

CHINA TRAINING FOR WAR.

A correspondent of the *Paris Figaro*, traveling in China, is sending very sensational reports to his paper, relative to the huge preparations China is making to meet foreign nations in the event of war. Her rulers and statesmen feel convinced that war with Russia, France, England or the United States, may be precipitated any day, and they are making arrangements to meet the possible foes on terms of equality, at least as far as armament, forts, ships and drill may be concerned.

The humiliating wars had with civilized countries during the past fifty years have opened the eyes of the governing classes. They have become convinced that antiquated arms and tactics must be replaced by modern methods and modern weapons and evolution. The Frenchman cited expresses his astonishment at the activity displayed. At Tien-Tsin he saw an arsenal and manufacturing plant of astonishing dimensions, and at Port Arthur there are splendid cruisers, battle-ships without number, built with all the modern improvements. This fleet has been created in less than six years. The army is being drilled by European officers and the movements chiefly impressed the observer with the staunch and solid character of the regiments on the ground. China's present aim appears to be to find within herself the military resources and war material that she was formerly compelled to procure elsewhere. The arsenals, workshops and foundries completely change the national character, modifying it in the European sense.

Of course there is no estimate as to the fighting qualities of Chinese soldiers and sailors under these conditions; that can only be a matter of actual experience. At any rate, the resources of the empire are so vast that no nation will lightly undertake the task of discovering the exact value of all these preparations. Even this cautious feeling is a great gain to the Flowery Kingdom.

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