

## China's Advances Towards Civilization.

The latest "cycle of Cathay" has been one of remarkable developments; and the advances in China during the past few years have indeed been marvellous, remarks Mr. O. P. Austin, in an article upon "Recent Developments in China" in the "Forum." The Chinese cycle covers a period of sixty years; and while sixty years is a small period in the history of that ancient nation, yet it is less than that time since the knocks of foreign commerce and modern civilization at the doors of China awakened her from a slumber of centuries. To-day the doors stand wide open; and commerce, industry and enterprise are bidden to enter. Few save those who have had occasion to follow closely the recent developments in China probably realise the rapidity with which events in that country have marched of late. Sixty years ago every avenue of entrance into China was closed. "Foreign devils," as all foreigners were called, were rigorously excluded from her ports and inland water-ways; no representatives of the commerce of the outside world found standing or business relations among her people; consular representatives of foreign nations were unrecognized; and diplomats who desired to penetrate to the capital and bring themselves into communication with the Emperor could only do so through a long and tedious process, ending with the ceremony of the "koto," which means to kneel three times before the throne and knock one's head nine times upon the ground, in token of subservency.

Now, foreigners and foreign merchants are permitted to reside and trade at more than a score of cities on the coast and far in the interior; ports and coastwise traffic are open to foreign vessels; commerce upon the river in the interior has recently been opened to citizens and vessels of all nations; hundreds of miles of railways are in operation, and thousands of miles are projected; telegraph lines connect the capital of the Empire with the chief cities of the provinces and with the entire outside world; mining and manufacturing concessions are extended to citizens of all nations, and foreign, capital, enterprise and business methods are invited to a place in the economy of the Celestial Empire. Where a few years ago the slow-moving junk, propelled by sails or man-power, was the only means of water transportation, steam vessels may now ply to carry passengers, tow barges, and distribute foreign as well as domestic products; where coolies, wheelbarrows, and sedan chairs were lately the sole means for conveyance for freight and passengers on land, the locomotive and railway-car are now making their appearance; where domestic production only progressed by the most primitive methods of hand labor, the whirl of the spindle is now heard and modern methods of manufacture are in actual operation; while electric tramways, electric lights, telegraphs, and telephones are rapidly transforming the methods which have characterized the internal life of China since long before the existence of the nations from which she is now learning these lessons of modern progress.

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.—Bacon.

"I suppose you are a socialist, or anarchist, or something?" asked the lady of vague ideas.

"Madam," replied Brokedown Baldwin, "I am a passive altruist."

"What in the name of common sense is that?"

"I believe in being helped all I can."

## Short Words.

The following paragraph on "The Use of Short Words" is attributed to Horatio Seymour. It practices what it preached therein, since there is no word in it with more than two syllables, save such as are quoted for purposes of illustration:

"We must not only think in words, but we must also try to use the best words and those which in speech will put what is in our minds into the minds of others. This is the great art which those must gain who wish to teach in the school, the church, at the bar or through the press. To do this in the right way they should use the short words which we learn in early life and which have the same sense to all classes of men. The English of our Bible is good. Now and then some long words are found, and they always hurt the verses in which you find them. Take that which says, 'O ye generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' There is one long word which ought not to be in it—namely, 'generation.' In the old version the old word 'brood' is used. Read the verse with the term, and you will feel its full force: 'O ye viper's brood, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' Crime sometimes does not look like crime when it is set before us in the many folds of a long word. When a man steals and we call it a 'defalcation,' we are at a loss to know if it is a blunder or a crime. If he does not tell the truth, and we are told that it is a case of 'prevarication,' it takes us some time to know just what we should think of it. No man will ever cheat himself into wrong-doing nor will he be at a loss to judge of others if he thinks and speaks of acts in clear, crisp terms. It is a good rule, if one is at a loss to know if an act is right or wrong, to write it down in short, straightout English."

## Crotchety, Crabbed and Cross.

Crotchety, Crabbed and Cross, one day,  
Went out for a sail on the Sulky, Bay  
Their boat was leaky their sail was torn,  
And hung on the bow was a dinner horn.  
"We'll sail to the North," said Crotchety;  
"I'll stand by the helm to steer," said he.

Bounding and scudding they sailed along;  
The waves rolled high and the wind blew strong,  
"I won't stay here to be drowned at sea;  
"We'll sail to the South, where the wind is free!"

"I'll steer for a while," said angry Cross,  
"For I don't see why 'you' should be boss."

Seizing the helm with a wrathful frown,  
He steered for the South, and the wind went down,

"We can't drift home for there is no tide;  
We're stuck here; becalmed!" was what Crabbed cried;

"We'll sail to the Eastward now," said he,  
"No you won't," laughed the Wind across the sea.

Out of the Eastward the Wind blew strong,  
And swift in its path they were borne along.  
The Westward Shore and setting Sun  
Were laughing to see what the Wind had done.

"You went for a pleasure sail, you say?  
You will never succeed on Sulky Bay."

"Go to the Harbor of Smiles and Fun,"

Said the Wind, with a wink at the setting Sun,

"You'll find a boat which will sail alone,  
If pleasure, not anger, is only shown."  
The darkness descended on all the three,  
And they steered by the stars for the Sunshine Sea.

—Outlook.

## The Fairy People's Spinning.

By Margaret E. Sangster.

For little men and little maids,  
When night is just beginning,  
Oh, then, on quiet hills and glades  
The fairies start their spinning

And fast each silver shuttle goes,  
In summer darkness chilly,  
To weave the redness of the rose,  
The whiteness of the lily

To count the cunning little elves,  
Would surely make you dizzy,  
They do not know their host themselves,  
These wee folk quaint and busy

By brook and creek, by lake and shoal,  
By velvet field and valley,  
Dame Nature keeps their muster roll,  
So often as they rally.

And when the little children wake  
In sunny mornings early,  
They see the lace the fairies make,  
A cobweb tissue pearly.

It lightly folds o'er branch and stem,  
It shakes with dew a-twinkle,  
And flings its cloth of gold and gem  
In many a filmy wrinkle.

So little men and maids may dream  
While trolls and elves are plying  
Their looms beneath the starlight's gleam,  
And silent hours are flying.

—Christian Intelligence.

## Dr. Chiniquy's Forty Years in the Church of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Chiniquy, for several years before his death, had in contemplation, the preparation of an account of his life and career after he left the Church of Rome. He devoted much time to collecting material for the work. The last years of his life had been largely devoted to this, so that at the time of his departure, the book was substantially complete.

We have confidence to say that it is the most remarkable book of its class that has appeared in this country. In most respects it is unique, and bears the stamp of a marked personality.

It may be safely affirmed that Dr. Chiniquy travelled more extensively in preaching the Gospel than any one that ever lived—his labors of forty years not being confined to a single continent, but embracing several—and the scenes he passed through seem more like fiction than reality, illustrating the saying "Truth is stranger than fiction."

Now, "Forty Years in the Church of Christ" being the history of that very eventful life and bearing the direct impress of the author, is a book of most fascinating and thrilling interest, and belongs to what De Quincey styles "the literature of power."

In an interview with a reporter of a leading Montreal paper, in the last year of his life, Dr. Chiniquy remarked: "With regard to my new book, I have not much to say, beyond this, that it will be a faithful record of what I have seen, heard, thought and done since I left the Church of Rome, now very nearly forty years ago. My new book will be published in about six months, and will be copyrighted in England, Canada and the United States."

"What are you going to call your new book, Father Chiniquy?" asked the interviewer.

"I am going to call it 'Forty Years in the Church of Christ.'"

The responsibility of issuing the book was committed to his son-in-law, Rev. J. L. Morin, who acknowledges the valuable assistance received from Rev. Prof. John Moore, of Boston and the Rev. Dr. MacVicar, of Montreal.

As already stated the book will be published in a few weeks.