

climate and the finest of water systems. A soil as rich as that of France. The rivers and seas teem with fish. Her rice and fish alone enable her to support a population that may be estimated at one-fourth or more, probably one-third, of the human race. To compel the transformation of a people so great in the inherent resources of power from the ways of peace to the ways of war, is to assume a responsibility whose gravity it is impossible to overestimate.

This apathy of China has been explained upon many grounds, mainly fanciful. She is the first nation, heathen though she be, to accept the divine admonition that peace on earth should be the highest aim of human endeavor. So, while civilized States, living under the accepted sacred light of Christian truth, have undergone centuries of throatcutting and pillage until it has become a canon of our ethics that war is the natural state of man, that war must have its season for the good of society, that the generation is barren which knows no war, China has remained at peace.

Not only has she remained at peace, but she has taught her people that war is a crime, and the profession of arms ungracious and undeserving of honor. This reverses the faith of the Christians since the days when the Cæsars won their crowns by the sword. A foolish, heathen fancy, no doubt, but there is a good deal of the New Testament in it, and it has served the higher interests of mankind.

For if China, since the Ming dynasty, had been so far "advanced in civilization" as to realize that no god is so deserving of worship as the god of war, history would now tell a different tale. If some modern Tartar ruler, with the genius of Napoleon, had won the people's confidence, shown them the imminent peril of their fine philosophies in the presence of the mad, raging, warring outside world, and, so doing, had armed China, civilization would have had her problem. The Chinaman contains within himself every faculty of the soldier. He is fearless. He does not dread suicide. He has extraordinary endurance. He can march all day upon a portion of rice. With reverence as the basis of his faith, he knows what is so essential to a soldier--the law of obedience. Moreover, the walking from Moscow to Peking is good, as the caravans of the present day will attest.

China has had no Napoleon to awaken the memories and possibilities of Genghis Khan. If there has been no violent movement as the result of so mighty an inspiration, there has been a slow, steady, glacierlike tendency to edge away from the traditions and give the sword the place it holds among Christian people. This is due to the influence of Li Hung Chang, the Emperor's most powerful subject, and among the first to preach the gospel of war.