement to pay a proposed deposit in gold on demand, but who would not discount notes to a considerable amount, allowed to be good, unless the customer wrote on the back of each note a promise to redeem it in gold coin of the United States. This banker wanted to deal according to a rule that did not work both ways. The instability and distrust which the free silver agitation is causing are doing immense harm to business in the States, and may at any moment precipitate a panic.

**ENGLISH EDUCATION IN THE TRANSVAAL.**

The British settlers in the Transvaal have at last been granted the right of having their children taught in the public schools in their own language. It seems a privilege which ought to be easily gained, but it has been a great bone of contention, and the making of this concession will help the Uitlanders to hope for other things. We are more than surprised to see "Oom Paul" credited with generosity for having extended this very small measure of justice to the men who pay the taxes of the Republic, and who are enriching it and making it important in many ways.

**THE SITUATION CHANGED.**

The editor of the Toronto Globe is beginning to feel that there is a good deal of difference between being the denouncer of a Conservative Government and the defender of a Liberal Administration. At a meeting which was held lately in North York he said: "It is easy to profess virtue in opposition; it is not so easy to practise virtue in office. It is easy to condemn waste when the enemy is in possession of the treasury; it is not so easy to practise economy when the children of one's own political household are profited by the expenditures. It is easy to cut down the offices when we do not cash the monthly checks; it is more difficult when our friends are on the pay roll."

**BADLY SOLD.**

We have not learned that the Patrons, the P. P. A.'s and the McCarthysites propose to hold a convention to ascertain what they have gained or lost during the late election, but we think it would be wise in them to do so. They might invite Mr. Clarke Wallace and a number of the most zealous anti-coercionists to take sweet counsel with them. If those men do not by this time see that they have been playing into the hands of the men they profess to hate, and adding to the strength of a race which they declared it was the object of their lives to weaken, they must be as blind as bats. Never were men more badly sold than they have been.

**A WISE COURSE.**

Burke Cockron, one of the most gifted of the leaders of the Democratic party of the United States, has declared his intention to vote for McKinley, and he advises all patriotic Democrats to do the same. He says that the whole free silver movement is a "conspiracy against wages." There is not the slightest doubt that if the currency of the United States is to be debased the workingmen will be the first to feel the bad effects of the vitiation. Trade will be dull and employment hard to get. The man who will be lucky enough to get work will find that his wages will not rise so quickly or in the same proportion as the price of everything which he will have to buy.

**THE SEVENTY-MILLION MARKET.**

The market of seventy-millions does not seem to be of any very great advantage to the Western American farmer. Potatoes at eight cents a bushel (sixty pounds), oats at seven cents and barley at eleven cents are not calculated to make the farmer rich in a hurry. The

more Canadian farmers see and hear of the condition of farmers across the line the more reason have they to be contented with their own country and their own lot. The United States has ceased to be in the eyes of Canadians the farmer's paradise.

**A FAR-REACHING QUESTION.**

The anti-Mongolian agitators in this province seem to think that the Government of the Dominion, if it comes to the conclusion that the Chinese and Japanese are not desirable immigrants, has nothing to do but impose a head-tax which will effectually prevent them settling in any part of the Dominion. But this is a mistake. There is much to be considered before the Government of the Dominion takes measures to exclude the citizens of any state or the subjects of any monarch with whom Great Britain has diplomatic relations.

It will be seen by the attention that is paid to Li Hung Chang, the leading statesman of China and the trusted servant of the Emperor, that the British Government is most desirous to maintain friendly relations with the Empire of China. If Count Ito or any high officer of the Japanese Government paid a visit in his official capacity to Great Britain he would be received with equal honor and would receive the same attention from everyone connected with the Government. There are reasons of state why the representatives of these two Asiatic nations should be received in Great Britain with every mark of respect. Leaving the laws of hospitality out of the question, it is to the interest of Great Britain to remain on friendly terms with China and Japan, and it follows that it is against her interest to treat the official representative of either nation with discourtesy. For the same reason it is against the interest of Great Britain to treat either the subjects of the Emperor of China or the Emperor of Japan in a manner which the Governments of the two countries may have good reason to look upon as unfriendly.

If the Government of China or the Government of Japan enacted a law requiring every British subject who went to China or Japan for the purpose of residing there or doing business there to pay a tax of fifty or five hundred dollars, would the Government of Great Britain look upon this as friendly treatment, and would it feel disposed to grant China privileges and favors in matters of trade. Would it not be natural for the British Government to say to the Government of China: "You have discriminated against the men of our nation in the matter of immigration and you must consequently not think it hard if we discriminate against you in this and other matters." It must not be forgotten that nations have feelings as well as individuals, and that it is not their habit to return good for evil. If, then, it is to Great Britain's interest to remain on friendly terms with China and to have the intercourse between the two nations as mutually profitable as it can be made, it is probable that Great Britain would like to see the subjects of the Emperor of China treated in any British colony in a way which she may have good reason to believe to be prejudicial to her interests?

But it will be said that in this matter Canada is independent of Great Britain and can make what laws she pleases with respect to the admission of Chinese immigrants. This is not so clear as some of our friends think it is. It must be remembered that Great Britain is held responsible by foreign governments for the treatment that their subjects receive in the colonies. If a Frenchman, or a German, or a Russian is injuriously treated in Canada the French, or the German, or the Russian Government will apply to the Government of Great Britain for explanation or reparation. And so it is with the Chinese Government. It will be the Government of Great Britain and not the Government of Canada that will be required to account for any laws enacted by the Dominion Parliament which the Chinese Government may regard as injurious or offensive. This being the case are not Canadians, we ask, bound to consider the interests of the Mother Country in their treatment of foreigners? "If such is the position of Canada," say some of our anti-Mongolian countrymen may say, "the sooner we cut our connection with Great Britain the better." But a little reflection will show our friends that becoming independent of Great Britain will not, so far as the matter of Chinese immigration is concerned, mend the matter in the least. Canada independent will have to keep up friendly relations with China and Japan, or it may suffer loss and inconvenience. A Canadian Government would think twice before it offered China or Japan what either of them might consider an insult. We have a notion that if Canada were independent the Mongolian grievance would be greater than it is now instead of less.

Then there is a third alternative. We might join the United States. In that case Canada would be powerless. It would have to submit to any policy which the United States Government might consider it expedient to establish. The United States is quite as anxious to be on friendly terms with China and Japan as is Great Britain, or as Canada would be if she were independent. If those countries insisted upon being treated by the United States as the Un-

ited States treats other countries, as China might and, as Japan certainly would, if the Japanese were discriminated against, the United States, would perhaps reluctantly, find it expedient to acknowledge the justice of their claim, and the anti-Mongolians in this part of the world would be in precisely the same position as regards the Mongolians as they are now.

The question as our anti-Mongolian friends see it is a difficult one to handle, and in discussing it there are many things to be considered that were apparently lost sight of by the gentlemen who discussed it so warmly the other day in Nanaimo. When intelligent men discuss an important question of this kind there is no use in looking at one side of it only. Let it be viewed in all its aspects, and then, when a conclusion is arrived at, it is likely to be a reasonable one.

**MR. FIELDING'S SPEECH.**

The speech delivered by the Hon. Mr. Fielding at Shelburne, N.S., was a neat, pleasant and politic deliverance, but there was nothing distinctively Liberal in it from the first word to the last. If the Hon. Mr. Foster had been the speaker there is not a Conservative in the Maritime Provinces who would have regarded it as singular or inconsistent. On the subject of the tariff, with which the Finance Minister has more to do than any other member of the Government, Mr. Fielding was particularly cautious. Every statement regarding it was studiously indefinite and carefully qualified. He said, as reported by his own organ, the Halifax Chronicle: "Any revenue tariff that could be framed to meet the present circumstances of the country would probably afford incidentally a considerable measure of protection to manufacturing industries. So far as this incidental advantage might go, the country would be satisfied to have the manufacturers enjoy the benefit of it. But manufacturers should be advised to rely less on tariff aid and more on their intelligence and enterprise, and on the skill and industry of their workmen. It would be the duty of the present Government, with regard to a reasonable extent the interests of manufacturers, to frame the tariff in the interests of the masses. That, however, did not mean that the manufacturing interests were to be sacrificed. Such a tariff policy was not only in the interest of the consumers, but in the interest of legitimate manufacturing industries as well. The best thing the government could do for the permanent success of manufacturing interests was to endeavor to frame a policy which would give a better chance of prosperity to the masses of the people engaged in developing the natural resources of the Dominion. If that foundation of prosperity could be laid there would arise upon it strong, healthy and prosperous manufacturing industries. These were the general ideas to be kept in mind in revising the tariff. But care must be taken that, while aiming at the carrying out of these views, no rash or ill-considered measure should be adopted. We have to deal with present conditions of business, and great care must be taken to see that the desired changes shall be brought about with the least possible disturbance. The interests involved were not those of manufacturers only, large and important though these were. The affairs of manufacturers and laborers and merchants and bankers were interwoven into a business fabric which required very careful handling in order that there might be maintained that business confidence which was so important an element in the prosperity of the country."

**A SINGULAR STATE OF THINGS.**

It has been not a little annoying to those who know the true inwardness of the late general elections to find Mr. Laurier and his organs prating about the way in which "the people of Canada" have approved of the "policy" of the Liberal party. They know very well that the present Government were not put in their place by "the people of Canada," and the great majority of those who did vote for them did not do so because they approved of the Liberal or any other policy. The official returns of the late election make it abundantly clear that the Parliamentary majority do not represent the majority of the people of Canada who cast their ballots on the 23rd of June last.

It is shown from the returns received by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery that 890,711 votes were cast at the late election. The number of names on the voters' lists is 1,353,735. So as many as 463,023 persons qualified to vote, for one reason and another took no part in the election. Of those who did vote 413,006 cast their ballots for the Conservative candidates, 397,194 voted Liberal, and 80,511 for the Independent candidates. These figures show that the Liberals, who represent themselves as being the people of Canada, are actually in a minority of 15,812. And here is where the absurdity of our electoral system becomes apparent. Although upwards of fifteen thousand more votes in the aggregate were polled for Conservative members of Parliament than there were for Liberal members, yet the Liberals have 25 more members than the Conservatives. The Conservatives polling 413,006 votes returned 88 members, while the Liberals, who polled only 397,194 votes, returned 113 members, and the 80,511 independent votes are represented in the House of Commons by 12 members. There were polled for Liberals and Independents combined 477,705 votes, for the Conservatives alone 413,006 votes, giving the Liberals and Independents a majority of 65,699, yet this insignificant majority of votes is represented in Parliament by a majority of 37 members. More singular still, although the Liberals as compared with the Conservatives and Independents are, in the aggregate vote at the polls is considered, in a minority of 98,423, they have in Parliament a majority of thirteen over Conservatives and Independents combined. This is minority representation with a vengeance.

**PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE.**

In the matter of the Manitoba school question the time for promising has passed, and the time for performing has come. Mr. Laurier during the election campaign promised to restore to the minority of Manitoba their schools. He found fault with the Government's remedial bill because it was not strong enough. His supporters echoed his promise, and denounced the Government's measure on the same grounds. When the Laurier candidates said that it suited them to T. They were ready to do all that it required. On the strength of these promises and professions they were elected. The time has now come for them to fulfill their promise. Mr. Laurier asks for six months' grace. The object of this evidently is to give him a valid excuse for not bringing down a remedial bill which is not "a half-hearted measure" at the first session of the new Parliament. The promise to effect a settlement in six months has done its work.

Mr. Laurier is not expected to introduce a remedial bill during the coming session. But six months will soon pass and then the day of reckoning will arrive. A gentleman who speaks with authority said in Winnipeg the other day:

The school question is not settled by any means. Some of our public men are treating this important question very lightly, I consider, and before many months they will discover that it cannot be settled by mere assertions from public platforms. In my opinion the school question is the most crucial issue that our Governments have to contend with to-day. I do not believe that the church will move one jot from the attitude it has all along taken in the matter, and the only way a final settlement can be reached is by both parties making very liberal concessions to each other.

**THE NORTH WARD SCHOOL.**

It is impossible to say how narrow was the escape of the children of the North Ward School. The building in which they assembled on Monday was evidently in an insecure condition. No one appears to have been aware of this. As the close of the last term the City Building Inspector had reported the assembly room insecure and advised the Trustees not to use it, but he said nothing that would lead them to believe that the other parts of the building were unsafe. Nevertheless, we are surprised that the Trustees during the recess did not do what the Inspector advised to have the Assembly room made safe. They should have taken no risks in such a matter. As it turns out, making the changes advised by the Inspector would not have strengthened the structure where it most needed strengthening. The examination of the whole building, instituted by the Trustees, revealed a state of things which neither they nor as far as we can learn anyone else even suspected. The building is now being thoroughly overhauled, and everything is to be done that is required to be done to make it perfectly secure, so that when the school is opened again no parent need have the slightest misgiving as to the safety of the children.

**A GOLD EPIDEMIC.**

The last place that has been smitten with the gold fever is French Guiana. The British consul in a report on the trade of the country gives an account of the effect on the people there of the discovery of gold in the territory in dispute between France and Brazil. He says: "One Demba was the discoverer of the existence of gold there. He went without exciting suspicion; but when his provisions ran out he sent to Cayenne for more, and incautiously wrote to his correspondent that he had secured 200 kilos of gold, and would not return until he had got 100 kilos more. The news soon spread through the town, which has about 11,000 inhabitants, of whom 7,000 were soon on their way to Cayenne. The only people who did not go were those tied to the town by their position, those who were too old to bear the hardships, and the women and children. Every one who could run abandoned everything; commercial enterprises were left at a standstill; clerks left their offices; even government officials and the editor of the only privately-published newspaper flocked to the land of gold." The news was carried by the monthly steamer to the West Indies, and the gold seekers soon flocked in from there. Carsevee had no administration or authority, and accordingly the law of the strongest prevailed. The mortality was abnormal, and as the fields were twelve miles from the landing place, it was very difficult to get transport for the sick. Each miner had just as much land as he could hold by brute force.

**POLITICS VS. BUSINESS.**

Business transactions are a good test of the sincerity of an apparent fanatic in either politics or religion. We have heard of a preacher who went about the country declaring that the end of the world was at hand, naming a year and a month in which there would be an end of all things here below. Yet this same gentleman when bargaining for a piece of land declined to take it because its owner refused to give him a lease for a long term of years. In the same way ex-Governor Penoyer, who is a loud and uncompromising advocate of free silver, has, in all his contracts, a provision requiring his debtor to pay in gold coin of the United States. When taxed with this inconsistency Penoyer says that it is all a mistake, that the instruments were on a printed form, and that the provision to pay in gold had escaped his notice. It is said that Altgeld, another red-hot free silverite, follows the same practice, and makes exactly the same explanation for the existence of a gold clause in his leases. Both Penoyer and Altgeld are keen business men as well as active Populist politicians, and they are too shrewd to allow their politics to get mixed up with their business transactions.

WASHINGTON CITY, Aug. 13.—George H. Miller, builder of the capital dome, is dead. He left behind one of the most conspicuous monuments on this continent and a sample of architectural skill famous the world over. He entered the office of the architect of the capital in 1872, and continued there until his death. He was a native of Baltimore. As first assistant to the architect of the capitol, Miller had charge of much important and responsible work.

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MOST PERFECT MADE.  
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40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

is 1,353,735; the number who polled their votes for the Liberal candidates at the late election was 397,194. Yet Conservatives are expected to cheerfully acquiesce in the monstrous fiction that this insignificant minority of the people of Canada are "the people of Canada." It is, we admit, a convenient fiction to allow that the majority in the popular branch of the legislature represent the whole people, yet considering the circumstances under which the present majority have been elected, it is the veriest mockery to make such an admission.

We trust that Mr. Laurier and his supporters in and out of Parliament, before they again declare that they represent the views and the wishes of the people of Canada, will go over the figures furnished by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and see what an outrageous demand they make on the credulity or the courtesy of their hearers or their readers when they make such a claim. We see that Liberals complain of the electoral system that favors them so unduly, and threaten to change it in such a way as will give them a better opportunity of governing the country by means of a minority than they now enjoy. They talk of a Tory gerrymander as if in the face of the statistics of the last general election any gerrymander that could be made could be more unfair to the Conservative majority than the disposition of the constituencies now existing.

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