

CHINA'S GREAT WALL.

A WONDER EXCELLING THE GREAT PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.

A Wonderful Line of Masonry Built Two Thousand Years Ago—Much of It Still in Good Condition—A Trip Over the New Imperial Railroad.

In the vice regal special train running through North China, from Shan Hai Kwan to Tien-Tsin—by railroad to the great wall of China. On a special train through some of the least known parts of the Chinese empire. Dashing along at the rate of forty miles an hour through the plains of North China. The steam demon of the present cutting his way into the most famous vestiges of the celestial past.

These are some of the wonders of the journey I am now making over the new imperial road of this vast empire in company with the party of ex-Secretary Foster in the private car of China's most powerful statesman and ruler, Li Hung Chang. We have traveled already nearly 200 miles through the agricultural and mining districts of this part of China and have planted ourselves on the borders of Manchuria. We left the great trading city of Tien-Tsin, and its million almond-eyed people, in the early morning of two days ago, and plowed our way



GATE OF WALL AT KALGAN—TWO THOUSAND YEARS OLD.

through tens of thousands of brown grave mounds to the eastward. We passed the myriad huts of the city of Tong Ku, at the mouth of the Peiho river, and turned to the north almost under the shadow of the frowning battlements and of the Krupp and Armstrong guns of the Taku forts. We stood on the platform and saw the scores of queer windmills which with their square white wings pump the brine of the Yellow Sea into the salt pools of the government reservoirs, and watched the gangs of yellow coolies cutting down the mountains of salt and loading it for Tien-Tsin, whence it will be shipped off at high prices as a government monopoly for the people of the interior. We rode for an hour over salt marshes, upon which Mongolian ponies, red cattle and donkeys grazed, and then entered the rich gardens of the great plain. Here every inch was cultivated, and the farmers were everywhere laboring in the fields. We saw the wheat planted in rows, two feet apart, springing from the soil in its luxuriant green dress of the early spring, and could note the curious methods of work of these the best farmers of the world. The crops are planted in small tracts, and everything is cultivated with the hoe and the plow. There is no sowing of grain as with us, and the rows of wheat, corn and millet are weeded and fed with manure.

The trip from Tong Shan to the wall has been over the new government railroad, and our special train is the first of the kind which has gone over it. The line itself has only been opened to traffic for a few days and this will be the first report given to the civilized world of its character. It is a railroad that any country might own with pride. Well ballasted and well laid, the steel track is as solid as though it had been used for a generation, and its stations and bridges have been built to stay. The Lan Ho bridge, which we crossed near the walled city of Lan Chow, is nearly 2,000 feet in length and it has five great spans, each of which is 200 feet long. It has a number of smaller spans, and it is built upon arches of solid stone, the iron work being made by the same company that made the great Forth bridge in Scotland, and the heavy arches were sunk by the pneumatic process. Crossing this we rode onward—part of the time at a speed of forty-five miles an hour—past other cities, till we came in sight of the mountains of Manchuria and stopped with the end of the railroad, almost on the edge of the sea and within a stone's throw of the branch in the great wall, through which the railroad is to be extended hundreds of miles further on into the wilds of the almost unknown country of Manchuria. Here under the shadow of the great Chinese wall, gray with its age of 2,000 years, we ate our luncheon in the viceroys' car, nine representatives of the most progressive nations of the present and in comfort among the ruins of the greatest work of China's historic past.



THE GREAT WALL AT HANKOW PASS.

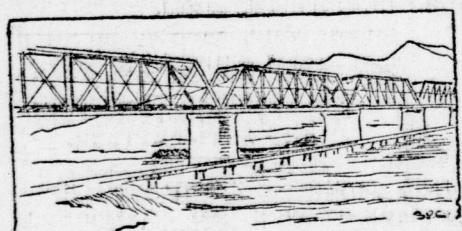
Englishmen and two Chinese officials, in addition to a retinue of servants and train men. It was after a good dinner that we took our trip to the great wall. We spent some hours in walking about it. We climbed to its top and examined the great towers which crown it at every few hundred yards, and tramped over the brick pavements which were trod by the Chinese warriors who built it, now more than 2,000 years ago. We made measurements and examinations of it at the breach where the railroad is to pass through on its way into the Manchurian wilds, and with our own hands pulled from its sides four great bricks, which we will carry back as mementoes of the trip.

One of the World's Wonders.

The great wall of China! What a wonderful structure it is and how mighty it must have been before the

days of gunpowder and cannon. I have seen the pyramids, but this massive wall impresses me more forcibly than they. The greatest of all the pyramids is an immense pile of stones, covering thirteen acres and reaching to a height less than that of the monument at Washington. The great wall of China, if the brick and earth composing it could be carried to the valley of the Nile, would carpet the best parts of Egypt, and it is a work incalculably greater than the monuments of the Egyptian kings. I visited it where it runs through the Mongolian mountains, about ninety miles from the city of Peking, and I found there an even more solid structure than that at Shan Hai Kwan, on the edge of the sea. It begins here at the head of the Gulf of Pechili and runs up and down the mountains, clear across the boundary of northern China, separating the country from its vast tributary provinces of Mongolia and Manchuria, till it reaches the great desert of Gobi, above the Hindu Kush. It is more than 1,200 miles long in a straight line, and with its windings up the hill and down the valleys it measures all told a distance of more than 1,500 miles. This wall is about thirty feet in height, or as tall as a three-story city house. Its width at the points where I have visited it ranges from fifteen to thirty feet. The average parlor is not more than fifteen feet wide, and if you will imagine a solid block of three-story houses fifteen feet deep, built across the United States from New York to Omaha you can get a faint idea of the size of this wall.

The great wall of China is built right over the mountains. It climbs up crags so steep that the bricks had, it is said, to be carried on the backs of goats. It crosses peaks taller than the Alleghany Mountains, and at one point goes over one which is 5,000 feet above the sea. A large part of it has a foundation of granite blocks from two and a half to four feet thick, and the base of the wall is ten feet wider than the top. The bricks of which it is made weigh from forty to sixty pounds, or as much as a 6-year-old boy, and the clay for these bricks had to be transported long distances from the interior at some portions of the wall. These bricks are of a slate color. According to measurement they are fifteen inches long, nine inches wide and about five inches thick. They are put together in a solid masonry by means of lime mortar, and they are built up from the foundation in two walls, each about three feet thick, running parallel with each other, the space between being filled with earth and stone and rammed down. The top of the wall is paved with these bricks, and its average width is about fifteen feet. It is everywhere so wide that two two-horse wagon loads of hay could be driven along it and the hubs of the two teams would not touch. Six horses abreast could be easily driven upon its paved highway, and on each side of the road along its whole 1,500 miles of length



BRIDGE ON THE IMPERIAL RAILROAD.

there is a brick crenellated wall as high as your head, which would prevent them falling off in case of a stampede. At short intervals the wall is crowned by great two and three-story towers, made of these big blue bricks, and at the passes in the mountains there are arched gates of stone, some of which are beautifully carved. Here and there the wall is double, a second wall running over the country some distance back from the first, and on the peaks near it there are often watch towers, in which the guards stood in times past and warned the soldiers stationed on its top of the advancing hordes which they spied coming from the wilds beyond.

Much of the great wall is still in perfect condition. Standing upon it at the city of Shan Hai Kwan we could see it climbing up the Manchurian mountains, jumping the gorges and scaling the peaks. Gray with its life of twenty centuries, it seemed to grasp the earth of the present with its mighty hand, and where it crosses the mountains it seemed as imperishable as the hills whose hoary brows it crowned. At other places, however, time has gained the mastery, and nearest the railroad there is a breach at least 100 feet wide, and one side of the wall where it bounds the city of Shan Hai Kwan has been almost thrown through. Its sides are covered with moss, and the grass has grown upon its pavements. No arches nor guard it, and it only remains as a monument of the hundreds of thousands of almond-eyed men who 2,000 years ago thus sought to protect their homes and those of their descendants from the savages of the north for all time to come. No one can stand upon its ramparts, and it is not to be impressed with the strength of this great Chinese nation. Seventeen hundred years before America was discovered, at a time when our blue-blooded ancestors, half naked and altogether savage, were wandering through the wilds of Germany, France and England, when Rome was still a republic, fighting her last battles with the Carthaginians; two hundred years before Christ was born these same Chinese people built this mighty wall. Their history states that it required an army of 300,000 men to protect the builders, and millions must have been employed in the undertaking. I have seen enough of the building of railroads and other works in China during my present tour to understand how it was probably constructed. There was no machinery used, and few cattle and horses. Every foot of it was built by man, and in its 1,500 miles of mountain climbing there are to-day bottled up within this structure the vital force of millions of the Chinese of the past, a monument to the thought that while man dies his work remains, as does the hand that carved the Venus di Medici and the pen that wrote Shakespeare and the Aeneid.

The organization required for the building and the defense of such an army of laborers shows a high mark of civilization. The man who began the work was one of the great men of the world's past. He has been called the Napoleon of China, and he to a large extent was the founder of the Chinese empire. His name was Tsai Chi Hwangti, and he consolidated the many kingdoms of China into one.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Curious Bird's Nest. A bluecap has built its nest in a two-gallon bottle upon the estate of Mr. Basil T. Wood, of Conyngham Hall, Knaresborough, and has reared in this strange home a brood of young, and feeds them by dropping food down the neck of the bottle. The birds are unmolested, and every care is taken by the head gardener to prevent them being disturbed. In order to ascertain the number of the brood, Mr. Knight, the head gardener, had to place a lighted taper within the narrow neck of the bottle. —Nottingham Evening Post.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON, VI, THIRD QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, AUGUST 5.

The Baptism of Jesus—Text of the Lesson, Mark i, 1-11—Golden Text, Mark i, 11—Commentary on the Lesson by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

1. "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." This is the gospel specially of service. In it we are reminded of the words, "Behold, I will bring forth my servant, the Branch" while "Behold, the Man whose name is the Branch" is seen more clearly in Luke's gospel (Zech. iii, 8, vi, 12). Here Jesus is the patient servant who sacrifice for others, spending and being spent to serve the sons of men. This gospel is written that the same life of unwearied service may be in some measure reproduced in us (II Cor. iv, 11), but as we are in this first verse introduced to the Son of God so we must be sons of God before we can serve God. "Let my son go that he may serve me," said the Lord of Israel (Ex. iv, 23).

2. "As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before Thy face, which shall prepare Thy way before thee." The whole story of His sufferings and glory is written in the prophets (I Pet. i, 11; Luke xxiv, 25-27). They also spoke of the heralds who should precede Him, John the Baptist, in the spirit and power of Elijah before his first coming, and Elijah himself before his second coming. Compare Mal. iv, 5; Luke i, 17; Math. xvii, 10-13.

3. "As to preparing His way, every believer can, in a measure, be His messenger to do that. What an honor to be sent of Him in His name!"

4. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." When John was asked if he was the Christ, or Elijah or the prophet, he said that he was neither, but only a voice proclaiming the Christ (John i, 23). He sought no honors for himself, but rejoiced to decrease that Christ might increase (John iii, 29, 30).

5. "And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins." There must be a sense of sin, a true conviction of sin, and the deeper the better, before any one will come to Christ. He came not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance. This is the work of the Holy Spirit (John xv, 8, margin), and He uses the word and the lives of believers. In Acts v, 31; xi, 18, Christ is said to give or grant repentance.

6. "And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins, and he did eat locusts and wild honey." Thus was Elijah clothed (II Kings i, 8), and, as to locusts, they were among the creatures which God permitted Israel to eat (Lev. xi, 22). John was certainly not extravagant in the matter of food and raiment. What a contrast was Isaac, who loved Esau because of his venison and would bless him only in connection therewith (Gen. xxv, 28; xxvii, 3, 4). Jesus has taught us not to think too much about either food or raiment (Luke iv, 4; vi, 25), but has assured us that if we make His concern and His righteousness our first concern He will see to all our need in that direction (Math. vi, 33).

7. "And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose." John sought not to attract people to himself but to the Lamb of God, whom he came to herald. He had no ambition to make himself a name, but only to honor Him of whom he said, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John iii, 30). He sought not great things for himself (Jer. xlv, 5), but his watchword was "Not I" (Gal. ii, 20; I Cor. xv, 10).

8. "I indeed have baptized you with water, but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." Both Matthew and Luke add "and with fire" (Math. iii, 11; Luke iii, 16), which fire seems, from the context, to refer to the judgments of His second coming as King and Son of Man.

9. "And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth to Galilee and was baptized of John in Jordan." In Luke iii, 23, it is written that He was about 30 years of age. In Math. iii, 14, 15, it is said that the first John baptized Him because of John's greater need to be baptized of Him, but Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." He humbled Himself from heaven down to the manger of Bethlehem, and the home in Nazareth, and the life of rejection, even to Gethsemane and Golgotha, all for us, and surely it is becoming in us to humble ourselves for Him, yet it seems strange to say so, for, whereas He actually came down from great glory, we, being nothing, have nothing to come down from but sinful pride.

10. "And straightway coming up out of the water He saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him." Here in this gospel we meet the first "immediately" used about eighty times in the New Testament, and forty times in this chapter, sometimes translated "anon" or "forthwith." It is the word for a good servant. The opened heavens make us think of Ezek. 4, Math. iii, John i, Acts vii and x, Rev. iv and xix, in each of which chapters heaven is opened and it ways concerning Christ or His church. The Spirit coming as a dove makes us think of the dove that found no rest except in the ark while the waters of judgment were on the earth. Jesus, the true ark, is the only place where the Spirit can rest fully. If we are filled with the Spirit, we will rest only in Jesus.

11. "And there came a voice from heaven, saying, 'Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'" See also chapter ix, 7, where the same testimony was given at the transfiguration. In John viii, 29, Jesus says, "I do always those things that please the Father," and in Rom. xv, 3, it is said, "Even Christ pleased not Himself." Since the Father is well pleased with Jesus, and we are well pleased with Jesus and accept of His abiding in us, God is well pleased with us for Jesus' sake. Let us abide in Him (I John, ii, 28).

HARE AND HOUNDS.

All About the Above Famous English Game for Boys.

Would you like to hear about a famous outdoor game that boys in England play? There, as in our own country, each season has its own sports. As soon as the warm, sunny days come, when the fields and roads are dry and firm, "hare and hounds" is the cry from boyish lips, and young hearts beat high for joy in the sunshine, and boyish feet almost spurn the earth as they hedge along the highways and over the hedges, getting in training for their favorite sport.

It is confined principally to schoolboys between the ages of ten and sixteen, though often boys who do not belong to the school are members of the hunt, and very often, too, the little fellows are the best runners in the party.

The boys divide themselves into two parties, each having its "champion runner," and lots are drawn as to which of these runners shall be the "hare" in the first hunt of the season. Afterwards they go by turn. The rest of the boys are the "hounds," and the other champion is the huntman, who marshals them to the "meet" (which is usually the school playground), gives the signal for the start, calls them off by a shrill whistle when they get



THE HARE STARTS.

on the wrong scent, and, in fact, is master of the hounds. The hare is provided with a small, open satchel or pouch, slung across his shoulder, and filled with bits of white paper about an inch square, heavy paper too little to take part in the hunt to prepare these bits of paper, and for a day or two before a "run" they have great fun in preparing "scent," as they call it. The hare is also allowed five minutes "head start," and is allowed to choose his own course, but is obliged to scatter the bits of white paper at short intervals all along the way he goes, as they are his tracks for the hounds to follow.

The five minutes given him he usually spends in seeking for some obscure place at which he leaves a little package of yellow or blue paper to denote the starting-point. This may be some blocks away or up a side street or just around the corner. He had his choice and a free opportunity to seek it, as the hounds go within doors till the five minutes are up. Then the huntman cries "Whoop! halloo!" and away they all bound hither and thither, seeking till they find the package of colored paper, which they are obliged to do before they can start. The finder must cry "Hark! forward!" Then off they go on the scent.

Sometimes so long a time is taken up in finding the starting point that the hare makes famous headway, and can double on his followers; that is, retrace his way for a block or two on the other side of the street (leaving the bits of paper all along, of course), or go round the block. If they are in the country he probably makes for the woods, goes in some distance, then turns back, perhaps, till he finds some leafy tree, upon which he climbs and hides himself till the hounds have gone by. Anything to put them off the track.

When the hare has gone far enough and wishes to return special care must be taken, as, if he is seen, the hounds can rush after him "cross lots" and wet beside him if he is caught! He is no longer champion, but has to give up his badge to



HAS TO PAY THE PENALTY.

the fortunate catcher, and cannot even be one of the hounds till he has paid a certain forfeit, usually something good to eat.

If the hare gets successfully home to the playground the opposite party has to stand treat; so you may imagine how hard each strives to win. It is a capital game when played really according to rules, and English boys think the rules half the sport.

Modern Gold Mining.

The quartz is taken from the mine, sorted and then hauled to the stamping machine. Here the ore is crushed and pounded as fine as flour. It is then run through a sluice-box that contains quicksilver. As the water carries the ore over the "quicksilver" it is taken up and held by the mercury and forms an amalgam. The quicksilver is then placed in a retort and brought to the boiling point. The "quicksilver" passes out of the retort through a tube and is collected in a basin of water, and hardly a bit has been lost, while the gold remains in the retort in the shape of gold dust and is now ready for market. Only about fifty per centum of the gold is saved by this means and those who can or have ore rich enough to justify it send it to the smelters, where ninety-five per centum is saved.

The Prince's Bravery.

Did you ever notice that when one has been badly frightened why sound makes them jump? The crowned heads and rulers of state have been so badly scared of late by bombs, that when some one threw flowers into the carriage of the Princess of Wales the other day she started as though she had been shot. The Prince sprang up and stood before her, to save her life if possible.

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