

emperor as being compelled to rise every morning at two o'clock. At three, by which time his toilet is completed, he receives the Ministers, and from that time till six is occupied with affairs of state. He breakfasts at nine, and dines at five in the afternoon. In spite of the great number of officials and servants in the palace, the poor man is perhaps the worst-served master in the world. "The menu for every day is written out a long time beforehand; and as it is by no means certain that such things as young vegetables and certain kinds of fruit are to be had on a given day, things are so badly arranged that they often make their first appearance on the Emperor's table when they have been in season at least a month. It is strict etiquette that no single thing of a kind shall ever be put before his Majesty; everything, even the fish, must be served in pairs. He is rather fond of good living, and should he by chance, in the opinion of any of the doctors who are always present at every meal, eat too much of any favorite dish, it is never allowed to appear again in the menu. The expenses of the imperial kitchen are enormous, but with it all the Emperor has a sort of Barmecide feast.

In his capacity of High Priest, the Emperor has to offer at least forty-six sacrifices to different gods in the course of a year; and as to each sacrifice is dedicated one or more holidays, which must be passed by him in complete solitude, the miserable monarch's time must be pretty well taken up. These sacrifices are made by him either by night or about dawn, and the houses along the route taken by him, as he is carried in his closed palanquin through the deserted streets of the city, are hung with black, the effect of which is unspeakably depressing. It is also a very strict religious rule that his Majesty shall offer in the course of every year many hundreds of silk balloons before the tablets of his ancestors, the unbroken line of whom extends back before the lifetime of our Lord. These balloons are made of the richest silk obtainable, and several of the imperial silk manufactories are occupied the whole year through with the fabrication of the material."

Those who have indulged in fleeting day-dream of greatness, who have hankered after the flesh pots and splendour of royalty, can form some opinion from this brief sketch of court life in China, of what uneasy, restless, disturbed and anxious feelings must pervade the wearer of a crown. If this poor, unhappy Emperor, who has been sighing for Western civilization, should dare to eat too much of a favorite dish, it disappears from the menu forever; in conformity with the customs of his noble ancestors, he has to go in for ballooning; and, as High Priest, he has to worship at least forty-six different gods in the course of fifty-two weeks. We should be sorry to see annexation of China by Great Britain encouraged. At the same time, it must surely stir the sympathy of mankind outside of the gates of Peking to know that the Emperor of China is probably less happy than his chattering, childlike and bland countrymen in Canada,

who, when not being persecuted by idle and vicious vagabonds, are engaged in washing soiled clothes, or playing seductive fan-tan in a street called Lagauchetiere.

A Word with Parliamentary Frontists. *The only community in which prohibition can be successfully enforced is a community in which nobody wants to drink liquor.*

At a meeting of the Vegetarian Congress, at the Memorial Hall, London, Eng., on the 13th inst., an Irish navy embodied in one sentence of a speech condemning vegetarianism what an English journal is pleased to call "the philosophy of temperance reform." *The Outlook* indulges in the following comments upon the advice tendered to the vegetarians, by this unfortunately unknown Irishman:—

"Had we our way we would make an M.P. forthwith, if not a Minister, of the navy who startled the Vegetarian Congress at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday, and we would set him loose among the licensing laws. He has hit upon the best and, as we think, the only way out of the impasse to which temperance reformers have, with the best will in the world, brought us. The navy in question was an Irishman—his name the reporters ungenerously withhold. He was himself, perforce, a vegetarian for years in County Cork, because he could not afford meat. He has tested vegetarianism, and he cannot recommend it. A beef-eating navy, he told the Vegetarian Congressionists, is worth a dozen rice-eating coolies, and, he added: "You vegetarians will do more good than you have ever done if you will give a man a place to meet his friends and crack a joke and rest his mind without getting drunk."

The same paper proceeds to make this navy's sensible, philosophical suggestion the basis for a few words with British legislators who, like their Canadian confreres, periodically pander to temperance reformers and their followers by introducing all sorts of useless laws. In keeping with the opinion already expressed by this paper that the only community in which prohibition can be enforced is a community in which nobody wants to drink liquor, *The Outlook* says:—

"To call for prohibition in England—whether by local option or otherwise—is to call for that which, if you get it, will prove an empty farce. A man will drink; it is the nature of the animal, and if, instead of vainly trying to force him to drink what he does not and never will like, all our churches and temperance reformers would unite to see that what he drinks is pure and wholesome, and that the place where he drinks it is a well-managed and attractive place instead of the smelly, degrading place it now too often is, then we should have come very near bringing an end to the drunkenness which is one of our most glaring national vices. They tell us of a mining village, Hill of Beith, in Fifeshire, where the local council has taken its public-house in hand, made it a credit to the community, and paid for the electric light and a bowling green out of the profits. At the neighbouring Fifeshire village of Keltie a limited liability company, formed of householders and members of the parish council, is undertaking a similar enterprise. We