

rather striking contrast to the few pictures of the young Emperor which have reached the public. These show him to be a young man of an amiable, though weak, disposition, which, in view of his life and education, is not a matter of wonder. He leads an entirely artificial existence, surrounded by wily courtiers, and excluded from any participation in the life of his people, or, for that matter, in genuine life of any kind. He has tutors, valets, and everything that luxury and unlimited resources can supply, but he has no real knowledge of life; even when he gives an audience to a foreigner, or to a petitioning subject, it is in the presence of his Viceroy, of whom Li Hung Chang is the foremost. This old man of Chihli, is not only a Viceroy, but occupies the same place as Roseberry does to-day, Premier of a great empire. Li Hung Chang was born in the Aun-Hei province on the 16th of February, 1823. He is not a Manchu, like the present Emperor, but a full-blooded Chinaman, and it is said that any disturbance looking to a restoration of the native line would bring Li Hung Chang close to the throne, despite his age. He is 71 years old, and his chances are probably aided by the fact that he is the head of an army of 30,000 men who have been drilled by foreign officers. In 1860, when he was Governor of the Thiang-Sin province, he assisted Col. Gordon in suppressing the Taeping rebellion. Later, the other Thiang province was added to his rule, and he was created Viceroy of the united countries in 1865. A year later, he was made Minister Plenipotentiary, and in the following year became Viceroy of Hong Kuang In

1868, he became Grand Chancellor. He permits coal mining and coast steamer traffic to be carried on by the English, and the fact that he is thought to be favorable to railroads is quoted as another instance of his broadminded views. He has also founded a steamship line, and is favorable to European exploitation of China. He represents the progressive party in China, and his introduction of the telegraph, machinery and European industrial methods has been accomplished with the greatest opposition from the mandarins of every degree. The Emperor, whose name is Kuang Hsü, is still young—about 23. The young Emperor is known by sight to very few people, for he cannot appear in public, and when he goes abroad it is usually in a close sedan chair, with guards along each side of the road to prevent intruders from gazing at his sacred person. He lives in a great palace, surrounded by a wall through which nobody but the court officials ever penetrate without special permission. He learns as much of what goes on in his empire as the Viceroy sees fit to tell him. He is of frail physique, and in very delicate health, and the life of the palace is said to be such that it would be possible to remove him without any real knowledge of the affair ever becoming public. His 23rd birth-day anniversary took place on Aug. 15th, and was celebrated on a scale of magnificence which is impossible to understand. There is no law of hereditary succession to the throne, but it is left to each sovereign to appoint his successor from among the members of his family of a younger generation than his own.

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