

THE POPULATION OF CHINA.

A Matter of Much Interest—Now 450,000,000. From The San Francisco Chronicle.

The population of China has been a matter of much discussion and doubt among foreign-ers. It has been claimed that the figures of the Chinese census are much too high. There is, however, no known reason why the officials of that country should exaggerate their population. The most difficult part of the problem is based in part upon the numbers of the people. The most difficult part of the problem is based in part upon the numbers of the people.

The census of 1876 gave the population of the empire at 450,000,000. Since that time the population has been lost with several million people, and Kaishan has been reconquered. Among no people with any degree of civilization is the birth rate so high as in China, and, although the death rate in the densely crowded districts is very great, the increase is presumed there are now 450,000,000 people in China.

These figures represent more than one-third of the population of the globe. It is a greater population than that of all Europe, and three times the number of people on the whole continent. Even at these enormous figures the average number of people to the square mile for the whole empire is not so high as in some parts of the United States.

In the great mountain ranges on the north, the plains of Kaishan and the snowy regions of Mongolia and Manchuria the population is sparse, but in the great central regions of China proper—in the fertile, alluvial soil—the population is denser and more crowded. The villages there are almost beyond enumeration, and the numbers of walled cities are innumerable. In the two large provinces, at the mouth of the Yangtsi River, with an area of 90,000 square miles, the population in 1876 was 22,000,000, and there were 120 walled cities.

The census of 1876 was taken when the richest portions of these two provinces had been devastated and depopulated by the Taiping rebellion. Since that time there has been a great increase of people from other regions of the empire, especially from those districts where the famine of 1876 prevailed. The natural increase of population has also been very great, and it would be safe to say that these 90,000 square miles have now more than 30,000,000 people.

Why are muscians so popular with hostesses? It cannot be because they are lively or novel; it cannot be because they afford an opportunity to display rich toiles—for they do not; it cannot be because they are so good; it cannot be because they are so popular because they cultivate musical tastes, and I am therefore driven to the conclusion that hostesses like them because they are cheap.

Recent experiments by Dr. Percy F. Frankland, described before the English Society of Arts, show the following number of micro-organisms found in a given quantity of air in different localities: Top of Prince's hill, 8; bottom of Prince's hill, 24; top of Northwick Chimney (300 feet), 7; at the bottom, 16; Golden gallery of the National Academy, 11; in the churchyard of St. Paul's, 40; Exhibition-road, 504; in the chemical laboratory of the Royal Society, 23; in the case of the session, 432.

As a distance from land of ninety sea miles the average of the experiments gave an average of twenty-five liters, when the distance from land was 120 miles it was one in ninety-three liters. Out of 12 experiments made at a minimum distance of 120 sea miles in eleven the air was absolutely germ-free, so that it would appear that the maximum distance to which ordinary circumstances permit micro-organisms can be transported across the sea is about 120 miles.

The Berlin Telegraph has recently published some interesting facts concerning the paper trade of the world. It says: "Germany, relatively speaking, possesses the greatest number of paper factories and paper manufacturing machines of any country in the world. It is surpassed only by the United States, which have 864 factories and 1100 machines, while Germany has 809 factories with 801 machines. France possesses only 420 factories, and Scotland and Ireland with 12 machines each for the last country. Italy has 120 factories, Russia 133, with 137 machines; Austria-Hungary 220 factories, with 270 machines; Australia possesses already 4 paper manufacturing machines, while Egypt has only 1 factory, and still produces her paper. The entire universe then has a total of 3124 paper factories, with 3603 machines. The daily production, calculated upon the basis of the total yearly output, amounts to 55,890,200 quintals of paper, or in round numbers 56,000,000.

Characteristics of the United States Civil War. From The Anneton (Ala.) Hot Blast. Our statement that three of the five men who saved the union were of southern birth is met by another curiosity. A celebrated northern man writing to us says: "You call attention to the fact that the deadliest enemies of the south in the war were of southern birth. There are others equally curious. The southern states that went out ostensibly on state rights resolved themselves into a sort of military despotism, with its head at Richmond, while the northern states, opposed to state rights, fought the war out through the governors of states. Again, we Yankees were supposed to be Puritans. The three Puritans who did the most mischief are Lee, Jackson and Davis. There is an element of truth in this. The real history of the war is yet to be written.

The Only Man who can Solve the Middle. From The Omaha World. Nervous Walter (at a hotel)—Did you go up to Sarah Bernhardt's room? Hall Boy—Yes; she got her pet tiger with her again. "So I heard. Did you knock at her door?" "Yes." "What came out of the door—the lady or the tiger?" He Obeyed the Name. From London Truth. I recently called attention to the case of the exclusion of the boys at the Hampshire reformatory school from Wesleyan church because they were sinners above other boys in that they were out of control. The vicar has now again distinguished himself by declining to baptize a child "Julius." By what right, I should like to know, unless it be that he did not consider the parents god-fathers responsible for their actions?

LARGE SIZED BANK CHECKS.

Not Always Suspected with Actual Cash—A Business Transaction in London. From The New York Tribune.

There are few groups for men that cannot be interested by what is going on in the large sized bank checks or large sums of money that have passed between men in business transactions. In a gathering recently of five or six men, most of whom are at least reputed to be wealthy, the subject was expressed by each one if there is a man in New York who could draw his check for a million dollars and have it honored in actual cash. One of the group, a prominent financier, said: "If you will take up the bank papers and run over the figures you will be astonished to see how few banks have actually a million dollars in cash on hand. That tells the story, most of our cash ability to check out a million dollars. We are in the habit on this side of the water of thinking that the accumulation of money in London is greater than in New York.

"I know of an instance not long since which is a fair illustration of these \$1,000,000 checks. A London man had a business transaction in which a payment was to be made of \$250,000. For business reasons he did not wish the checks to be passed as in ordinary business transactions. A check had been drawn on the Bank of England, which was the recognized outside bank of the Bank of England. He went to the bank and asked the cashier for the check. They had not so much money on hand, and were obliged to ask him to wait until they could go to the Bank of England and procure it.

"When he had secured the cash he went to other banks to make a deposit. The house refused to accept the money on deposit until he had explained to them in the fullest manner where the cash came from. He had to make a deposit made in cash at one time. They would not accept it without knowing where it came from, and looked him up with suspicion for having so much cash in his possession until he had explained the circumstances of his business. Of course the Bank of England had money enough to meet such a check as a much larger one, but the man in the United States treasury would be able to meet a great demand. But the fact that \$250,000 should be a sum for one of the biggest banking establishments of London indicates how small a part actual cash plays in the business transactions of the day.

"Lemondade at the Circus." "This is lemondade, is it not?" inquired a light-haired gentleman blandly, as he stepped up in front of a stand on the circus ground side of the day. The proprietor replied that it was ice-cold lemondade and generously threw in the information that the price was only 5 cents a glass. "I'll take a glass, if you please," said the stranger, and he was placed in a small paper sack filled with sugar, with which he proceeded to sweeten the mixture. A crowd was gathered about him in his haste, and the proprietor of the refreshment stand was becoming red and very moist.

"If I give you half a dollar, will you give me a glass of this?" he said to the bland gentleman, anxiously. "My friend," said the smiling customer, slipping with evident satisfaction the beverage into his pocket, "it affords me pleasure to say that this is the best lemondade I ever drank, and a show ground. Here is your five cents." And he finished the glass, paid his money and allowed his wife to lead him away. Half an hour later the lemondade vendor was up in business, and was doing the three or four times as much as he had done before. The crowd was now a large one, and the proprietor was searching for a light-haired and smiling stranger.

An "Arabian Nights" Story Matched. From The Chicago Tribune. Giles Busby, a Toledo fishmonger, was cleaning a whitefish last Monday, and in the very intestines of the fish he found a diamond ring. The ring had engraved upon its inner surface "J. A. B. Chicago." Giles forwarded the ring to the Chief of Police in this city. Yesterday Mrs. Julia A. Lemox, of 12 Lennox place, identified and recovered the ring. She tells an interesting story in this connection. In 1869 she, as Miss Bennett, became engaged to Mr. Lemox, and he gave her this diamond ring for a wedding present. Upon their bridal trip in 1871 Mrs. Lemox lost this ring; while she was waiting for her husband in the Pullman car the ring slipped from her finger and dropped through the waste-pipe. As the train happened to be crossing the bridge over the St. Lawrence River, near Montreal, just at that time the leeward bridge had no hope of recovering the ring. There are no whitefish in the St. Lawrence; the theory is that a small fish swam upon the ring, and that at some future time this small fish, while carrying about the lakes, fell a prey to the whitefish in which the long-lost ring was recovered. Giles Busby, the Toledo fishmonger, received from Mr. Lemox a check for \$100 for his honesty.

Decay of Hawaii. Thoughtful Hawaiians, it is known, have been appalled when they have contemplated the rapid destruction of their race. Cook, scarcely more than a century ago, counted 60 villages on one island, and estimated that the whole group supported 400,000 people. Three generations later only one-tenth of that number remain. Two years ago, says The New York Sun, it was believed that the decrease in the native population had ceased, and that there was a slight increase. Then it was found that the native element, which in 1860 included nearly four-fifths of the population, had become a minority. Today, with a rapid diminution in their numbers is chiefly due to the fact that the blood of their race has been poisoned by foreign diseases, and many of them are in the rapid influx from other lands only a portent that the Government of the Sandwich Islands is to be subverted and the land of their heritage is to pass into the possession of strangers. This impression is the chief cause that induces the hostility to the foreign element now manifest.

A Queer Will. From The London Telegraph. A rather curious will has just been contested here. A. M. Desmouliere lately died, leaving a fortune which was proved under \$2000. Not a penny was bequeathed to the direct heirs or relatives of the deceased. The eccentric testator left one part of his money to be divided among distressed French artists, painters and sculptors, and another to the destitute people of all classes, including even supernumeraries, male and female; while a codicil had been added, which directed Desmouliere, in grateful remembrance of the good luncheon and dinner of which he had partaken during his lifetime at a popular restaurant, left a considerable sum to the cooks, waiters and scullions of the establishment in question. The heirs and relatives were opposed by the Society of Dramatic Authors, the Society of Painters and Sculptors, and by the secretary of the restaurant. The court rejected the claims of the two societies, as no special names had been mentioned; but the restaurant people were victorious, their legacy being ordered to be paid by the executor. The remainder went to the testator's relatives.

Merely. Your strictures are unmerited, our follies are unnumbered. Directly from our gram'pas they all came: Our defects have been transmitted, and we should be acquitted of all responsibility and blame. You are not distressed, indeed, but hereditary sinners. For our fathers have acted as they should. 'Tis the folly of our gram'pas that continually haunts us. What a pity that our gram'pas weren't good! Yes, we'd all be reverend senators if our good progenitors had been prudent. But they had all been prudent, studious and wise: And they were quite terrified of us, we would be celestial! You're not a proper teacher for the skies. If we're not all harmless sages, and innocents to the ages. And fit for principalities and powers: If we do not guide and man it and engineer the human race. 'Tis the folly of our forefathers, and not ours.—T. D. S.

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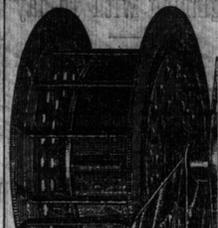
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PIANOS. PIANOS.

The Musical Opinion and Music Trade Review, published in London, April 1, 1887, under the heading CANADIAN MUSICAL EXHIBITS, A.T. THE COLONIAL EXHIBITION, has the following: Referring to "The Grand Piano of the Exhibition, which was exhibited upon a report, all the more important instruments exhibited by this firm were of the highest quality, and the demand for reliable life insurance, reduced to a minimum of cost, is increasing. But those remaining fully justified. HAD BEEN SOLD AND REMOVED. But those remaining fully justified. HAD BEEN SOLD AND REMOVED.

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