

cannot get along without him, and they are cordial in their treatment of him. He is very strong with the emperor and the empress dowager, and the nobles of the court are rather afraid of him. They are afraid of what he might do in Peking, and also afraid of what he might do in foreign countries."

"What did Li Hung Chang say about the United States, senator?" I asked.

"He showed an intimate knowledge of our political conditions," was the reply. "He spoke of President McKinley's formerly well-known devotion to bimetallism, as evidenced by his votes in the House of Representatives, and asked us to carry a message from him to the President, smiling as he said, 'You may tell him that I feel I have a right to send him a message as an equal, because if China were a republic and her people elected a president, I would be the president of China.' The following is Li Hung Chang's message to the President:

"Your excellency having attained the summit of human ambition by the silence which is golden, I trust that you will now feel free to serve your people by the speech which is silver."

"It was not a bad message, was it?" I wonder, senator, whether your going to China has changed your opinion on the silver question?"

"No; it has not," replied Senator Cannon. "My visit there has only broadened the views which I held before. I believe more than ever that the people of the United States are menaced from all quarters of the world and that unless we guard our own we shall perish. I think that the first solution of international difficulty for the American people and the first solution of our internal difficulties, which are more important than those abroad, is the restoration of money justice to the American people. China will gain a great deal by keeping the silver standard. She will have one hundred per cent advantage over the rest of the producing world by so doing. As far as I could learn, it is the present intention of the Chinese statesmen to maintain the silver standard. By this standard China now gets one hundred per cent bounty on everything she exports and a protection of one hundred per cent on everything she imports. With the low wages and the industrious character of the people, we can never compete with the manufacturing Chinese under such conditions. You may raise a protective tariff wall higher than the Washington monument about the United States, but the Chinese, with modern machinery, can make things so cheaply that she can pay your duties and undersell you. I tell you that this is one of the greatest dangers our country has to face."

"What do England, France and Russia want of China?"

"They want a place to dump their goods. They have an idea that the Chinese will be great consumers and their desires are commercial rather than territorial. I believe they will be disappointed. The Chinese will be great producers, but it will be a long time before they will be great consumers. They can live on almost nothing. I visited mills in China where the workmen were paid twenty cents a day in silver. This sufficed to support their families. I saw men making boilers, doing work for which is paid from \$3 to \$6 per day in our country, who were getting twenty-five cents in our money there. They did as good work as our boiler makers, too. Farm laborers get less than ten cents a day. They don't know what luxury is, and they are economical in the extreme."

"But will they not be changed, senator, by the foreigners coming in?"

"I think not. China will always be China no matter who the rulers are. I don't believe they care much who rule

them. They think that they are the greatest people in the world, and although they have been subjugated again and again, they have gone on in their old ways and made their conquerors adopt their customs. China makes me think of a sponge lying on the seashore of time.

"The tidal waves of revolution sweep over it, but when they go back they do not carry with them any of the sponge, but the sponge has absorbed some of the tidal wave. Take a single instance. When the Manchus who are now ruling China first conquered the Chinese, they passed a law that every Chinaman should shave his head and wear a pig tail as a mark of subjugation. The Chinese protested. Hundreds of thousands of them refused and had their heads cut off in consequence. At last, however, they adopted the custom and they have made it so necessary to self-respect in China that the Manchus themselves now also wear the pig tails and shave their crowns.

"The Chinese are different from any race in the world," Senator Cannon went on. "We produce our results by expulsion and aggression. The Chinese brings about his results by absolute passivity, by the wonderful force of non-resistance and eternal waiting. A man's life is a pin point in the Chinese idea of time. If a thing does not happen now it will come in the time of his great-grandchildren, and he feels that he can afford to wait. The motto of our civilization is, 'Now,' and if not now, 'Never.' The Chinaman looks at his family record for generations back and believes that his children for generations to come will worship at his shrine and have the benefit of his patient waiting."

"I should think the war would have taken some of the conceit out of the Chinese, senator?"

"It did not," replied Senator Cannon. "In the interior of China, 90 per cent of the people did not know that the war was going on, and the other 10 per cent firmly believed, and still believe, that China conquered, and that the Japanese have been compelled to pay tribute. Celebrations are now taking place in the back districts of China in commemoration of the great victories which their soldiers won over the Japanese."

"Did you see anything of the Chinese soldiers during your stay there?"

"No much," said Senator Cannon. "I don't think much of the Chinese army. I remember seeing the emperor's body guard as he made his way from the summer palace to his palace in Peking, and two of our party incurred the danger of death by looking at the emperor. The emperor's body guard was 100 per cent worse than Falstaff's army in appearance. A Kansas cowboy could have captured the whole lot of them, and the emperor into the bargain. Why, it was more like a comic opera than like the guard of an emperor who rules one of the greatest nations in the world. And still these Chinese would make good soldiers if they were well trained. I saw a man out pot hunting near Peking who had a gun which had neither sight nor lock. He held the gun in his left hand and discharged it by touching the primer with a taper in his right hand. He did this while he aimed at the snipe and killed it. That man thought he had a modern gun, and this is a sample of the way in which many of the soldiers were armed."

"Suppose the English combine with the Japanese, what could they do as to China?"

"They could control everything. The Japanese could hold in check all other forces there. Japan is well armed, and she is putting up magnificent fortifications everywhere. The Japanese people are intensely patriotic, and they are now being taught to hate Russia."

"What is the industrial condition of Japan just now?"

"They have had a great set-back, I think, since they have adopted the gold standard. Before that they were prospering wonderfully under the silver standard. They were enlarging their productive powers and were adopting all foreign methods. Now exchange is going altogether in favor of China, and without Japan changing her money system she will go backwards."

"What do you think of the statements that the United States should have nothing to do with China?"

"I don't believe in that. I think that we ought to do everything we can to encourage our commercial relations with Asia. We need the great markets of the far east and we should have the closest associations with the Chinese. They ought to come here to get their money rather than to England. They naturally favor us more than they do the European nations, but they must have money to make improvements and to establish modern methods. I was told that the Chinese would much prefer to borrow from us."

"But how about the security of such a loan, senator?" Would we ever get our money back if we did lend it?"

"There is no doubt of that," replied Senator Cannon. "The Chinese are the most honest people on the face of the earth. Why, a Chinaman to pay a debt of honor or of money will often go and give his head as a substitute to the executioner for some man who is under sentence of death. He will sell his head for a hundred dollars. Women sell themselves into slavery to pay their debts, and the word 'bankrupt' in China is almost as disgraceful as the word 'thief.'"

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

The Fireless Stove.

The old Dutch church at Kinderhook, N. Y., where Martin Van Buren attended service when a boy, was once the scene of a fierce conflict. The walls, ceilings, and floor of the edifice were bare. Foot stoves kept the congregation in winter from freezing, but not from shivering. At last those who saw no connection between true religion and a cold church proposed to buy a stove to warm the meeting house. Immediately the parish was divided into two hostile factions—the stove party and the anti-stove party. A writer in the Christian at Work tells the result:

The ladies, vain of the foot-stoves, or warming-pans, which their negro servants were accustomed to carry into their pews every Sunday morning, raised their voices with the anti-stove cabal.

But the stove party carried the day. And the stove was purchased, borne triumphantly to the church by the victorious burghers, and set up on a platform in the center aisle.

In the midst of the service on the following Sunday morning, a great commotion was caused by the fainting of two spinsters, overcome by the heat and the closeness of the air. The ladies were at once carried out, lying very limp in the arms of two stalwart deacons, and smelling-salts were applied.

"Shut off the heat or we'll faint," said a timid voice.

"Oh, dear, I'm suffocating," echoed Lucy Holland.

"Oh, ah! we'll roast!" sighed Samantha Best.

A gallant young beau sprang up with a firm step on the platform, and, screening his face from the heat with his hand, made a movement to close the draught. But was it a mistake or a horrid joke?

There was no fire in the stove!

Beauty kills time and time kills beauty.