

Remember that, boys, and never allow yourselves to say, "Time enough yet," or, "Just one minute." If you must have the one minute, let it be one minute before the time, and never after.

A CHINESE GARDEN.

Dr. Charles Taylor, in his "Five years in China," presents us with a very vivid description of those terrestrial paradises—the flower-gardens of China.

One afternoon we accompanied some friends in a boat to visit the garden of Hewqua, one of the old "Hong merchants," or Chinese merchant princes, who made an immense fortune in the trade with foreigners. They are two or three miles up the river, on the banks of which they stand, surrounded by a high wall, having a massive gateway, which you enter by a flight of stone steps leading from the water's edge. The prominent feature of these, and all other Chinese ornamental gardens, besides their flowers and shrubbery, are rocks, bridges, pools, and pavilion or arbors. The rocks are piled up and cemented together with a kind of plaster, which becomes in a little time as hard as the rock itself. Sometimes these piles of artificial rock-work are twenty feet high—not always solid masses, but often so built up as to form arches and crevices, caverns and grottoes, nooks and corners, of every shape that can be thought of—the more odd and strange the more beautiful in native estimation. Then these rocks have paths winding about in different directions, inside and out, up flights of steps and down, often forming an intricate labyrinth. Another feature in these gardens consists in the artificial ponds or pools of water. They generally fill up so much of the space that the rocks seem like islands rising out of them. Then these pools are crossed in various directions by bridges, some straight, and others running as zigzag as if they had been modelled after a streak of lightning.—They are built of well-hewn stone, for the most part, and are from three to five feet high above the water, supported by stone posts or pillars, and provided with curiously wrought balustrades.—Sometimes they are built high enough to admit of a beautiful arch for a support. China abounds in these finely arched bridges, crossing the numerous canals and rivers, throughout the whole country. Then there are arbors or summer-houses, of various fanciful shapes, from square to five, six or eight sided, built out in the water, with merely a column at each corner to support a curiously constructed roof, which runs up in the centre to a point like a steeple. Often, too, these pavilions are built on the tops of the artificial rocky eminences. In private gardens, and in some public ones also, these little buildings have tables and benches, where friends and visitors resort to sit and smoke, drink tea and chat. There are temples also, and to say, with richly carved and gilded wooden idols in them.

Many of the flowers and shrubs are very beautiful. They are placed about in different parts of the garden, in odd-looking yet handsome and costly flower-pots, and on stands and tables in the summer houses and temples. There are great

numbers of tea-shops in the public gardens, where hundreds of people daily congregate to drink tea, smoke and talk. The great fondness of the Chinese for flowers is proverbial. They have numerous different kinds, and many of them are exceedingly beautiful and fragrant. The splendid white lotus or water lily is seen resting on the surface of the pools, with its leaves often as large as a parasol. Its root is a favorite article of food, being both palatable and nutritious. There is a magnificent variety of the peony, called the MAT-TAN, unknown in America. Besides flowers there is a great variety of evergreen shrubbery, such as the box, the arbor vitae, the cypress, cedar and the pine. These are highly prized by the Chinese, and they force them to grow into many odd shapes by confining some of the branches with strings, and bending others, so as to make them grow in any direction they wish. Here are figures of birds and animals growing in this way. A deer with horns, or a long-necked crane, standing on one foot, while the other is lifted up, and all growing fresh and green out of a flower-pot, is a very singular sight. You will sometimes see one of these miniature trees that has been trained to resemble a pagoda of several stories in height. These Celestials have a strange passion for dwarfing and distorting all those varieties of shrubbery that will admit of the process.

"BUTTON-HOLES ON BOTH SIDES."—A gentleman who entertained a good deal of company at dinner, had a black as an attendant, who was a native of Africa, and never could be taught to hand things invariably to the left hand of the guests at table. At length his master thought of an infallible expedient to direct him; and as the coats were then worn single-breasted, in the present Quaker fashion, he told him always to hand the plate to the button-hole side. Unfortunately, however, for the poor fellow, on the day after he had received this ingenious lesson, there was among the guests at dinner a gentleman with a double-breasted coat, and he was, for a while, completely at a stand. He looked first at one side of the gentleman's coat, then at the other, and finally quite confounded at the outlandish make of the stranger's garments, he cast a despairing look at his master, and, exclaiming in a loud voice, "Button-holes on both sides, massa!" handed the plate right over the gentleman's head.

News of the Week.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The R. M. steamer Canada arrived at this port on Monday evening, with English dates to the 9th inst.

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales has been confined of a healthy Prince. Her Royal Highness and the infant Prince "are doing remarkably well."

From a recent official announcement on the subject of the British Navy, it appears that at the commencement of the present year the number of effective ships was 975

of all classes. This large number does not include many which are now doing duty in various harbours at home and abroad, and which, if the necessity arose, could be readily converted into block ships for the defence of the coast; nor does it include many iron and wooden mortar-boats laid up at Chatham. There are 72 line-of-battle ships, each mounting from 74 to 120 guns; 42 of from 60 to 74 guns each; 94 steamers and other ships carrying from 22 to 46 guns each, the majority of which are declared to be equivalent to line-of-battle ships; 25 screw corvettes, each carrying 21 guns; and 500 of all classes, carrying from 4 to 21 guns each. We are further assured, there is a squadron of 185 screw gunboats, each mounting two Armstrong guns, most of them fitted with high pressure engines, each of fifty horse-power. The total number of ships of all classes in commission at present in every part of the world is upwards of 300, the remainder being attached to the reserve squadron, at the various naval ports, partially equipped, and ready for service, when they may be required.

The Berlin correspondent of the Times says England has addressed a fourth note to the Diet, urging a conference to avoid the risk of a war, but to all appearance the Danish Question is drifting into a warlike decision. The Prussian Minister of War has addressed some ominous words to a military clothing society. More Prussian troops are being put on a war footing, and already there is a larger number in and upon the borders of Holstein than necessary for Federal execution. In all, there are about 60,000 men, and there will soon be 100,000.

Austria and Prussia will address identical notes to those states who have not agreed to the Austrian proposition in reference to the stay of the Prince of Augustenburg in Holstein. These notes will declare the policy of the states which formed the minority on the occasion of the vote of the Federal Diet on that question, and will announce that those states will reserve further resolutions on the subject. The complete understanding existing between the Austrian and Prussian Governments, with regard to the policy to be pursued in the Schleswig-Holstein question, has again been confirmed.

At the sitting of the Federal Diet, Herr von der Pfordten brought up the report of the committee upon the affairs of Holstein. The committee were of opinion that the Treaty of London was unfair in point of absolute justice, and illegal in its bearing upon the rights of nations; and that it fundamentally violated the rights of Germany and the Duchies.

An English paper has the following remarks on the threatening look of affairs in Europe:

To escape from the entanglement in