

PREPARES TO FIGHT.

CHINA RECEIVING ARMS IN LARGE QUANTITIES.

Evidences of an Awakening in the Flowery Kingdom Without Parallel in Modern History.

Hong Kong letter: The refusal of the war department at Washington to grant the request of the American legation at Peking for artillery to defend the compound is looked upon as a very injudicious move here. The other legations are all well protected by artillery and as the American legation occupies an important strategic position, the defenses of which would affect those of all the other legations, there is much feeling expressed over Mr. Rockhill's objection to the armament.

In spite of the many important concessions to European opinion shown by Chinese officials recently no one doubts but that the empress is plotting a terrible reprisal and that before much of the \$333,000,000 indemnity has been paid an effort will be made to drive all the whites out of China.

A remarkable change has come over the Chinese since the settlement of the Boxer difficulties.

To those unaware of the depth of duplicity that exists in the Chinese nature, these changes from traditional policy would not seem suspicious. To those who have studied the idiosyncrasies of the Oriental they are very much so. None of the other powers are so sanguine of the goodness of the Chinese as are the Americans.

"There has been a secret edict issued," said a prominent and progressive Chinaman to me recently; "what it is no loyal Chinaman will tell, but he may warn his friends in a general manner."

"The court will soon return to Peking. The empress will be in a great rage to see how 'the foreign devils' have destroyed the work of centuries. She will not take any active step at present. It is all in the future. Let the Europeans look out. Some day the word will be given and the Chinese will all rise armed and ready for war. Then there will be no more indemnity paid. China will wipe out the debt in her own way. She will then be made free from all her oppressors."

This sort of talk is, of course, not common, but one hears in vague ways of a something coming which shows that whether or not reprisals are planned the majority of Chinamen believe it to be so.

By those who have studied the native for years the fact of his excessive cordiality is also looked upon with undisguised suspicion.

Never before were the almond-eyed rogues so jolly and complaisant with foreigners as now. The late unpleasantness has taught Johnny Chopsticks that he can do nothing without that knowledge which makes his white brother so powerful. Consequently he no longer hedges himself around with ultra-conservatism. He has determined to learn the ways of the foreign devil so that he may fight him with his own weapons.

Today European expert workmen are employed in the various Chinese arsenals and are turning out as good weapons as can be bought in Europe. All the arsenals are working night and day and it is scarcely necessary to ask the reason why.

A resident of Shanghai informed me recently that in spite of her agreement China is arming as rapidly as the material can be produced. He says that thousands of junk loads of small arms and ammunition pass up the Yang-Tze-Kiang weekly, nothing like the present activity ever having been seen at Chinese arsenals before.

At the arsenals the force has been doubled and extensions to the plant are continually being added. High explosives are being manufactured in vast quantities.

The army officials have been secretly notified by the dowager empress that they must spare no means to recruit their army as rapidly as possible. She has also ordered that she be kept informed concerning the number of recruits added each week and of their proficiency at drill. Division commanders must also report concisely as to the possibility of concentrating forces quickly at certain points.

The sloth of centuries is disappearing in the desire of the national spirit to emancipate itself. The fear of European domination is nerveing the Chinese to a degree of assertiveness never known before. Intelligent Chinamen have estimated their power. Measured by Japan they are convinced that the world will be at their mercy in a few years.

All over the country there are signs of discipline and reconstruction springing from the chaos which has reigned during the past year or two. The Boxers have been and are discontenanced when they appear openly as such. They are superseded by new orders which have more secret methods and better system of organization. The crude style of the Boxers is now universally derided and they are held partially responsible for the troubles brought upon the country.

Not only is China waking up to the necessity of being armed so that she can resist encroachments upon her integrity, but she is sending her young blood abroad to master the secrets of all business and crafts and will in a decade be absolutely independent of foreign tuition or guidance.

There seems to have been a rapprochement between the emperor and empress, for, so far as surface indications reveal anything, they are working together harmoniously.

One of the best posted men in China, in speaking of this combination of opposites, said: "The fate of the world

WIDOW OF HENRY J. PLANT WINS.



Mrs. Mary J. Plant was bequeathed by her husband the railroad and steamboat magnate, an income of \$30,000 a year. She claimed her right to full share of his \$20,000,000 and by decision of the court she will receive it.

may depend upon which of these two figures survives. Today the dowager is protecting herself behind the liberality and progressiveness of the emperor. She is using him as a shield and a cover for purposes which are dark and fiendish. Of these she shows no sign at present. Her game is a waiting one. To sweeten her name she is claiming credit for the reform measures which Kwang Su develops.

The current opinion among those who are informed is that if the dowager empress lives long enough to be in a position to place an army in the field numerous enough to carry out her plans she will not scruple to sacrifice Kwang Su.

She may not, however, live long enough to accomplish her designs. Competent authorities estimate five or ten years will be consumed in preparation for the great struggle which will be the greatest in the world's history. China will only be the Westerner their subjugation, or a situation not again menace her. China's struggle for the detested foreigners she has profited by experience and grown gradually in confidence in her ability to face the situation.

The preparations she is now making are on a scale such as she has never dreamed of attempting some time past. She is buying vast quantities of arms and drilling her troops so that the European soldiers. Those who can see an upheaval will be of volume and terrific in its effects.

It will probably change the map of the world, as it will be in a universal upheaval and the end of her domination of the world. There is only one alternative picture. The dowager empress in the interim largely in the hands of his liberal advisers. Kwang Su and his influence peacefully pursued of becoming the dominant life forced upon the world. The enormous output of industry which will naturally expand in its direction.

J. M. GRAHAM.

General Cresson's Dog. Cape Town Correspondence: General Cresson's faithful four-footed friend followed the fortunes of the outbreak of the run to earth at Paarl. He enjoys life with the is located at Green Point and they are held partially responsible for the troubles brought upon the country.

Church parade. A fixture he is when the state of recreation room. Should the service than five minutes, arches in to together, the animal by the men in given to making

COCKATOO KILLS CAT.

Feline Attacks 60-year Old Bird and Meets Death.

Philadelphia Inquirer: This is a story of a poor pussy and "Blanco," a pugnacious cockatoo owned by Policeman Charles McKenna. It happened last week. Blanco, as usual, was in the yard and was engaged in picking a bone from a plate of scraps, when the cat, a fierce, hungry-looking feline, made its appearance. Slowly crouching ready to spring, it made its way inch by inch toward the supposedly unsuspecting bird, which was watching the feline's movements from the corner of its eye. At the distance of a yard the cat made the spring. Like a yellow streak its body leaped toward the cockatoo. Quick as its leap was it was not quick enough for the sagacious Blanco. As the cat leaped into the air Blanco met the animal with his great horn-like claws, striking it squarely in the face.

Surprised, but not shaken in courage, the cat rolled over and over, and after recovering itself gave a faint cry and leaped again. This time Blanco struck it viciously with one claw and one wing, knocking it spinning, at the same time shrieking out in his high voice: "Blanco, Blanco! Scat! Scat! Aw poor pussy, poor pussy."

Again the cat came to time, and again did the bird meet it squarely in the face with its claws, and then, before it could recover itself to spring again, Blanco jumped on its back, picking its body with a vengeance that made the fur fly. For over five minutes both bird and animal waged battle, until weakened by loss of blood and the terrific drubbing administered to it by the bird, the cat crawled out in the alley, where it dropped dead, pursued to the last by Blanco, flushed with the glory of victory. Blanco sustained but few injuries from the battle, and despite a little stiffness was all right the next day.

The cockatoo has been in the McKenna family for nearly 60 years, having been handed down from three generations. It is a handsome bird of the South Africa variety, white in color, with a beautiful yellow topnot.

Old Needlework.

Connoisseur: The needlework picture seems to have made its first appearance in the first years of the reign of Charles I. for, although Elizabethan and Jacobean are said to exist, one with an absolutely unimpeachable pedigree is yet to be found, and the costumes in the loveliest specimens the writer has yet seen certainly indicate that they cannot be assigned to a date before 1630. The earliest Stuart pictures are worked with silks on coarse, irregularly woven brownish linen canvas, in the fine, slanting stitch taken over a single thread, which is technically known as "tent stitch," or petite point. This method of working produced an effect much resembling that of tapestry, by which, in deed, the embroidered picture was probably suggested. As time went on the simple stitchery was elaborated, portions of the design being wrought in silver "passing"—a fine metallic thread passed through the material instead of being applied, hence its name.

The Boston postoffice officials and employees are taking great credit to themselves and finding much satisfaction in the fact that there was not a single piece of mail remaining in the office to be delivered after the carriers had started out on their last burdensome trip on Christmas morning.

A REIGN OF LUXURY.

SIMPLICITY A DREAM DISPELLED IN FRANCE.

Everywhere There is the Same Display of Luxury as Characterized the Second Empire.

Paris letter: Fickle France never subscribes to the same ideas long. If one believed the evidence of their senses and judged solely from surface appearances they would say: "We are on the eve of the coup d'etat. The empire will supersede the republic."

Everywhere and among all classes in Paris today there is the same display of luxury as characterized the second empire. The magnificence of the equipages, the grandeur of the hotels, extravagant display of dress and luxury in all forms in Paris today is the subject of comment throughout Europe.

You have only to breathe this air of splendor and feel that republicanism is dead, temporarily, at least, in la belle France.

A few years ago no French aristocrat would have dared to venture out in the streets of Republican Paris with a gaily blazoned carriage, resplendent harnesses, driven by a gorgeously liveried footman, nor would Grevy when president have dared to drive out preceded by gaudily dressed piquers in gold trimmed jackets, escorted by dashing cavalry troops. Now the smartest of the smart aristocracy have their superbly liveried powdered men on their carriage boxes, and Monsieur Loubet drives forth on gala occasions in a style suggestive of a desire for royal splendor.

It is not long since one was accustomed to seeing coachmen with dragged moustaches wabbling on the seats of mud-spattered carriages and driving sorry looking hacks with a minister of France in the carriage behind them.

Today the carriages of the French ministers are as smart and stylish as those of the aristocracy. Since the election of President Loubet, of whom one might have expected simple tastes, liveries have been re-introduced, the Elysee has been made magnificent and the utmost display possible has been introduced into the lives and surroundings of those who are at the head of national affairs.

One of the little things which go to demonstrate the trend of the times occurred at a dinner recently given by a wealthy countess to some of the lions of Parisian society. The centerpiece of the table was a mass of rare flowers, from out of which popped the charming face of Margaret Duval, the popular singer, who sang the menu as the courses followed each other. This luxurious device with its human centerpiece was never outrivalled even at the feasts of the decadent Romans, but it excited no comment whatever from the Republican press, which but a short while ago was heaping odium upon the Duchess d'Uzes for giving her famous ball, which was denounced as a wicked, shameful and heartless extravagance in face of the fact that citizens of the republic were starving while the waste went on.

One always wonders now what will be the next novelty in luxury devised to gratify the caprices of a wealth-mad plutocracy. Tales of extravagant expenditure can be told out of number. A magnificent fete was recently given in a palatial home on the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne. "Romeo and Juliet" impersonated by the most distinguished stars of the opera was sung on a real balcony in the great hall of the palace, the titled guests listening to the music from the loggias filling the gallery.

The rich bourgeoisie are even more extravagant and lavish in their display than the governing and aristocratic elements of society. Recently a well-known artist attended an entertainment at the hotel of a wealthy merchant where she had been engaged to sing. The magnificence with which she found herself surrounded almost overwhelmed her. She had arrived in a suite of superb salons, surrounded by the most fashionably dressed people and attended by lacqueys in liveries which outshone those of a royal court. As she had gone to the fete very simply dressed the artist felt quite distraught. She was, however, the recipient not only of a handsome fee for her services, but of a watch set in diamonds for a souvenir, such as a king would give for a present to one he desired to highly honor.

An item of the city tax list will show how general luxury has become even in cases where this new ultra-luxury cannot be afforded. Over two million and a quarter dollars was paid for taxes on carriages and horses last year.

Everyone who aspires to any social status keeps a carriage, and a smart one at that. The fashionable restaurants where menus are most expensive are thronged night and day with fashionables to whose purses there seems to be no end.

All over Paris there are springing up flats, modelled upon the London style, with Pompeian bath-rooms, enamelled kitchens, electric stoves, telephones, elevators and all the most expensive appurtenances of latest design.

The cold, stiff, old fashioned apartments are relegated to prosperous trades people or workmen's families or else they are so completely overhauled and improved as not to be recognizable.

Never before were such expensive toilets seen used for everyday purposes. Materials are extraordinarily rich this season and real lace was never before used in such reckless profusion. The toilettes are excessively costly, the most expensive accessories being used.

But one finds this return to luxury and real display a feature not of Parisian life alone but of country life as well.

The days when titled men of royalist or anti-Republican sympathies buried themselves in antiquated chateaux, believed themselves cut off entirely from the sympathies of the people, and led isolated and penurious lives to avoid the attention and condemnation of the public are past.

Today the country chateaux are the scenes of fashionable life and gatherings which were never surpassed for magnificence. All the old fear or indifference of the proletariat seems to have vanished. The old nobility demand and receive the homage and respect to which they have been strangers for years and one would not know but for the difference in faces and tongues that they were not living under the shadow of an autocratic czar.

Ruined chateaux are being bought up by the manufacturing classes or by Russian noblemen and transformed into modern places, so that the trend of everything seems to be away from republican simplicity.

One hears no more or little, indeed, of the poor chateaux which possibly have recovered their dwindled fortunes on the Bois.

There are estates in France where one drives for an hour to reach the chateau. The carriage road leads through perfectly kept parks, beautifully ornamented with flower beds, gay with artificial lakes and streams and all the accessories of a terrestrial paradise.

These chateaux are the purest types of domestic architecture extant, combining the beauties of both ancient and modern types; they are furnished with priceless furniture and works of art and their owners live in them with all the pomp and grandeur of rajahs or mandarins. VALERIE DELAMOUR.

FISH IN DEEP WATER.

"Ground Fish" Found in Great Quantities at Immense Depths.

Nineteenth Century and After: Dr. Hjart has made the remarkable discovery that away out in the open sea, where it was several thousands of meters in depth, he found fish, as it were, in layers or ocean strata. Some required a line as long as the monument to reach down to them, others were in still lower depths, which would submerge St. Paul's and the monument on top, and with many thousand feet of water below them. There, in these still and dark and lightless supposed barren regions of the sea, he caught great cod and haddock and coal fish, sometimes in quantities. The importance of this discovery is that it proves that not only fish brood, but mature fish also exist, cut in the ocean, and that what have been looked upon as typical "ground fish" and "loam" sorts are to be found at other places as well as near the coasts. Not of least significance is the finding of cod in the deep places of the sea, as in this discovery we have the key to solves the mystery as to where the cod abides when he withdraws from the coasts. In the great cod fisheries on the coast of Newfoundland the fishermen find the fish at the commencement of the season in April in the shallow water near the shore, and use lines of 30 or 40 fms, increasing the depth as they find the fish receding, until they have to fish at over 200 feet for them in December.

It was formerly supposed that the raising of cod in roe meant the destruction of more than 2,000,000 potential codfish. Now, as Dr. Dahl says, it merely looks like improving the life-chances of the progeny of another cod. Formerly it was considered that the fish production of the sea was a fixed quantity, which was being continually decreased by man's inroads on it. Now it would appear to be an organism on which the attacks of man can make no real impression. It seems probable, indeed, that in every second, every minute, and every day more fish is produced in the sea than all humanity combined could devour in the same time.

Unpleasant Table Talk.

Philadelphia Enquirer: If there is ever a time when one should particularly avoid unpleasant conversation, it is at table. It has been said that a merry heart aids digestion, and certainly ill-timed remarks and gossip are not conducive to a state of content. The hostess, therefore, who has the tact to keep the conversation at dinner in a happy channel, or the woman who can guide the table talk at home in a cheery channel, is a missionary of more importance than she often realizes.

An excellent example of this thought is given in the story of a young matron, around whose table some distinguished men and women were gathered, and who was startled by the loud statement of her guest of honor that he had spent the day in the court room, where a scandalous divorce case involving the honor of a well-known man and a hitherto much loved woman was then being tried. The hostess, with all the courteous entreaty of a voice too pleading to be offensive, interrupted:

"Forgive me, general; but it is sorrowful enough to know it is going on; please do not talk of it."

Although robbed of his proposed position of reporter, the general, with a new deference in his manner, said: "I beg your pardon; I forgot that you might not be interested," and himself led the conversation in a different direction.

"My hostess achieved something for herself," he said, in telling the story afterward, "something for her fellow-woman, and much for the young men about her, by plainly and definitely showing her deserved displeasure."

A Quebec paper figures out that in the United States and Canada there is spent yearly the enormous sum of \$15,000,000 on golf. This includes the cost of clubhouses and links, their maintenance, the wages of caddies and servants, the cost of golfing suits, sticks and balls, and other expenses.



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