

all sides the cry arose, "*Fung Shuey* has been outraged, and here is the result." The Government immediately ordered the removal of the wire, and so the innovation ended.

This ridiculous *Fung Shuey* occasions no small detriment to the Chinese. It is well known that certain districts abound with coal and the precious metals; but what of that? Grim *Fung Shuey* says, "Hands off, or I'll make you smart!" Very lately gold was discovered in the hills of Cheefoo. A few foreigners set out to work the vein; but they had hardly started when a troop of soldiers was sent after them to arrest proceedings.

On every hand some queer indication of *Fung Shuey* meets the eye. A stranger with a straight eye in his head is disgusted with a meaningless curve in a wall which ought to shew a straight line; he ponders with amazement on the tortuous furrows in a field, or the needless *ins* and *outs* of a canal; he wonders why a blank and shapeless wall should stand on a particular side of a house. All this is owing to *Fung Shuey*. Those singular spirits are not less crooked than querulous; they abhor a straight line, and the strange features indicated are simply instances of homage to their scruples.

But streaks of light appear on the horizon. Western influence is being felt more and more. Western science and literature will do for China what they have done, and are doing for India. The more thoughtful and intelligent of the Chinese are beginning to feel that education must comprise a wider range of subjects than the University curriculum provides. They begin to feel that, though capable of unlimited progress, they are lagging behind the rest of the world. Superstition and national pride would deter them, but commonsense and self-interest urge them onward. A very significant event took place whilst we were sojourning in the country; an order from the Imperial Government was issued that Colleges, in which the English language and Western science should be taught, were to be set up in all the Free Ports. These are to be supported mainly by Government, and the instructive staff is to consist for the most part of foreigners. This is a prodigious stride in the right direction.

It was the Bishop's intention to have gone from Shanghai to Peking. This was not to be. As we were about starting, alarming news of a rebellion reached us. This was raging between Tiensin and Peking. As this was the very route we must have taken, the expedition had to be abandoned.

We next found ourselves sailing on the magnificent Yang Tzee River into the interior of the country. Everything was wonderful about that. We sailed in a wonderful ship. You know, good reader, the railway steamers on the Hooghly; well, our steamer was just *not* like those. You must fancy some eight or ten of the ferry steamers thrown into one in order to get an idea of the proportion of the China craft; but as for the fittings and accommodations, the spacious promenades, the delicious lounges, the luxurious baths, the ample state room, &c. &c., neither the *Howrah* nor the *Calcutta* can give you any idea of these.

Then what a wonder of wonders is that river! The mightiest streams of India and America must yield the palm to the Yang Tzee. Ever and anon as we steamed along we could only discern a faint outline of the shore on either hand. The span could hardly have been less than 5 or 6 miles. When we had advanced 600 miles up the river, it was still nearly a mile in breadth. Very interesting and often romantic is the scenery which greets the eye of the voyager.

Whilst we linger in Central China, we dwell with some interest on a discovery made some years ago by Dr. Smith, the former Bishop. His lordship somehow heard a report of a singular colony of foreigners residing in a certain city in the interior. At that time no European could penetrate further than a 24 hours' journey from any of the treaty Ports. Any researches in that remote district must therefore be carried on by natives alone. The Bishop was most