

Under a Cloud

Is the Situation in China One of Anarchy or War?—Britain in No Hurry to Make a Rush at Peking—Delay Till September Advised—The Week in Parliament—Torrid Times in Paris—Small Attendance at the Exposition.

Paris, July 22.—Is it anarchy or war? If this question were answered to the entire satisfaction of the powers there might be some light on the future situation in China, but with the absolute lack of trustworthy information all are acting in the dark. No one is willing to hazard a guess as to what the outcome is to be. The powers perceive in the present extension of the anti-foreign movement the birth of a spirit of patriotism which they never met with before in their dealings with the Chinese people. In the China-Japanese war Central and Southern China held aloof.

"Western civilization," said an official of the foreign office, "is apparently face to face with a gigantic problem. The powers have to deal not merely with the defenders of the Manchu dynasty, but to all appearances, with an uprising of the mass of the Chinese people, who imagine that the European powers for the past two years have been aiming not to overthrow the dynasty, but to seize China. This seems to have given rise to a spirit of patriotism. We fear that North China will not alone be involved in the anti-foreign outburst, but that the Yang Tse Kiang valley will be caught in the vortex."

HOPE FOR THE LEAGUES.
The French government still retains hopes of the safety of the legations in Peking in view of the latest advice. It declines to believe that any disorder will break out among the powers, especially between Russia and Japan. Russia has her hands full with affairs in Manchuria, where it is pointed out, she has been taken as much by surprise as have been the other powers. The invasion of Russian territory by the Chinese astounded the Russian government, which little suspected that the Chinese were in such strength, so well armed in the territory contiguous to Russia. That no present break will occur in the accord of the powers is the general opinion in diplomatic spheres.

HOTTEST ON RECORD IN PARIS.
During last week the thermometer registered between 90 and 95 degrees, reaching the maximum on Friday, 102 in the shade, making it the hottest day ever recorded in Paris. The extreme heat continues. The streets during the week were deserted during the day and throughout the afternoon all except business people. Very few cases of sunstroke are treated.

SMALL ATTENDANCE AT THE SHOW.
The weather had a very unfavorable influence on the attendance at the exposition. Parisians kept away entirely and only the provincials here for a day stay braved the sun's rays and scientifically did the exposition. The tickets were sold at 75 centimes when the show opened, gradually dropping to 50 centimes. Yesterday the hawkers had difficulty in securing buyers at 25 centimes and some sold tickets at 20 centimes, equal to 4 cents in American money. The exhibition reaches the five-way point. Tickets next week will be only 15,000,000 and are disposed of. There therefore remains 50,000,000 tickets.

UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.
Paris, which has been one of the latest backward cities in the world as regards transportation facilities, this week inaugurated an underground metropolitan railway similar to that in London, with a vast improvement, the motive power being electricity, which drives the choking atmosphere of the old road. This line will be a great help, as it crosses the center of the city. The journey takes a half hour, compared with an hour by the old cars. The fares are three cents second class and five cents for first class passengers. The road was inaugurated without ostentation, and even without knowledge of many Parisians, but on the first day it carried 100 passengers who enjoyed the low temperature of the tunnel—55 degrees below the mercury on the streets the mercury stood 77.

THE ADVANCE ON PEKING.
London, July 22.—The request of Secretary of State Hay to the powers to make an immediate forward movement on Peking is not likely to meet with success in England. Lord Salisbury is just as eager as the American secretary of state to adopt such a policy, but he is practically convinced it will be.

POSSIBLE UNTIL SEPTEMBER.
As to local conditions and the allies' equipment. Beyond a courteous assurance that Britain is willing to co-operate in any movement that the commanders on the spot may seem advisable, nothing is likely to come of the American effort to reach the Chinese capital, for all official advice here indicate that a dash to Peking in the immediate future is impossible.

MILITARY SUICIDE.
The government's attitude may be described as a philosophic determination to wait and bear it, hoping for the best, yet fearing the worst, until troops in climatic conditions enable the powers to enter Peking and ascertain what a shadow of doubt the extent of China's present position. Until that is accomplished, every opinion worth repeating is heard, not only regarding the future of China, but also to the nature and severity of the retribution to be meted.

AMERICAN EFFORTS APPRECIATED.
While English journals and the press of the people declare that in such an emergency no risk is too great and couple with this a sentiment of genuine appreciation of American efforts to alleviate the situation, espe-

cially as regards sending W. W. Rockhill as a special commissioner to China and in the attempts to communicate with Minister Conger. Minister Conger's telegram has introduced into the situation, already replete with uncertainties and perplexities, a still further element of doubt that has turned the experts completely topsy turvy.

A DEAN IN TROUBLE.
The greatest sufferer in this respect is John Colet, the venerable dean of St. Paul's. A few hours after the dispatch giving the news of the receipt of a message from Minister Conger was published the government issued a notice that the dean's projected memorial service on Monday for the victims of the Peking massacre was undertaken without its sanction. Simultaneously letters appeared in the papers from relatives of those in Peking saying the dean had exhibited indecent haste, while the aristocratic Morning Post denounced the cathedral dignity in terms almost as strong as it had applied to the Boxers themselves, whereupon the dean got his back up, and declared that it was too late to cancel the service, but that, owing to pressure from high quarters, he had consented to indefinitely postpone it.

EFFECT ON GOLD.
According to the Statist Russia is likely to bear the brunt of the financial burden of the Chinese crisis on account of the probability that the government will be obliged to incur a large outlay to protect Siberia, while if the government should attempt to hold Manchuria the output would be still greater. This, the Statist says, however, would benefit other European markets, as the probabilities are that much Russian gold will have to be sent to London, Paris and Berlin, partly to meet the interest on the Russian debt held abroad and partly to pay all the obligations Russia has already entered into or is about to enter into. In that way the money markets will be relieved to a greater extent than is now calculated. For if Russia lets go of say twenty or thirty millions sterling it will be an immense addition to the funds in the markets of Europe. The Statist also says it is likely the Bank of France will raise the discount rate to 5½ per cent and declares that the position of Germany is greatly improved.

WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.
The past week in parliament was marked by still another backdown by the government in withdrawing the clause of the army bill making volunteers available for service abroad. Such a sweeping change in the constitution of the army met with strenuous opposition on both sides, and after pleading for the proposal the under secretary of state for war, George Wyndham, meekly withdrew it. This was another instance of the government's unwillingness to feel the pulse of the House of Commons and the nation.

The Star, voicing the opinion of the Advanced Radicals, approved the withdrawal of the clause, but fails to see how the radicals could oppose it, for "you cannot assert your hegemony in China, your suzerainty in Africa, claim the golden stool of Ashanti, teach France her manners, and wield a longer spoon than Russia without either courting disaster or facing conscription."

FROM A GERMAN STANDPOINT.
Berlin, July 22.—The Chinese situation takes on a radically different shape from news which has reached here from Russia. What Europe hitherto knew about the troubles in Manchuria was that the Russian Government chose to let pass. Now a number of reports, some of them official, but a majority private, have reached here from St. Petersburg, which tally in the main, and each point to the situation in Manchuria and along the 1,500 kilometers of borderland on the Siberian side of which the Amur River forms a frontier, as much more dangerous for Russia than has hitherto been supposed.

CHINA BEGINS WAR.
A military contributor to the Tagesspiegel says the Russian news showed that Chinese regular troops, aided by irregulars, in all numbering about 120,000, are in open war against Russia. They not only demand the withdrawal of the Russians from Chinese territory, but after the Russian refusal to withdraw the Chinese assumed the offensive and drove off the Russians from railroad construction and began hostile operations against Harbin. Biagovestchensk and other towns were shelling the named place. What makes the Chinese hostilities extremely dangerous, however, is the fact that the Chinese, by a series of recently constructed forts and redoubts, absolutely command the Amur River for a distance of 200 versts, thus preventing Russian troop transports on the only route open, at least until those fortifications shall have been taken by the Russians.

RUSSIA MEANS BUSINESS.
Though the Russian censorship is again most severe regarding telegraphic news received here today, from St. Petersburg that Biagovestchensk has been taken by the Chinese, who seized large amounts of money in the Russo-Chinese bank there. All reports agree that the Russian Government is actually at war with China; that the shilly-shally policy hitherto maintained will be dropped; that Russia is now hurriedly preparing for a serious campaign in North China, separate from other powers, and that Russia will not be able to shilly under these altered circumstances to bear an adequate share in the Tien Tsin-Peking campaign. The Russian forces available along the border and throughout North China are stated to comprise 25 battalions of the line, 27 battalions of reserves, 17 Cosack regiments and 17 field batteries, altogether about 75,000 men.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg says: The Chinese who attacked the Biagovestchensk concentrated on the right bank of the Amur River. They have been severely routed at the village at Sakhalin, which was burned by the shells from the Russian guns. The Chinese town of Aigun has been partly destroyed.

The Russians have occupied all the important defensive positions on the right bank of the river, driving the Chinese out of them.

GERMAN NEWS EXPEDITION.
The German Fleet Society will send on Aug. 5 a news expedition to China for the purpose of reporting events entirely independent of English or other

news-gatherers. The expedition will consist of from 15 to 20 men equipped with field telegraph apparatus, auto-wireless telegraphy and heliographs. The alleged dispatch from Minister Conger and all the other reassuring Chinese advice received here are viewed by the German officials with extreme skepticism and Ambassador White has so cabled the Washington authorities.

BOER ATTACK WAS REPULSED

Sharp Engagement 13 Miles East of Heidelberg.

Gen. Little's Brigade Defeats the Force Under Gen. Dewet—An Army Scandal.

London, July 22.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Pretoria, July 22.—The Boers made a determined attack yesterday to destroy a post at the Rail Head, thirteen miles east of Heidelberg, which they attacked with three guns and a pom-pom, and surrounded. They were, however, beaten off after a sharp engagement before reinforcements summoned from Heidelberg had arrived."

HEAVY FIRING HEARD.
Lorenzo Marquez, July 21.—A dispatch from Machadodorp says that heavy artillery firing has been reported from the neighborhood of Middleburg, where it was reported that Boers have prepared to retire upon the approach of the British.

Among the prisoners passing through Nooit Gedacht this week were a number of Canadians captured at Greylinstad.

Four German officers who have been acting as President Kruger's military advisers have just arrived, having received orders from Berlin to proceed to active service in China.

DEWET DEFEATED.
London, July 21.—The war office has received the following from Lord Roberts:

"Pretoria, July 21.—Little, temporarily commanding the third brigade, reports that on July 19 he came in contact, near Lindley, with Dewet's force, which broke through Hunter's cordon. The fighting lasted until dark, when Dewet's force being repulsed broke into two parties, the latter's casualties were light. He buried five Boers. 'Hamilton and Mahon continued their eastward march yesterday, and should join hands with Pole-Carew today near Erste Fabrikken station. 'A body of Boers yesterday wrecked a train carrying sick between Krugersdorp and Potchefstroom, July 19."

ARMY SCANDAL.
Manchester, July 21.—The London correspondent of the Guardian hints at a vast scandal over the condition of Lord Roberts' army in the Transvaal. Whole commands, it is said, are sick, and men are falling asleep on the firing lines, becoming easy prey to the Boers.

New York, July 21.—R. I. Pierson, of New Orleans, who went to South Africa to act as a scout for the British army, returned on the St. Louis. He has a bullet wound in his right leg, and some strong opinions regarding the poor hospital corps. "The medical attention that one receives out there," he said, "is certainly enough to make the blood boil. It is disgraceful. The truth is beginning to come out now, but not all is out yet. The surgeons down there range in age from 18 to 21 years. They were sent out for a specialty. If a case comes that is too much trouble to handle they order the patient sent to some other hospital. Little they care whether they die on the way."

REVIEWING THE SITUATION.
London, July 22.—A London correspondent reviewing the situation in South Africa, has this to say: The Chinese mysteries divert public attention from South Africa. This is, perhaps, fortunate, for the heat has been terribly severe for London, and worrying is dangerous. The Boers are underneath a straw hat. It is probable that Lord Roberts' campaign has not been going well, although the situation is not clear, and there may be a pleasant surprise for the public. "Anyhow, it had been generally believed that the Boers were rounded up in a mountainous corner of the Free State, and that they were falling back demoralized into the Transvaal, but these expectations have not been justified. Gen. Dewet contrived to break through the cordon with a single column, which may now be heading for the railway or swooping down upon the convoys and isolated posts. He has also left behind him a number of fast-moving and well equipped columns, which are of sufficient strength to compel Gen. Rundle and Hunter to operate cautiously.

Meanwhile Gen. Botha's force has been pressing closely around Pretoria since Nitral's News and Lord Roberts does not appear to be accomplishing any useful result by sending columns to Rustenburg and northward from Waterfall.

THE ELUSIVE BOERS.
The fact has come out that Gen. Paget was practically under siege for weeks at Lindley, and that Gen. Dewet made repeated attempts to capture the town. This was not hinted at until a day or two ago. Military men fail to explain why the Boers have succeeded in capturing one body of British troops after another, while they invariably elude pursuit themselves, disappear when apparently surrounded and reappear elsewhere.

Sore Hands

Soak the hands thoroughly, on retiring, in a solution of Seneca's Soap. Dry, and anoint freely with CUTICURA OINTMENT, the great skin cure and purifier of emollients. Wear old gloves during the night. For sore hands, itching, burning palms, and painful finger ends, this one night cure is the best.

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and work further mischief. Their horses ought to be worn out by this time, and they cannot be sure of getting remounts or supplies, but their mobility is unceasing, and so-called flying columns on the British side are unable to overtake, hunt down and capture the commands.

Lord Roberts' friends are asserting that he is badly served by the generals in the Free State, and assuming that as soon as Gen. Dewet's forces are dispersed the campaign in the Transvaal will be rushed. The military theory is that Lord Roberts does not wish to leave Pretoria, but that he aims to hold Gen. Botha's force near the capital, while Gen. Hildyard's division, with Lord Dundonald's cavalry, is sent across the country through Ermelo to cut the Delagoa railway and station itself within striking distance of Komatipoort.

MUTTERINGS OF DISCONTENT.
Lord Roberts is now warned that the time is approaching when, instead of being the critic, he will be exposed to the criticism for allowing traitors and perjurers to go unpunished for feeding spies and for paying excessive prices for farm produce to burghers who are ready at a moment's notice to take up arms afresh and leave their families to go unpunished at the cost of the military chest. There are so many bickerings and jealousies among the military coteries and their social allies in Mayfair that allowance must be made for the reign of discontent with Roberts.

There is "Wolsey's gang," military and social, which is watching for a chance to discipline and humiliate Lord Roberts; there is also the Alderston circle, with a large annex in Devonshire, which is devoted to the fortunes of Buller, and is striving to promote them at the expense of "Boers." Moreover, there are smaller coteries of the friends of Methuen, Gatacre, Colville and others, and these are centers of criticism and disaffection whenever Lord Roberts' work is reviewed.

WERE ASSERTION.

The mere assertion of facts does not serve to convince the majority of people. We much prefer that you should visit our store, see our stock and general display of goods that go to make up a first-class drug store. We strongly assert that one visit will convince you that our claims as leading family druggists will be fully sustained.

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The World's Fortifications.

Next to Gibraltar Malta is the strongest fortress in the world.

The only fortress of consequence in Denmark is the capital, Copenhagen. The strongest fortress in European Russia is Cronstadt. It is the Russian naval depot of the Baltic Sea.

The earliest known system of fortification was the stockade. It has been employed, at one time or another, by all nations, but is still in use in Turkey.

Offa's Dike was a defensive wall built by the Romans against the Welsh. It was an earthen fortification, 113 miles long, and entirely cut off Wales from England.

The only fortress in the United States is fortress Monroe, in Virginia. It is surrounded by a moat filled with water from 8 to 15 feet deep, and from 75 to 100 feet wide.

The two principal German fortresses on the Baltic Sea are at Königsberg and Danzig; on the French frontier, Metz and Strasbourg; and on the Belgian frontier, Cologne and Coblenz.

France has, on the German frontier, three first-class fortresses—Belfort, Verdun and Briancon; on the Belgian frontier, Lille, Dunkirk, Arras and Conz; on the Italian, Lyon, Grenoble and Besancon; and on the Atlantic coast, Rochefort, Lorient and Brest.

The southern entrance of the Red Sea is commanded by the fortress of Aden and the fort on the little island of Perim, in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb; the guns of the latter completely covering the narrow channel, and the fortress dominating the entrance to the sea.

The difference between a fort and a fortress lies in the fact that the former is designed to contain solely the garrison and their munitions, while the latter is often a city containing a large number of noncombatants.

The Chinese wall is the most extensive fortification in the world. According to the surveys made within the last few years, this wall is 1,728 miles in length, and it passes up steep mountains, down into gorges and ravines, crosses rivers, valleys and plains, seemingly regardless of obstacles. It is 25 feet thick at the bottom and 15 feet at the top, and from 25 feet to 30 feet in height, with turrets or towers 35 feet to 40 feet high every 200 or 300 yards during its entire length. The exterior walls are of well-cut granite blocks, the interior is filled with earth and stone, and the passage way is paved with bricks one foot square. The erection was begun in 211 B. C., and it was designed to protect the northern frontier of China against the savage tribes of Siberia.

The greatest fortress in the world is Gibraltar. The height of the rock is over 1,400 feet, and the stupendous precipice is pierced by miles of galleries in the solid stone, portholes for cannon being placed at frequent intervals. The rock is perfectly impregnable to the shot of an enemy, and, by means of the great elevation, a plunging fire can be directed from an enormous height upon a hostile fleet. In 1779 the celebrated siege by the Spaniards and French began and lasted three years. The fortress was successfully defended by 7,000 British and attacked by an army of over 40,000 men, with 1,000 pieces of artillery, 47 sail of the line, 10 great floating batteries and a great number of smaller boats. For

months over 6,000 shells a day were thrown into the town.—Golden Penny Magazine.

Silent.

After the death of the great Prussian, General Von Moltke, some of the Berlin newspapers published the following anecdote of him:

When a very young man, holding the humble position of second lieutenant in the Danish army, he wrote a letter of resignation to the king himself, full of pompous self-conceit. The king accepted the resignation, briefly adding that the Danish army would try to get on as best it could without Lieutenant von Moltke.

The young soldier, who had been unconscious of his vanity, was deeply mortified. "You talked too much, Moltke," a comrade said to him. "I shall talk no more," he sternly replied.

His reticence thereafter was so great that in his old age he was known throughout Germany as the Silent One. Since his death a prominent clergyman in Pennsylvania has given an account of a visit which he made to the scene of the decisive battle in the Austro-Prussian war, in a carriage, tro-Prussian war.

He found there a group of German was driven at a snail's pace into every part of the field. A box beside him was filled with maps, with which he studied each minute detail of the battle, fighting it over again moment by moment. It was Moltke with his staff.

The painstaking accuracy which brought him back after years had passed, to study again his own mistakes and successes, made him the great master of the art of war of his century, while his dumb self-control gave him prestige in the eyes of the masses, who in Germany, as elsewhere, are apt to believe that silence means strength.

We live in a voluble age, when almost every intelligent man has a pet theory or pursuit to which he wishes to convert his neighbors. The able man who knows how to hold his tongue in even one language will probably be credited with more wisdom than if he could maintain his opinion with clearness or eloquence.

"The easiest thing for a great man to do," said John Randolph, "is to make a speech; the most difficult to act right and keep silent."

If any reader of the Youth's Companion, however, wraps himself in reserve, and becomes reticent and cold among his fellows in order to gain respect, he must remember that Moltke, dumb, without his ten languages, his accuracy and mastery of strategy, would have remained a sub-lieutenant all of his life.

An old Spanish proverb says, "None speak better than the ant, who says nothing and works."

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It is estimated that the average stipend of an American pastor in the large American cities does not exceed \$1,200, while in the country \$300 is an outside figure.