

How then can it be supposed the throne's policy is to connive at allowing troops and people to vent their wrath on foreign ministers?"

The political morality taught by Confucius and his disciples, which forms the basis of the Chinese jurisprudence and education, may set forth a close season for foreign ambassadors. Yet reference to a cloudy and confounded philosophy which does not ensure the safety of foreigners at all seasons of the year is not likely to satisfy countries concerned in knowing the fate of their envoys, and in having the authenticity of messages from them confirmed by letters signed and dated.

All the imperial edicts hitherto made public, even the polite and diplomatic assurance that dear old Confucius has expressly forbidden the slaughter of envoys, will not pacify the friends of foreigners in the Flowery Land, seeing that the latter have been done to death by a cruel and unreflective section of the press of the period in a dozen different and diabolical ways during the past few weeks.

The injunction of a dead and gone philosopher is not enough. The amiable Dowager Empress, or Prince Tuan, will have to produce the missing white men, women and children.

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**The Harvest  
of Commercial  
Cupidity**

The sudden awakening of Europe to the danger and folly of supplying the teeming millions of the Flowery Land with war material has been illustrated by an agitation for legislation prohibiting the exportation to China of guns and rifles. It is a little late in the day for the passing of such a measure. However, better late than never, even if it costs the powers now engaged in restoring order much in blood and money to disarm the people they fitted for warfare. In our issue of last week, we remarked that Europe is simply reaping the harvest sown by her gunmakers and drill instructors in the land of Ah Sin. The crop is not pleasant to contemplate, and the surprised nations are now asking one another why the diplomacy of the West, as represented by the foreign ambassadors at Peking, failed to see what was growing. We are glad to find that we are not alone in thinking that the recent outbreak in China may be traced to the trading greed and commercial cupidity of so-called Christendom. British, Germans, French and Americans have been warm competitors for the custom of the Chinese, and the statesman and the trader have combined to force rifles, artillery, high explosives, and military instructors upon the Pagan hordes east of Suez. The *Commercial Bulletin* (New York) in commenting upon the unpreparedness of Europe and America for such an uprising admits that Western diplomacy for

once has been badly overmatched, and the representatives thereof apparently sleeping. The same paper says editorially:

"France and Germany have allowed officers educated at Government expense to teach barbarous and semi-barbarous people the art of modern war. England and the United States have done likewise. The Boers were under the tutelage of European officers and the Chinese have learned from similar sources. China's resistance of Japan in 1894 was puerile. The navy made one good fight and was destroyed; the army made itself ridiculous. At once all Europe undertook to teach China how to fight and provide her with the necessary weapons. All the legations were at the service of their fellow citizens who made war material and desired Chinese contracts. Russia sent officers to train the Chinese soldiers. We are beginning to reap the harvest. No Christian nation ever trusted one of its subjects to the justice and mercy of an Asiatic court, till extraterritoriality in Japan was surrendered last year. But all Christendom was willing to trust its subjects and its commercial interests to the mercy of millions of Orientals armed with Occidental weapons of destruction. European artillery has battered down the legation residences in the Chinese capital; European rifles have massacred European men, women and children in Peking; in Tientsin it has been found that the Chinese no longer fight with fans and umbrellas; the myth that the chief equipment of a Chinese soldier is a bird cage has been exploded; the Chinese no longer expect masks of hideous aspect to turn the enemy to flight, as the Japanese say they did six years ago; nor do the Chinese flee after a few shots from a machine gun."

A thoroughly armed China may well create a feeling of unrest and disquietude in all the capitals of Europe. The possibility of any complication arising from the present action of the temporary allies which would link the fortunes of Japan with her Asiatic neighbour ought to make the world regret its readiness to teach millions of pagan people the art of modern war. The Chinese, like the Boers, have evidently been preparing for war, and reports of recent fighting actually tell of the flight of soldiers belonging to one of the first class Powers before a bayonet charge of the once-despised yellow men.

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**A VOLUNTEER GRIEVANCE.**—There is great indignation among British volunteers at their treatment by the War Office, and as a protest against Lord Lansdowne's modification of the character of the force, Lord Wemyss, hon. colonel of the London Scottish, has resigned; so also has Colonel Balfour (brother of Mr. Arthur Balfour), who protests against the new order requiring regiments to send 50 per cent. of their members into camp in order to earn the capitation grant. The London Scottish Regiment has a difficulty in complying with this order of the War Office, having already sent out 130 men to serve at the war, with the Gordon Highlanders. Official red tape takes no account of this, and so matters are coming to a crisis.—*Gazette's London Letter.*