

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR.

SOME POINTS ABOUT CHINA.

A Diplomat at Washington on the Spelling of Names—Story About Li Hung Chang—How He Once Secured Permission to Remain Away from Peking—Russia May Dominate China, but the Chinese May Invade Siberia.

Special Correspondence.
Washington, July 14.—I asked a member of the diplomatic corps, not a minister or an ambassador, who has spent a good part of his life in China, a few questions apropos of the trouble in the far east this morning and have set down the substance of his answers for the benefit of those who read this correspondence.

Many have noticed the varying spelling of Chinese names. For instance, some papers tack a "g" on the end of Peking. Others leave off the "g" and call the Chinese capital Peking. My diplomatic friend says that this is because the people of the northern part of the empire pronounce the name of the place differently from those who live in the south; that the northerners use the "ng" sound very much more freely in terminating names than the southerners. Were Canton in the north instead of the south it would undoubtedly be written Canton.

LI HUNG CHANG.

There are many in Washington who know Li Hung Chang. There are not many who believe he will go to Peking. If he does, he will take along with him his private army.

As all the world knows by this time, there is almost no limit to the jealousies and intrigues of the Chinese official classes. Li Hung Chang, who stands very well with the outside world and with the more progressive of the Chinese, is furiously hated by nearly all the other prominent men of the Celestial empire. For many years they have been afraid that he would seize the government for himself, and on one occasion, when he had been especially active in promoting the introduction of foreign ideas, the government summoned him peremptorily to the capital. The summons was very politely responded to by the great viceroy, who said he would be delighted to make a visit to Peking. But he didn't go. After the lapse of a few months another summons was sent to him. To this he made another polite response, but without appearing in Peking. After another lapse of months he was again requested to travel north. This time his reply was equally polite. It said in effect: "I will be in Peking on a certain date. Prepare to entertain me and \$50,000 of my friends." The authorities at Peking took this to mean that he meant to make his visit under an escort of armed men. This was exactly as he wanted to be understood. He knew that an invasion of the capital by his private army was not desired by any one, and he shrewdly surmised that his announcement of such an in-

tended invasion would be followed by a request not to visit Peking at all. His surmise was born by the facts, for he received a very prompt but exceedingly polite communication from the government saying that unless he very much desired to visit Peking the request that he should do so would be withdrawn. It is believed here that Li Hung Chang's evident intention to remain at Canton in the present instance is not prompted by a desire to avoid personal hazard, as it evidently was in the instance mentioned, but by the belief that his absence from Canton would almost immediately bring about a serious uprising there.

WILL THE CHINESE TAKE SIDES?

There are a number of well informed men in Washington who believe that Russia will nominally dominate China after the present trouble is over with. Some of them believe also that this will mean the real domination of Siberia by the Chinese.

They draw attention to the fact that the Russians are now completing railroads connecting Siberia with the Chinese empire and that in the next few years probably several lines of rail will furnish easy transportation for the Chinese to the sparsely settled Asiatic territory of Russia. Unlike the United States, Russia has no objection to Chinese immigration. She is in need of laborers to build her railroads, to develop her mines, to till her Siberian soil. And so far from trying to keep the Chinese out, she will invite them in. Her railroads will make their immigration doubly easy, and the prediction is that an enormous but peaceful invasion of Siberia by the yellow men will take place.

This will result, it is further predicted, in the virtual "Chineseing" of all Siberia. Many occidentals suppose the Chinese to be a decadent, dying people, without vitality or push. This is not believed by any one who has lived among them. It is true that they are far behind the western world in many material things, but this is because their vast empire has become so tremendously overcrowded, resulting in a crystallization of social levels, which is far more rigid than in any European country, even Russia or Austria. Those who are at the top are satisfied with things as they are because any change might put them near the bottom. Those at the bottom are too ignorant to know about the possibility of change which might be to their advantage.

Let them once find their way into a country like Siberia, where there is room and to spare, and they are likely to become transformed almost in a night, as the Japanese have been since the American Admiral Perry opened their beautiful islands to the world.

OUR MINISTER IN CHINA.

The Hon. E. H. Conger Very Well Known in Washington—His Public Career Outlined—A Middle Westerner by Birth, Though of New England Stock—His Public Career Has Begun in Iowa—Mrs. Conger.

Special Correspondence.

Washington, July 14, 1900.—A good many letters have been received here from Peking within the past few days, among them some that were dated late in May and early in June.

Naturally, nearly all of these letters mentioned the Boxer trouble in China; but, like the letter received at Galesburg, Ill., the other day from the wife of Minister Conger, few or none of the writers seem to have appreciated the real danger at the time of writing. They all speak of the Boxers as a growing element tending toward general anarchy and serious trouble for the foreigners, but none of them seems to have anticipated such a state of affairs as we have been led to believe is now actually existing.

MINISTER CONGER AND HIS FAMILY.

Minister Conger is well known in Washington, as a matter of course. His cousin, who is connected with one of the Washington newspapers, married a relative of Mr. Thomas United States minister to Sweden and Norway some years ago, and the wife of our minister to China has two sisters here.

The Hon. Edwin H. Conger was born in Illinois. He comes of New England stock which was transplanted early in the last century to central western New York, and from there, in the twenties or thirties, to the middle west. Like so many other Americans prominent in American life, he was born in a farming community, and won his college training in spite of difficulties. He was schooled in Lombard University, graduating therefrom in 1862. We do not hear much of him until he comes to the fore in American life, when he is in a farming community, and won his college training in spite of difficulties. He was schooled in Lombard University, graduating therefrom in 1862. We do not hear much of him until he comes to the fore in American life, when he is in a farming community, and won his college training in spite of difficulties.

Almost immediately after leaving college young Conger enlisted as a member of the One Hundred and Second Illinois Infantry in the Union army. For three years he served in the South. He was with Sherman in the celebrated march to the sea, and at the end of his service was a volunteer captain. When the war was over, he was brevetted major by President Lincoln in recognition of gallant and meritorious conduct. After that young Conger studied law at the Albany Law School, receiving his degree in 1866. President McKinley was a student at the same law school at that time. Conger practiced at Galesburg after being

admitted to the bar, and it was at Galesburg that he met Miss Sarah Pike, who became his wife and who went to Peking a few months ago.

MR. CONGER'S PUBLIC CAREER.

Though he had prepared for the legal profession, Edwin H. Conger did not follow it very long. After two years' practice in Galesburg he removed to Dallas, Ia., where his father had gone before him, and there he devoted his energies to farming, stock growing and banking. By 1877 he had become sufficiently prominent as a solid citizen and as a factor in the public life of the community to run successfully for the office of county treasurer. After two terms he was made State treasurer.

This naturally led him to take up his residence at Des Moines, the capital of the State. After he had served two terms as State treasurer he was elected a member of the lower house of Congress from the district now represented by the Hon. J. A. T. Hull and served six years. As a representative Mr. Conger was not noteworthy aggressive, but he soon won the reputation of being a strong man with plenty of good judgment and a loyal member of his party without being tainted with unreasonable and offensive partisanship. During his first term he was a member of the committee on agriculture among other things, and it was his efforts which led to the passage of the Conger pure land bill, a measure which added to his popularity among the farmers. During Mr. Conger's second term Thomas B. Read, who was then Speaker of the House, advanced him materially.

MR. CONGER AS A DIPLOMAT.

Mr. Conger's first position as a diplomatic representative of the United States was that of American minister to Brazil, President Harrison appointing him in 1890. While filling this post Mr. Conger negotiated an extremely important treaty with the big South American Republic by which the security hitherto enjoyed in Brazil by American fugitives from justice was brought to an end. He also made exhaustive studies of commercial conditions in Brazil, and his reports thereon have been highly complimented by exporters to that country.

At the expiration of Mr. Harrison's term as president Mr. Conger resigned, and when McKinley became President, he reappointed Mr. Conger to Brazil. This was in 1897, but in 1898, as the Senate would not confirm the nomination of Charles Page Bryan of Illinois to the Chinese post, Mr. Conger was transferred from Brazil to China, where he has been doing much difficult and arduous work.

Mrs. Conger has a large acquaintance here as well as in the West, and her friends are sincerely solicitous that she and her husband may have escaped death in Peking.

OUR SECRETARY AT PEKIN.

Interesting Story of the Life of Herbert G. Squiers.

Anxiety concerning the fate of Herbert G. Squiers is agitating the minds of a particularly large circle of friends both in his own country and in Germany. Mr. Squiers is and has been for some time secretary of the American legation in Peking, and it is understood that his family, with the possible excep-

tion of his eldest son, Fargo, who has spent much of his time as a student in England, were with him at the time of the outbreak.

Mr. Squiers, who is about 40 years of age, was born in Toronto, Can., but when he was scarcely more than an infant his parents settled in Fairbault, Minn. It was his boyish ambition to enter West Point, an ambition which was bitterly opposed by his father. Eventually the bishop of Minnesota interested Senator Sherman in the boy, entrance to West Point then became possible, and after young Squiers had passed the highest military examination which had ever been recorded in Washington, he received an appointment as second lieutenant in an infantry regiment situated in the West. After he had served some little time, he exchanged into Custer's famous cavalry first in 1890, taking a special course at Fortness Monroe.

While at Fortness Monroe, the young officer met Miss Helen Fargo of Buffalo, daughter of William Fargo of the Wells-Fargo Express company. An engagement was soon announced, which met with approval of the wealthy father of the penniless young officer's fiancée. Mr. Fargo, however, refused to allow an immediate marriage. But soon afterwards he died and an older sister was about to take Miss Fargo abroad, hoping to interest her in other things. This little plan was frustrated by an elopement, and so well reconciled did the sister become that upon her death, some years later, she left her fortune to the children of the young pair.

After serving some years in the West, Mr. Squiers was appointed military instructor at Fordham college, New York. Shortly afterwards his wife died. On the Indian outbreak at Blue Ridge agency in 1890, Lieutenant Squiers at once asked leave to join his regiment.

CHINA'S BESIEGED AND BLOOD-DIPPING CAPITAL.



Only by sticking together have the foreign troops in the more fanatical cities of the ochre empire a chance for their lives. Whenever small parties stray from the camps in the town streets, they are attacked by bands of natives that seem to spring from the very stones, and are slaughtered in broad daylight.

TIEN-MEN GATE, PEKIN, GUARDED BY A BIG FORT.



Not until they shall have arrived at the very wall of Peking can the valiant members of the rescue column form a conception of the herculean task before them in the contemplated capture of the Dowager Empress's stronghold. All of its approaches are on a scale similar to the above, backed by seemingly impregnable fortresses and manned by heavy garrisons.

RED DEATH AT CHEFOO MENACES MANY AMERICANS.



Apparently a city of refuge for our fellow-countrymen in China, the above port now is as dangerous to white men as Tien Tsin. This is the first photograph ever published in the United States of the Consular residence there—the great white building in the middle distance to which the water-steps lead.

This was granted, and he served throughout the entire trouble under Gen. Miles.

As he was anxious to have his children thoroughly conversant with the German language, Mr. Squiers resigned from the army in 1892, and went abroad. Soon afterwards he was appointed second secretary of legation at Berlin. There his princely hospitality soon made him famous. His transfer to Peking caused much regret among his German friends.

Shortly before his departure from his own country, Mr. Squiers married Miss Hattie Woodcock of Sing Sing, N. Y. He has four children by his first marriage, and his family relations have always been ideal—Philadelphia North American.

EIGHT PRISONERS.

Put to Death in the Presence of a Foreigner in China.

The following is the story of a Chinese execution, as told by Sir Robert Hart, ambassador at Peking. "Eight prisoners were to be beheaded. The mandarin, who was the executioner, sat in an open booth, and as the eight men marched by him each was marked on the forehead. Seven of the prisoners were to suffer for robbing and murdering at old man. The eighth was a mandarin who had been degraded for an offense which he declared he never committed. Once he had been a high official, and his family relations had always been ideal—Philadelphia North American. He had been a prisoner for many years, when suddenly his execution was ordered by the viceroy of Quang-Tung.

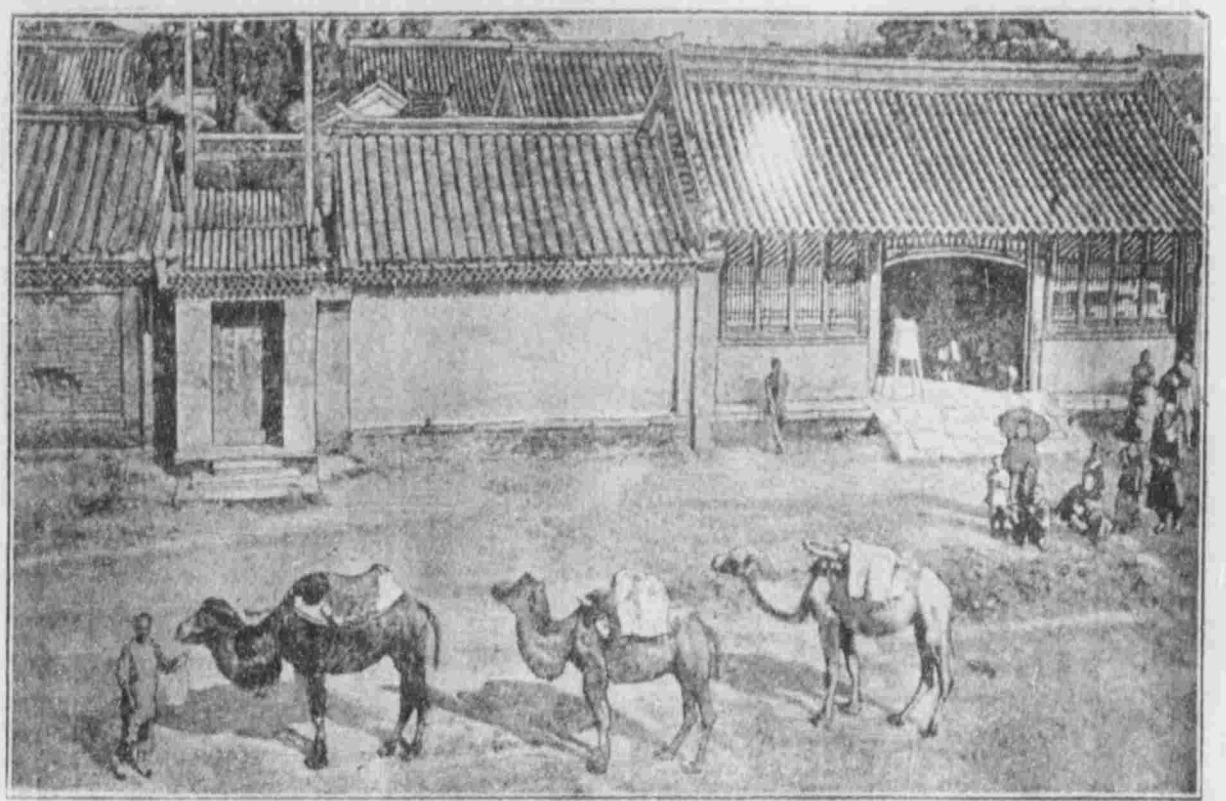
The body remained kneeling, and the arms worked frantically in protest for some time, till knocked over. The spectators then ran with bread and other soft foodstuffs, which they dipped into the blood and ate, the superstition being that this man had died a hero, and that the blood of a brave man would give courage to those eating it.

"Among the favorite palace deaths is stoning. The victim is stretched out on his back, arms and legs extended, and a man sits on each of the limbs. The executioner appears with a huge stone. If the victim has the money to pay for a speedy death, his head is crushed at once. Otherwise the executioner may torture him at will, administering blows wherever he pleases, until the victim dies of pain and loss of blood."

LIFE STATISTICS.

A statistician has estimated that a man 50 years old has worked 6,500 days, has slept 6,000, has amused himself 4,000, has walked 12,000 miles, has been ill 500 days, has partaken of 36,000 meals, eaten 15,000 pounds of meat and 4,000 of fish, eggs and vegetables and drank 7,000 gallons of fluid.

COMMON SCENE IN A PEKIN STREET.



This photograph illustrates one of the principal thoroughfares of Peking. It shows the quaint, picturesque aspect of the modern Rome, where hundreds of Christians are butchered to make a heathen holiday.

PROVERBS.

That Explain Philosophical Character of Sland-Byed Race.

An indication of the Chinese character can be inferred from the nature of their proverbs. A few of them are as follows: "If the blind lead the blind they will both go to the pit." "An old man marrying a young wife is like a withered yellow reed cutting." "A wife should be a woman's master, under the auspices of well known men and women." "Would you look at the character of a Prince, look at his minister, or the disposition of a man, observe his companion, that of a father, mark his son." "The higher a rat creeps up a cow's horn the narrower he finds it." "Let us get drunk today while we have wine; the sorrows of tomorrow may be borne by tomorrow."

WOMEN'S CAUSE IN JAPAN.

Obviously the Japanese do not agree with Tennyson that "the woman's cause is man's," for the Tokyo correspondent of the Nagasaki Press announces that there will appear shortly a weekly paper entitled the Fuso Shunbun (woman's paper), under the auspices of well known men and women. The prospectus just issued says that the paper will be devoted to the promotion of interests affecting the fair sex in Japan, and will also conduct warfare against social abuses, to which no quarter will be given. Editor, reporters and other members of the staff will consist of women.

SHIPS IN CHINESE WATERS.

A Table of Naval Strength of the United States and Other Countries.

The following table shows the names, tonnage, complement of men and guns of the foreign ships in Chinese waters, compiled from latest available data, says the Denver Republican:

JAPAN.			
Battleships—	Tonnage.	Men.	Guns.
Shekeshima	14,800	741	46
Fuji	12,320	600	28
Yashima	12,320	600	28
Chin Yen	7,499	350	14
First class cruisers—			
Asama	9,750	676	27
Tokwa	9,750	676	27
Second class cruisers—			
Takasago	4,100	400	20
Fourth of July	4,200	410	20
Kasagi	4,416	405	22
Chitose	4,700	405	22
Teikoku	4,277	405	22
Hashidate	4,277	405	22
Matsushima	4,277	405	22
Yoshino	4,130	300	20
Naniwa	3,650	350	14
Takachino	3,700	365	19
Akatsushima	3,750	380	20
Suma	3,750	380	20
Akashi	3,750	380	20
Chiyoda	2,425	320	20
Izumori	2,950	300	19
Totals	121,487	8,703	463

RUSSIA.			
Battleships—	Tonnage.	Men.	Guns.
Navarin	9,475	500	28
Petropavlovsk	10,550	730	25
Sissol Velike	8,830	550	26

GERMANY.			
Cruisers—	Tonnage.	Men.	Guns.
Deutschland	7,019	655	24
Kaiserin Augusta	6,511	637	22
Hertha	4,905	353	18
Princess Wilhelm	4,400	358	18
Gefion	4,207	218	21
Arcona	2,713	207	15
Comoran	1,940	200	8
Illis	519	190	8
Totals	57,179	3,038	167

FRANCE.			
Battleships—	Tonnage.	Men.	Guns.
Vauban	6,200	440	21

ITALY.			
Cruisers—	Tonnage.	Men.	Guns.
Dugma	2,500	331	14
Dugma	2,500	331	14
Pascal	4,015	375	14
Gunboat—	1,796	101	6
Styx	1,796	101	6
Totals	18,002	1,518	69

ENGLAND.			
Battleships—	Tonnage.	Men.	Guns.
Barfleur	10,200	604	42
Centurion	10,000	622	40
Victorious	14,900	757	50

SPAIN.			
Cruisers—	Tonnage.	Men.	Guns.
Aurora	5,600	484	26
Bona Ventura	4,200	312	19
Brisk	1,770	273	16
Endymion	1,350	244	12
Hermione	4,200	312	19
Iphigene	3,600	277	16
Orlando	5,600	484	26
Terrible	14,200	840	44
Undaunted	5,600	484	26

GREAT BRITAIN.			
Gunboats—	Tonnage.	Men.	Guns.
Linnet	758	92	6
Peacock	758	92	6
Pigmy	758	92	6
Flover	758	92	6

LASTING QUALITIES.

Of Chinese Would Accomplish Much if Turned to Good.

The Chinese have many traits which, if properly developed, would cause them to assume a leading place among the nations of the globe. The people are industrious, hospitable, temperate and devoted to learning. They are strong and wary. They have lasting qualities. The Chinese can live anywhere, eat anything and believe anything. They outwear the tribes of southern Asia, are more poetical than the Hindus, are more possessed of much common sense. Their religions and superstitions enter into everything, even their cheating and lying.