

SETTLEMENT OF CHINESE JEWS

In the Heart of China These People Have Maintained Themselves for More Than 1,800 Years—Only Seven Families Now Left—Originally They Were 8,000 Strong and a Power in the Land.

In the heart of China, seven hundred miles from Shanghai, on the banks of the Hoang-ho or Yellow river, live seven families of Chinese Jews—the sole remnant of seventy clans, five thousand strong, who came into the celestial kingdom at the time of Ming-te II, who reigned about 219 A. D.

These seven families represent what at one time was a power in China—a city of Jews, so wealthy and esteemed that an emperor built a magnificent synagogue for them and made one of them the treasurer of a great province, another a general in the imperial army and honored them in various other ways. Then, in the golden age of Judaism in China these Chinese Jews prospered to so great an extent that they grew careless of the God of their fathers and neglected the God of their fathers. Today their synagogue is a mass of ruins, and most of it sold to furnish food for the seven surviving families, and subject poverty reigns among them. Their sacred books have been sold, their religious rites forgotten, their language has become a mere memory and their origin one of the mysteries of the mysterious Orient.

The existence of Chinese Jews has long been a mystery, for although their presence and existence have been established beyond doubt, yet so much of their history is speculative that the most profound scholars and students of Jewish and Oriental history have been at variance as to their origin. The survivors and those seen and spoken to during the last two hundred and fifty years all bore the unmistakable facial features of the Jew. Not only that, but they observed most of the customs of their ancestors and worshipped in the orthodox manner. The fact of their Hebrew origin and descent has not been in dispute, but the why and the wherefore of their presence in China has caused considerable controversy among those interested in such matters.

Some have held that they were the lost tribes of Israel, but this is wild speculation especially as China was referred to only in the Bible when Isaiah (42) says: "Behold, and these from the land of Sinim (China)." At the time of Isaiah, 740 B. C., Tiglath Pileser III, a contemporary of Jeroboam II, ruled Egypt and the Jews were even then renowned traders, whose voyages extended into the farthest East. If the Chinese Jews had been the lost tribes, Chinese history would in all probability have referred to them and their own story would have done likewise. Neither is the case.

Chinese history asserts that the Jews came to China during the reign of Ming-te II of the Han or Tsin dynasty, about 319. The history of the Jews themselves declares that they came into China 224 A. D. from Thersu (Chub). Their leaders were the heads of the Yen, Le, Gao, Kuo, Chao, Kin, Chow, Shih, Hwang, Nee and two families. They brought with them tribute of "si yang pu"—cloth from the western ocean. This might serve as a clue to their origin, but it is doubtful as to which ocean is meant. It may be the Indian ocean, the Red sea, the Mediterranean or even one of the inland seas of Asia.

In the year of Ming-te II, China was the most highly civilized nation in the world and all the world traded with her. Half a dozen caravan roads led across Asia to the marts of China and the Jews following their occupation of traders traveled over them repeatedly. It took 250 days to travel from Syria to China. It is probable that the Jewish traders, finding the country fertile and the people friendly, advised their brothers to emigrate. So a huge caravan was made up and seventy clans or families started for their new home in China. They left Yaw-tse (Judea) in 224 A. D. and traveled by easy stages across Asia. With them went rabbis and learned men, who carried holy books with the sayings of the prophets. Finally, after a year of wandering, the caravan arrived at Peen on the Hoang-ho, the Kal-fung-fu of today, situated to the south of Pekin. No sooner had the caravan arrived than the Chinese bestowed a name upon them—the followers of the religion which enjoins the extraction of the sinew—Tsin-kin-kiau. This referred to the Hebrew custom of extracting the sinew or nerve of flesh used for food.

For many years, nearly six hundred, the settlement at Kal-fung-fu prospered and gradually Jewish traders venerated to all parts of the empire.

TSUNG-LI-YAMEN CONSIDERING DEMANDS OF POWERS.

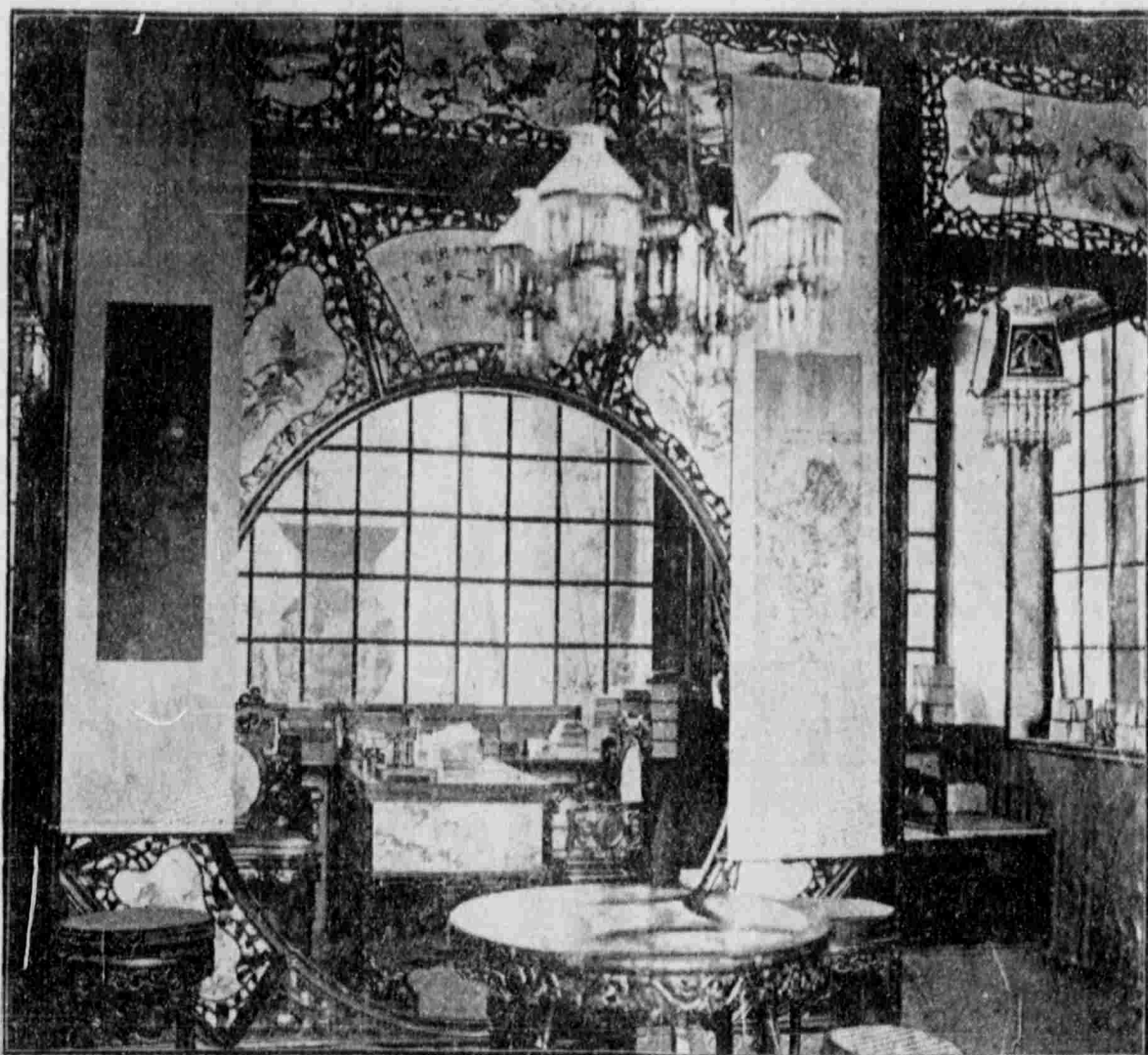
First Authentic Group Photograph of China's Great Diplomatic Body Now Pondering the Envoy's Ultimatum—Slow Chinese Brains Compelled to Work Quickly.



All these solemn-looking gentlemen are keeping up a greater power of thinking than the Irishman's parrot, about now. They are the members of the world-famous diplomatic division of the Chinese government, the Tsung-li-Yamen. At this time they are deliberating upon the demands of the Powers, just conveyed to them by United States Ambassador Conger and the other envoys at Pekin.

WHERE THE CHINESE QUESTION WILL BE SETTLED.

Grand Reception Room in the Palace of the Celebrated Pro-Foreigner, Prince Ching, in the Celestial Capital—Situation at Pekin Clarifying Slowly but Steadily.



History is making hourly in this gorgeous oriental salon, which is the grand reception room in the palace of Prince Ching, at Pekin. There the Tsung-Li-Yamen—China's governing body—shortly will meet the American, European and Japanese ambassadors for final settlement of the world's greatest race problem.

European Confucius by the Chinese, visited Kal-fung-fu, but was not permitted to see the Pentateuch, the fame of which had reached his ears.

The Pentateuch, so report had it, was handed down from father to son from the earliest days of Judea. Of course, the devout Jesuit fathers were most anxious to obtain possession of this religious treasure and nearly every year emissaries went to Kal-fung-fu with offers of money and influence, but in vain. It was not until 1673 that Father Gazani succeeded. By that time the Jews had been decimated in number, their wealth was a matter of history and their spirit was broken. Father Gazani was permitted to see the Pentateuch, and soon discovered that it was only fragmentary. Upon his return to Europe he published a pamphlet detailing his experience and giving a translation of the tablets and scrolls he had seen. This pamphlet caused no end of discussion and innumerable traits and tomes were written

to prove that the Chinese Jews were descended from the lost tribes and more especially from Ahasuerus, the Wandering Jew. The stories grew and grew until they assumed fantastic proportions and the wildest conjectures prevailed.

All sorts of propositions were made to solve the mystery, but nothing of importance was done until 1850, when a Jesuit expedition started from Hong-kong, accompanied by two Christian natives. After being absent for some months they returned with the news that the settlement at Kal-fung-fu was in a deplorable state. The few remaining Jews lived in the ruins of the synagogue, half-starved and broken in spirit. They had no rabbi, and forgot their language almost entirely and had sold the synagogue bit by bit in order to sustain life.

Now the Chinese Jews number less than one hundred—Jews only in name, wretched, poor, despised Pariahs, mere echoes of the forgotten race.

ENGLAND DOES TARDY JUSTICE

Through Lord Rosebery, to the Memory of the Great Napoleon.

Lord Rosebery's long expected work, "Napoleon," was published yesterday.

Concerning this book, the publication of which is one of the leading literary events of the year, Mr. Arthur L. Humphreys, in the Daily Telegraph, says:

"Lord Beaconsfield once explained to Lord Rosebery why he wrote the drama 'Count Alarcos.' It was produced, he said, not in the hope of composing a great tragedy, but of laying the literary ghost of a story which haunted him."

"So it is," says the author of "Napoleon," with this little book. It cannot help embodying a tragedy, but it was written to lay a literary ghost dormant for years, and only quickened into activity by the analysis of Gourgand's last journals.

A PICTURE OF THE CAPTIVITY.

Lord Rosebery gives us a picture of that captivity where the emperor and his few faithful companions "were

perched like crippled sea birds on a tropical rock," with a succinctness and graphic realization which are the charm of the volume. The weariness and melancholy of that lonely exile are rendered.

Russia, Austria and France sent commissioners to St. Helena to "assure themselves of Bonaparte's presence."

As a matter of fact, they never, or scarcely ever, saw him.

CONDEMNATION OF BRITISH TREATMENT.

The Russian commissioner declared that "nothing could be more absurd, more impolitic, less generous or less ill-considered than the conduct of the English to Napoleon."

Lord Rosebery indorses every word of this condemnation. "If St. Helena recalls painful memories for the French, much more poignant are those that it exacts among ourselves. It was a misfortune to England to be represented by men who forgot the dignity of their own nation and ignored the quality of their prisoners. A great people must descend to pettiness. In the treatment of Napoleon there was a pettiness all through."

"We wish," wrote Lord Liverpool, "that the king of France would hang or shoot Bonaparte—the best termination of the business."

"This was the spirit of men toward one who threw himself on British magnanimity. They feared the extraordinary glamour about the fallen monarch, and therefore ordered that he was to be treated, not as a former emperor, but as a general not in employ."

After the duke of Sussex and Lord Holland in parliament had protested against this treatment, the story was recalled to that of a general of distinction.

SIR HUDSON LOWE'S MISTAKES.

Half of the trouble of the tactless and unfortunate Sir Hudson Lowe, the governor of St. Helena, would have been avoided had he been permitted to address his illustrious prisoner as the Emperor Napoleon, but hardly had he landed on the island when he sent the following invitation to Longwood: "Should the arrangements of General Bonaparte admit it, Sir Hudson and Lady Lowe would feel gratified in the honor of his company, to meet the courtesy of London at dinner on Monday next, at 6 o'clock. They request Count Bertrand to make the invitation known to him and forward them his reply."

The faithful Bertrand did make the invitation known to the emperor, who merely remarked, "It is too silly; send no reply."

Lady Louisa was the countess, wife of Lord Mordaunt, the governor-general of India.

Sir Hudson thought it an amiable condescension to invite Napoleon to dinner with the countess, and addressed him by a title which he well knew the emperor considered an insult to France and to himself.

EMPEROR'S GIFT REFUSED.

The irritation was maintained to the end. Hobhouse sent him back on "The Hundred Days" to Napoleon, writing inside it, "Imperial Napoleon." This book, though the inscription, after all, in strictness only meant "To General

Napoleon," the conscientious Lowe sequestrated.

Three weeks before his death the sick captive sent Cox's "Life of Marlborough" as a token of good will to the officers of the "X. X." regiment. Unfortunately, the imperial title was written or stamped on the title page, and the present, under orders of the governor, was declined. In these days the "X. X." regiment would perhaps not mind possessing the life of the greatest of English generals, given by the greatest of French.

PETTINESS KEPT UP TO THE GRAVE.

"Yet to the very end, to the grave itself, this pettiness was kept up. On the Emperor's coffin plate his followers desired to place the simple inscription 'Napoleon,' with dates and place of his birth and death. Sir Hudson refused his sanction to this unless 'Bonaparte' were added, but the emperor's suite felt themselves unable to agree to the style which their master had declined to accept. So there was no name on the coffin. It seems incredible, but it is true."

DULL MEN AND DIM LIGHTS.

Lord Rosebery throws responsibility for the offensive ineptitude of the treatment of Bonaparte on the government rather than on Admiral Cockburn and Sir Hudson Lowe.

"Of those successors of Pitt," he remarks, "Liverpool, Eldon, Bathurst, Castlereagh and Sidmouth were men whose names can scarcely be said to glow in history. They had caught their great enemy. Their first wish was to get somebody else to shoot him or hang him, failing which they were determined to lock him up like a pickpocket. All they felt clearly was that he had cost them a great deal of trouble and a great deal of money, so that he must cost them as little more as possible. They were honest men, acting up to their lights. We can only regret that the men were dull, and their lights were dim."

THE LIFE AT LONGWOOD.

With much literary skill Lord Rosebery sketches for us the life at Longwood.

The master of many palaces is domiciled in a dreary house, except by eternal winds, containing two small rooms 14 feet by 12 feet and 10 feet by 12 feet high.

In one corner is a little camp bed, used at Marago and Angkor. Here and on one in the adjoining room he spends many a sleepless night, while on an old sofa he passes the long hours of many a tedious day.

In these exigent quarters he up-

INTELLIGENT PREHISTORIC RACE

Occupied Kansas Many Centuries Before the Wild Indians Gained Control—District School Now Held in One of the Cliff Dwellers' Rooms.

A most novel building is that on the banks of the Smoky Hill river, a few miles east of Kanopolis, Ellsworth county, Kansas, says the Chicago Times-Herald. It is known as the home of the cliff dwellers, and richly deserves the name. It is a huge cliff sixty feet high, rising sheer from the bottomlands along the river, and a few hundred feet from the banks of the stream. It was the headquarters of an old band of Indians, and the records of the tribe are cut deep in the face of the wall, still clear and sharp after long centuries of Western wind and storm.

At the base of the cliff are limestone caves, washed out by the waters of other days and enlarged by the people of this generation. Doors have been fixed in the openings that lead to the outer air, and, of course, all the light comes from that direction. The caves are used by the people for various purposes, but the most interesting is that of holding the district school. For this purpose has been selected a room 12x14 feet square and with high ceilings. In one corner has been fitted up the teacher's desk, and the maps and charts are fastened to the wall. The rough rocks arch over the whole and the pupils are surrounded by walls that are cool and solid, while their seats and desks are placed on the earthen floor. The light comes from the door, though there is at times a necessity of a lamp when the skies are lowering. Day after day they study and recite in the little school, secure from the dangers of storm or flood, for the cyclone and lightning are not to be feared in this secure retreat.

Adjoining the school room is another room nearly as large, and the owner of the cliff finds it a pleasant place in which to spend the summer nights, the temperature being far below that of the outside air.

holds at times the rigid etiquette of a court.

Gourgand Bertrand Monthon and Dr. Anson March, are kept standing till they are ill with fatigue and lean against the furniture.

If Mme. Bertrand or Mme. De Monthon enters and the men rise obediently, they are sharply rebuked. Napoleon is served on gold and silver plate, and waited on by French servants in liveries of green and gold. A vacant place is kept for the empress, but is never now and then to some favored lady.

"When he drives out it is in a carriage with six horses and an equestrian in full uniform at each door."

"His rooms are littered with books. His one real pleasure is the arrival of new works to read. He took eight hundred volumes to Waterloo, including the Bible, Ovidian, Homer, Boscut and all the seventy volumes of Voltaire."

"The British government sent him a bill for £1400 for the books, and the sum being unpaid at his death, they sold them in London for a few hundred pounds."

GLIMPSES OF A NEW NAPOLEON.

"These glimpses of his life in captivity present us a new Napoleon, exhibiting patience and forbearance with those around him, suffering their contradictions and ill temper in a way we never expect from the selfish, domineering, violent commander."

"We see him playing at chess not very well, cheating at games, though never taking winnings, moralizing against cruelty, reading and conversation were the principal distractions."

TERRIBLE ENEMY OF THE CAPTIVITY.

"In spite of all, the weariness and ennui of this mighty spirit are terrible. He turns upon the petulant, capricious, sulky Gourgand with pathetic truth. 'You speak of sorrow, you and I—What sorrow have we not had? What things to reproach myself with! You at any rate have nothing to regret. Do you suppose that when I wake at night I have not had moments when I think of what I was and what I am?'"

"UNIQUE AND HIDEOUS PROBLEM."

"In an eloquent passage Lord Rosebery says:—'Europe buckled itself to the unprecedented task of gagging and paralyzing that intelligence and force that were too gigantic for the welfare and security of the world. That is the strange, unique, hideous problem which makes the records of St. Helena so profoundly painful and fascinating.'"

"Napoleon often gazed at the English;

Then there is a wonderful spring that bubbles out of the earth a little farther in the cave, and the owner has fitted up a milk room, where a stream of pure cold water flows all the time around the cracks and pans and makes the production of the cream a profitable one. It is probably the finest milk house in the State, and the supply of codfish is never lessened."

A huge brick fireplace has been built in the school room and makes the interior cheery in the dark days of winter. The great area outside—oak, cottonwood and box elms—hide the cliff from the sun in spring and summer and make of it a delightful resort for the summer and the winter.

The Paris brothers are owners of the claim on which is situated this remarkable cave and cliff, and they have refused large offers for it. Visitors come from long distances to see the novel formation, and there is many a picnic in summer to the vicinity."

All around are wonders of the prairie formation—huge mounds of rocks that stand up from the soil like great stools, caverns wherein are vast riches of rock salt, the mines being worked now with a small force and which are likely to tip of great value some day. Rock cities where there may be seen all the fashions of houses and castles fantastically worked out in enduring stone. These and many more are found in the vicinity. The very ancient occupation of the prairies by an intelligent race are in the collection. It is a rich region for the antiquarian, as well as for the searcher for the odd and unusual.

yet he said:—"The English character is superior to ours. They are in every-

thing more practical than we are. They emigrate, they marry, they kill themselves with less indecision than we display in going to the opera. They are also braver than we are. I think I can say that in courage they are to us what we are to the Russians, the Russians to the Germans, the Germans to the Italians. Had I had an English army I should have conquered the universe."

AMBITION TO BE LORD OF THE EAST.

"It was the ambition of this restless spirit to be not merely the lord of Europe, but the emperor of the East—Egypt, once in the possession of the French, farewell India to the British."

"This was one of the grand projects I aimed at. The East only wants a man. Now we shall see what will come to the English from Russia. Russia is the Power that marches most surely and with the greatest strides toward universal dominion, for now there is no France, therefore no equilibrium."

GENERALLY FAVORABLE VIEW.

"Lord Rosebery takes in general a view favorable to Bonaparte. This, he observed, not because the liberal statesman is under any illusion as to the leanings of a military dictator toward a democracy."

"One of the strongest passages in this absorbing volume goes to show that Bonaparte feared the populace and had no sympathy with liberty or its aspirations."

"Morally, he thinks the man Napoleon not so black as he is painted. He suggests that his civil and military character, require to be treated separately, each by experts, and when all is done he will perhaps remain an enigma of history, possibly because the secret is so complex, possibly because there is none—only the play and decision of destiny."—New York Herald.

THE AMERICAN GIRL ABROAD.

Irishmen in this country will be interested in the elevation of the young Duke of Marlborough to the post of lord lieutenant of Ireland. His wife, whose money runs the house of Marlborough and who will preside at the "castle" in Dublin, is a Vanderbilt of New York. American girls will now preside in a social way over two of Britain's "problems," Ireland and India.—Springfield Republican.

AMERICANS AIDING HINDOSTAN'S FAMINE VICTIMS.

Exclusive Snapshot of United States Consul William T. Fee in the Midst of Misery—Women Selling Their Infants in Order to Buy Food.



Hon. William T. Fee, United States Consul at Bombay, is chairman of the America-Indian Famine Relief Committee in that place, and of the New York committee of one hundred on Indian Famine. Magnificent work is being done by Americans to rescue the starving Hindoos. This latest photograph of the sufferers shows 334 Kolies at South Road, Gujarat. On the extreme right are seen two girls in rags, who are the survivors of a family of seven. The woman at Consul Fee's feet begging him to buy her baby for eight annas (sixteen cents) that both might have food.