

# The Late Dowager Empress of China

(Fortnightly Review.)

Truth becomes stranger than fiction, history more fascinating than romance, when the late Dowager Empress of China is the biographer's theme. For Tu Hsi was one of those massive world-figures—demerits of Fate one might perhaps term them—the ancients were wont to worship and the moderns are willing to immortalize. As a Hibernian admirer of hers once remarked, "We have had her back to very ancient times, for a parallel to Tu Hsi, and even then we do not find one." A sketch of the main episodes of her living and striving, her reverses and triumphs, yet faithful to the tones of history would stir the souls of impressive readers with strong emotions.

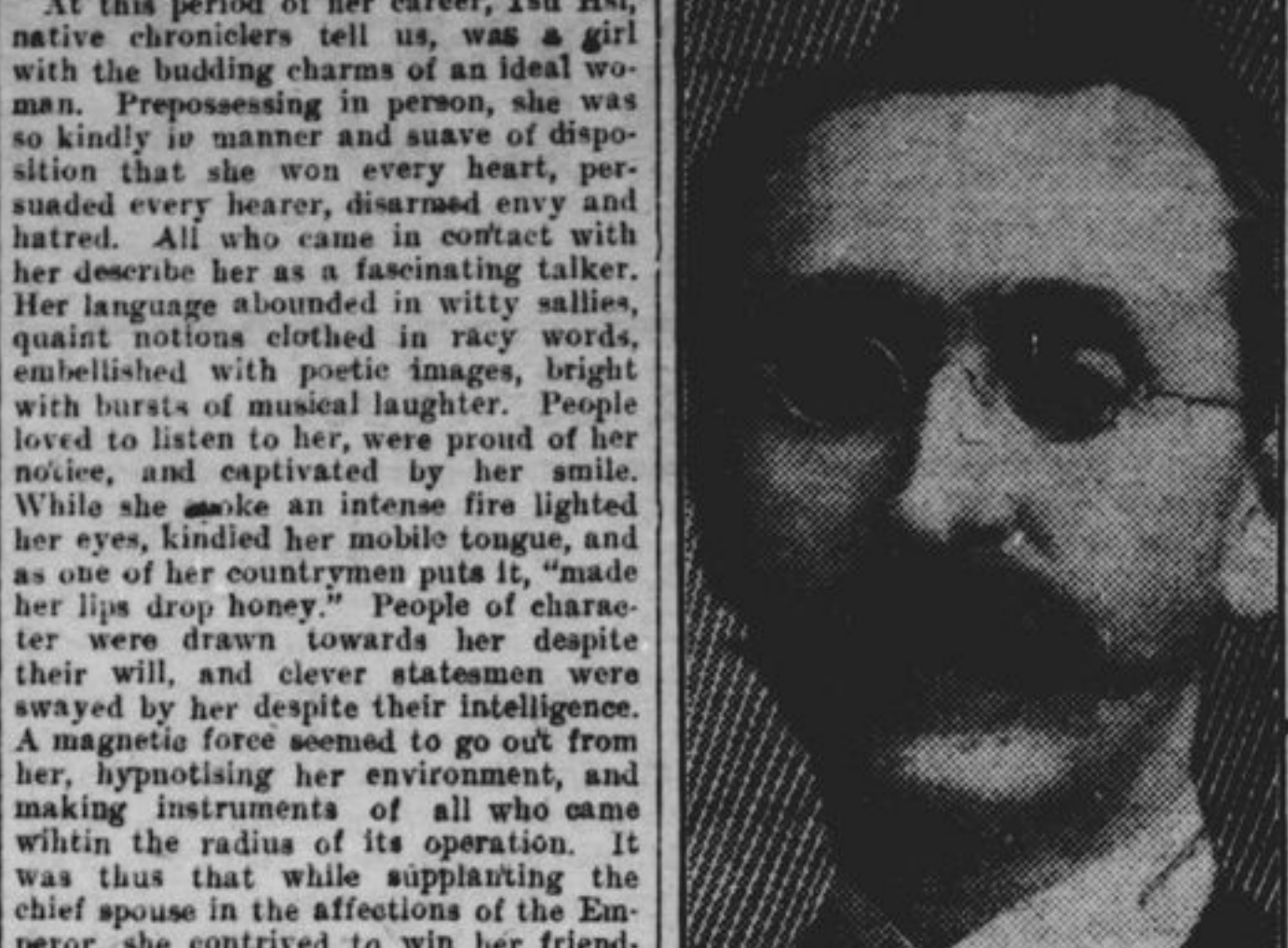
hundred years had made. Hankow had been destroyed in the Taiping rebellion, which cost the nation twenty million lives. China, therefore an embled corpse, enfolded in silk coverings, covered with shackles and fetters, was being slowly and calmly torn to pieces. But Tu Hsi was not only a patriot, she was a promoter of the reforms of the late monarchs. Her language abounded in witty sallies, quaint notions clothed in racy words, embellished with poetic images, bright with bursts of musical laughter. People tried to take note of her wit and her quickness, and captivated by her smile. While she spoke an intense fire lighted her eyes, kindled her mobile tongue, and as one of her countrymen puts it "made her lips drop honey." People who despise her were drawn towards her despite their will, and clever statesmen were swayed by her despite their intelligence. A magnetic force seemed to go out from her, hypnotizing her environment, and making instruments of all who came within the radius of its operation. It was thus that while appraising the marriage of a princess to the emperor, she contrived to win her friendship and to keep it. And it is worth noting, as a proof that she achieved foul means for fair ends, that she was obviously adequate, that the same lady, with whom she lived and worked so intimately, many years, died a natural death in 1881. The eunuchs, who are an all-powerful, all-pervasive, and permanent element in the life of the court, were next to yield to her, and she was able to get the emperor's attention, and to reform or abolishing other antiquated institutions, she refused to meddle with the eunuchs.

Another five years passed into his very shadow, and his high-ranking nobles, and his friends and intimates, all turned their backs on him. The Taiping rebellion, which stirred the nation to its foundations, had upon the mind of the emperor, and he was left in the hands of his enemies. The foreign invasion of China administered another painful shock. For the first time in history, it was borne in upon the rulers of the Empire that their empire had been invaded from the north.

Twenty years later the curtain was raised on the second scene of this little drama. Meantime a deep death had been left on the history of the Celestial Empire, deeper than any preceding.

## STOMACH INDIGESTION.

Pe-ru-na Strikes at the Root of the Trouble.



MR. S. J. MASSEY.

Mr. S. J. Massey, formerly a resident of Toronto, and a well-known business man, writes from 247 Guy Street, Montreal, Quebec:

I wish to testify to the good results I have derived from the use of Pe-ru-na. Having been troubled for several years with catarrh of the head, I decided to give Pe-ru-na a fair trial, and I can truly say I have received great benefit from its use. It evidently strikes at the very root of the trouble and good results are soon noticeable. I have also found Pe-ru-na a very valuable remedy for stomach trouble and indigestion.

There are several kinds of indigestion. The trouble may be due to sluggishness of the liver, derangement of the bowels, enlargement of the pancreas, or it may be due to the stomach itself. In nearly all cases of stomach indigestion, the cure is to be found in the use of Pe-ru-na. It is a simple, natural, and safe remedy, and it is worth trying.

Scotland is rich in ghost lore. There is perhaps hardly a castle or ruin which has not some spectral story clinging to it, and the legends are so numerous and so varied that it is impossible to give a complete list. The most interesting of these legends are those which are connected with the castle of Duns, in the county of Haddingburgh.

It is a well-known fact that the castle of Duns was built by King David I. in the year 1130. At that time it was a small, fortified town, and it was the residence of the king. The castle was destroyed by fire in the year 1570, and it was never rebuilt. The ruins of the castle are still visible, and they are a fine specimen of the architecture of the time.

When the Tank Went Dry. "Well, that's another horse on me," said the automobilist as his machine stopped dead in the road nine miles from anywhere. Thereupon he began to look around for a farmer.

Large flocks of geese still linger along the Arkansas River between Muskogee and Keystone, and even above the point of the Cimarron embouchure into the Arkansas. Opposite Turkey Mountain, on the Midland valley, eight miles below Tulsa, a flock of seventy big honkers has been spending the last week in the fields in the daytime and roosting on the sand bars at night.

## OUR FORESTS.

Their Importance is Now Becoming Keenly Appreciated.

The effects of the forest upon its surroundings, writes A. H. D. Ross, M. F., in the March Canadian Magazine, are so important and far-reaching that it may well be likened to "Nature's Balance Wheel." Its importance does not consist merely in the immediate output of lumber, ties, timber, fuel, pulpwood and other forest products; but also in its regulation of soil erosion, the formation of a good ground cover and its ameliorating influences upon climate.

That "the hand is quicker than the eye" is one of those accepted sayings invented by some one who knew nothing of conjuring—or, as is more likely, by some cunning conjuror who aimed still further to hoodwink a gullible public. The fact is that the best conjurer seldom makes rapid motion for that attractive attention, even though it be not understood. The true artist in this line is deliberate in every movement, and it is mainly by his actions that he produces his effects.

SLEEPLESS LITTLE BABIES ARE SICKLY BABIES. When babies are restless, sleepless and cross it is the surest possible sign that they are not well. Well babies sleep soundly and wake up brightly. Sleeplessness is generally due to some ailment of the bowels, or to indigestion, or to teething. A few doses of Baby's Own Tablets will put the little one right, and give it sound, natural sleep.

Two interesting exhibitions are to be held in Paris this spring. Queen Alexandra is the patroness of one, to consist of a hundred portraits of English and French women of the eighteenth century. The profits will go to the fund for the widows and children of French naval officers and seamen.

Joe Billings, the quaint philosopher whose maxims are full of homely wisdom, once said: "The longer I live the more I believe aged restlessness is due to a poor digestion. Eat good food, and sleep well, and you will be old without being so."—C. B. Wells & Co., Toronto.

No Chance for a Romance. A young woman living in the neighborhood of Thirty-third and Cumberland streets the other morning bought at a nearby grocery a dozen eggs. On one among them there was scratched the name and address of a young farmer who lived near a town some distance from the State. He had also written on the egg a request that the person buying it write to him.

Chinese as Poker Players. "The Chinese play poker like fiends. That's because it fits them. Strange to say," writes Lincoln Colcord in the American Magazine, "of all the trash we put up to them the game of draw poker is the only thing that fits the Chinese character at every turn."

Why Steel is Painted Red. "Why is iron or steel invariably painted red?" This question has been asked by scores of men and women recently who have walked over Hungerford Bridge on the way to Waterloo station from Charing Cross. One of the workmen was asked why the bridge was painted red.

Ontario Archives Toronto

## HELP WANTED.

AGENTS WANTED TO WORK UP A TOWN route. Alfred Tyler, London, Ont.

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Advertisements for Eddy's Matches, Gold Laid Watch, and other products. Includes the text: "THE FAVORITES EDDY'S 'SLENN' MATCHES" and "Gold Laid Watch".