

The Boxers of China---The Society of the Great Sword

THAT the "heathen Chinese is peculiar" has long been a recognized fact, and that he is out of step with the rest of the world may be owing to his adherence to the maxim of Confucius, "Do unto others



that you would not have them do to you." This failing, or virtue, as the Chinese would call it, cannot be better illustrated than by the history of the Boxers, the great secret society which is at present creating so much disturbance in the Flowery Kingdom. Its very name involves a contradiction, and its very act runs counter to its declared motives, for, originally created as a "loyal and order society," the band of Boxers, as it is now called, started out with the highest principles and with the avowed purpose of defending isolated communities from the oppressions of the fierce bandits who descended from their lairs in the mountains at night and committed depredations upon inoffensive inhabitants.

The "I Ho Chuan," as they called themselves, or "the society for the promotion of justice and harmony by means of the fist"—hence their designation as Boxers—soon outgrew all limitations, and, finding the life pursued by the bandits more congenial than that adopted by the peaceful villagers, they became lawless and a menace to society. By day they were unassuming shoemakers, carpenters and laborers, but by night they were robbers, ravaging whole villages.

Finding it easy to gain wealth by this means and being aware that even a government so lax as the Chinese would not tolerate their existence much longer, they sought an excuse for their acts in an ostensible hatred of all foreigners and eventually confined their operations to those proselytes of the missionaries who by the very act of assuming the name of Boxers had incurred the ridicule of that primal feature of Confucianism, the idolatrous worship of ancestors. Now the Chinese, together with other orientals, will endure almost any amount of obloquy so long as their ancestors are respected or let alone. But, next to his pitiful, the Celestial regards his grandfather as the most sacred object on earth.

And, again, it has been given out that the missionaries murder the children of the foreign missionaries inculcated the doctrine of the Great Father, and that the foreign missionaries inculcated the doctrine of the Great Father, and that the foreign missionaries inculcated the doctrine of the Great Father.

jurors their national religion became objects of universal hatred and aversion. So the name of the society was changed again, and under the title of the "Ta Tao Hwei," or "The Great Society," spread over the land like a prairie fire, until its members numbered, it is said, more than 11,000,000. The secret of their success is betrayed by the legend they inscribed upon their banners, "Yung Ching, Mieh Yung"—"long live the dynasty, death to all foreigners"—for it is apparent that they have the support of the government, which, though openly friendly to outsiders, is yet at heart full of hatred and suspicion.

"Maintain the dynasty; down with the foreign devils!" is a popular cry in China today, as it has ever been since the walls of exclusion were breached, and the piggish Celestials were forced to admit the vanguard of civilization within their sacred city of Peking. The educated classes have brought the Christian sects into ridicule by declaring that they are hog worshippers and incited the ignorant fanatical element to acts of hostility by asserting



den committed to their care in the orphan asylums and cut up their bodies for medicinal purposes. As the Chinese hold that there are 21 different parts of the human body which possess medicinal virtue, this charge against the missionaries is considered by the common people as quite reasonable.

Until within a few years the missionaries regarded themselves as perfectly safe in going about the country, and even the females attached to the missions went freely on their ministrations to the natives. But in May, 1891, two nuns were set upon and maltreated as they were returning from a visit to some sick people, and a little later two German missionaries were murdered at Shanghai, the birthplace of Confucius. In reprisal for this the German government seized the port of Tsin Tau. The embers of resentment smoldered awhile, but last year burst into flame and culminated a few months ago in the murder of young Brooks, a missionary of the English church. Passing through a village in Shanghai where a band of Great Swords were at dinner, he was set upon by the fanatics, who inserted a hook in his nose and pulled him about the town, afterward killing him as he broke away and tried to escape. This tragedy awoke the British government to the true situation, and a demand was made for the punishment of the murderers. The Chinese government pretended to comply, cut off the heads of a few highwaymen and set them up by the roadside in cages as a warning; but its real sympathies were shown in the treatment of a general in command of the forces sent against the rebels. Having met and routed the Great Swords and inflicted a loss of several hundred men, he returned well pleased to the governor of the province, expecting a great reward. Instead of being promoted, however, he was degraded and cast into prison under orders presumably from Peking, while every effort was made to placate the outraged sensibilities of the rebel Boxers.

An edict was issued so late as within a few weeks prohibiting the Great



EXPLORER CARL PETERS.
Dr. Carl Peters, the German explorer who won in Africa by his cruelties the sobriquet of "the butcher," is going out again to the land that has made him famous and infamous.

Dr. Peters first went to Africa in 1884, when he was 27 years old, and a few years later, when he returned to Germany, was feasted, praised and decorated. He was hailed as the man who had founded Germany's imperial colonies in Africa. He went out again in 1890 and was reported killed by the savages, one man declaring that he had seen his corpse, from which one of the arms had been severed. But he came out alive a second time to again receive the adulations of his compatriots, until the party opposed to the imperial government raised the question of his cruelties in Africa, which were declared excessive. On the charge of unprovoked murder of the natives Dr. Peters was tried by court martial, dismissed from the German service and branded by the papers as the "Great African Butcher." This was in 1897.

Relating to exploration in Africa he declared "two things are absolutely necessary—they are courage and a prompt assumption of the initiative. Never let an African surprise you, for if he does he is likely to win."



That the Boers are above all agricultural and pastoral rather than commercial is shown by the manner in which they passed the time when no fight was on. Their practical nature then came out strong, and also their faith in ultimate victory, for instead of wasting their time in idleness they tilled the soil, having in view the possibility of a long siege and the eventual scarcity of provisions.

This fact was emphasized in the reports of General Buller's operations in northern Natal, where, after dislodging the Boers from the section which they had occupied several months, it was found that they had actually plowed the farms they had taken and put in extensive crops which, by a misapprehension of their plans, served to feed their enemies.

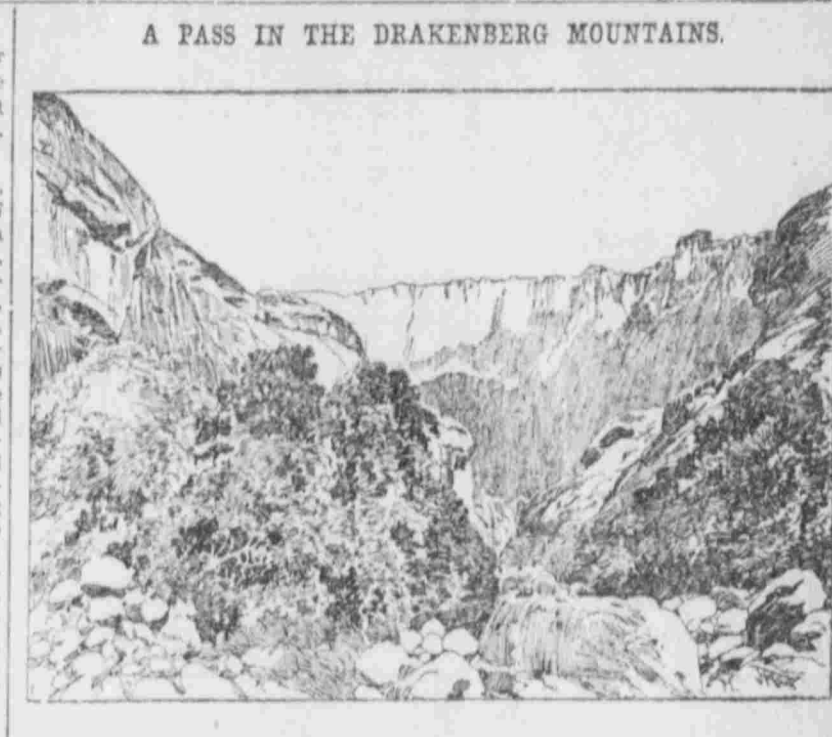
If reports from the front may be believed, the Boer leaders had great difficulty in restraining their men from leaving the army and taking a short respite on their farms, which were suffering from their continued absence. The agricultural instinct in them is stronger than any other, except that of freedom, and, in fact, the two go together, for it was to obtain both freedom and unlimited acreage that the Boers made their great "trek" from the English territory into the then unknown regions of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. The farms they cultivated were small, while the coming of the British troops were, some of them, once in the possession of Boer settlers of that name colony.

A FAITHFUL HORSE.
During one of the outpost skirmishes between the Englishmen and the Boers one of the latter had his horse shot under him.

Seeing a British cavalry horse without a rider, he captured it, and was riding away when a bugler caught sight of him, and, putting his bugle to his lips, blew a shrill blast.

The horse wheeled sharply around, and, despite the strenuous efforts of his rider, galloped madly back to the British lines, while the Boer, unwilling to lose his prize, held on too long and was taken prisoner.

The average ear is from two to two and one-half inches in length.



The boundary between Natal and the Orange Free State is formed by the central portion of the mighty Drakenberg range, which presents an almost impassable barrier from one colony to the other. Rising in terraces from the coast to the mountains, the general surface of Natal reaches an elevation of from 3,000 to 4,000 feet at the base of the Drakenbergs.

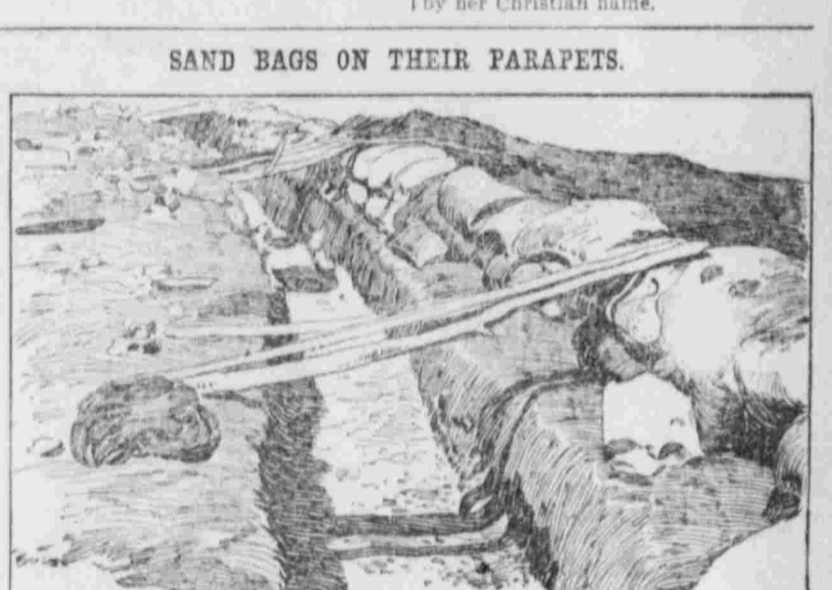
In the mountain region the climate is delightful, and as it is well watered by clear streams it is the favorite section for agriculturists, cattle raisers and horticulturists. But, though the rivers are low in the dry season, they sometimes become fierce torrents in the months of rains, making travel in the mountains somewhat perilous. The rainy season continues from March to December, and consequently armies operating therein have their progress greatly impeded by swollen streams and avalanches of earth loosened by the floods.

The view shown in this illustration was taken near the Antelope mountain, at the converging point of Basutoland, the Free State and Natal, and at this divide streams flow east and west to the ocean. It is one of the few practicable passes available in Natal through which to reach the Free State.

SHE MAY BE A QUEEN.
The list of eligible princesses for the kings and kingdoms of Europe matrimonially inclined is so short that when a really pretty one appears there is great rivalry for her hand. The Grand Duchess Helena of Russia is the latest to make her court debut, and rumor has it that she will soon be betrothed to Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, a widower with four children.

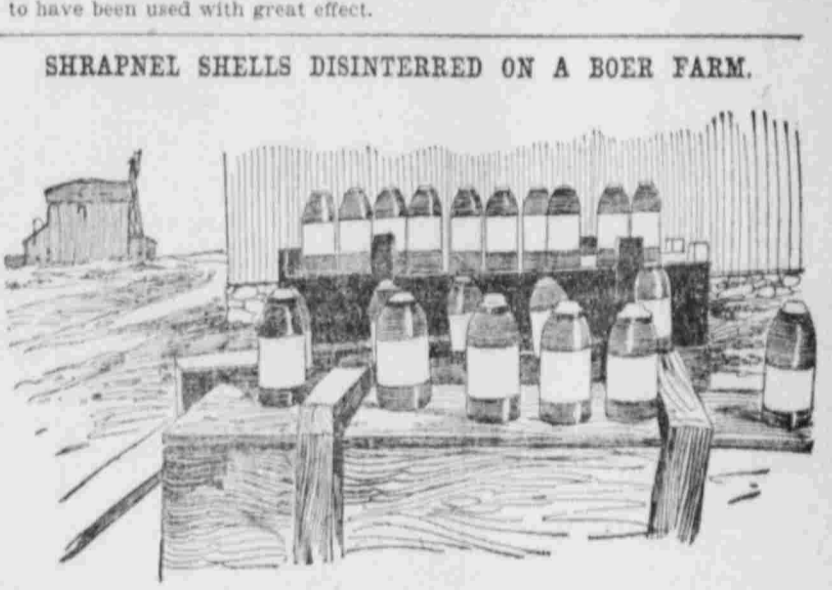
If this should become an actuality, there will have to be, the court gossip says, another shuffling of the cards, by which Prince Ferdinand, in order to rank with his fiancée, will be raised to the dignity of kingship, and on his part will reciprocate by joining the Greek Orthodox church.

It does not appear how the pretty grand duchess regards the deal, which is credited to the aged Princess Clemencia of Orizaba, who has a reputation, next to Queen Victoria, of being the most expert royal matchmaker. Her age may be inferred from the fact that she was the favorite daughter of that long defunct sovereign Louis Philippe. In point of fact, the Princess Clemencia is two years the senior of the English monarch, and she has also the advantage of being a living widow, whereas her Christian name.



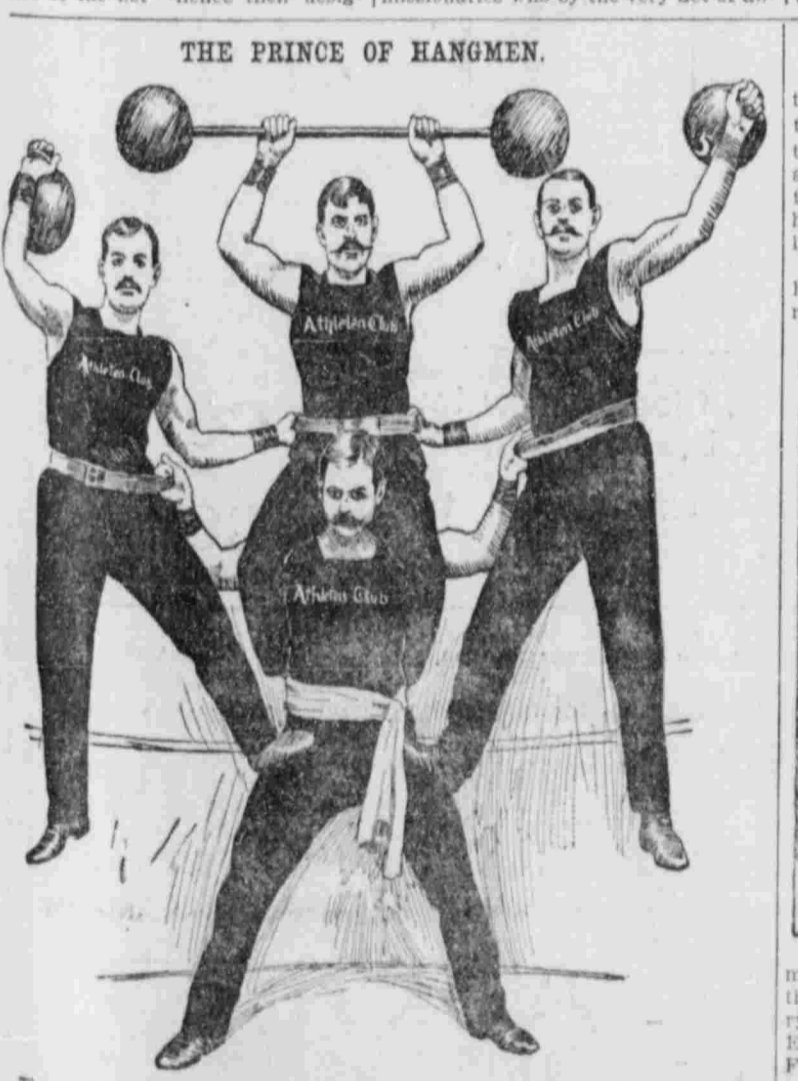
The Boers evidently took a leaf from the military experiences of the American civil war—whole chapters, in fact—and one of their latest adaptations was that of the sand bag as a means of defense. In digging intrenchments and rifle pits, particularly those of a temporary character, the rule was, a man for every four lined feet, and in ordinary soils these could be dug two feet wide and a foot and a half deep in 20 minutes. Such a trench could be widened and deepened as much more in another 20 minutes, and in about an hour altogether the intrenchers would have a ditch seven feet wide and four feet deep, with a thickness of parapet in front sufficient to stop an ordinary cannon ball.

The trick of adding to the height of the wall of soil and sods in front by piling sand bags on top seems to have been acquired from our soldiers and to have been used with great effect.



SHRAPNEL SHELLS DISINTERRED ON A BOER FARM.
Great stress was at one time placed upon the desire of the Free State Boers to sever their connection with the Transvaal army, lay down their arms and retire to their farms. Some, indeed, ostensibly did so, gave up their rifles and fixed ammunition and, as it were, bent their swords into pruning hooks, grasped the handles of their plows and went to work at cultivating the long neglected soil.

There is no doubt whatever that all the Boers would have liked to do this, but as to their inclination for it while their soil was trodden by the enemy there was a difference of opinion. Even those in the Orange Free State who surrendered in apparent good faith could not all be trusted, if the accounts may be credited. In this illustration, for instance, is depicted the result of an examination on a Boer farm whose owner had handed in his Mauser, with ammunition, and declared that he had no more arms or warlike material of any kind whatever. Somehow the suspicions of the British commander were excited, and he inaugurated a search that brought to light eight cases of shrapnel shells buried on the farm.



The city of Vienna has an official of whom it is justly proud. This official is none other than the city hangman, who, in his own particular way, is a wonder. His name is Josef Lank, and he is one of the best known athletes in Austria. The accompanying illustration shows the feat which won for Josef his situation as civic hangman. A photograph representing this man of iron muscles has invented a new method of hanging criminals. This new method of his is so expeditious that he recently performed one hanging in the remarkably short space of 45 seconds—that is to say, three-quarters of a minute after the criminal was delivered into the hands of the executioner he had paid the penalty for his crime.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
single person in her domain who cannot read and write.

The baker's strike has revealed the fact that London's baking is nearly all done by Germans or other foreigners.

"Rural England will soon approach the condition of a desert," is the pathetic wail that comes from Yorkshire, the May hiring fairs indicating that the

A SNAP SHOT AT ROYALTY.
Twice at least in crises of his life has the Prince of Wales received the spontaneous tribute of his people's affection. Once was when, years ago, he lay almost at death's door with fever, and the second time, quite recently, when he narrowly escaped the assassin's bullet in Belgium.

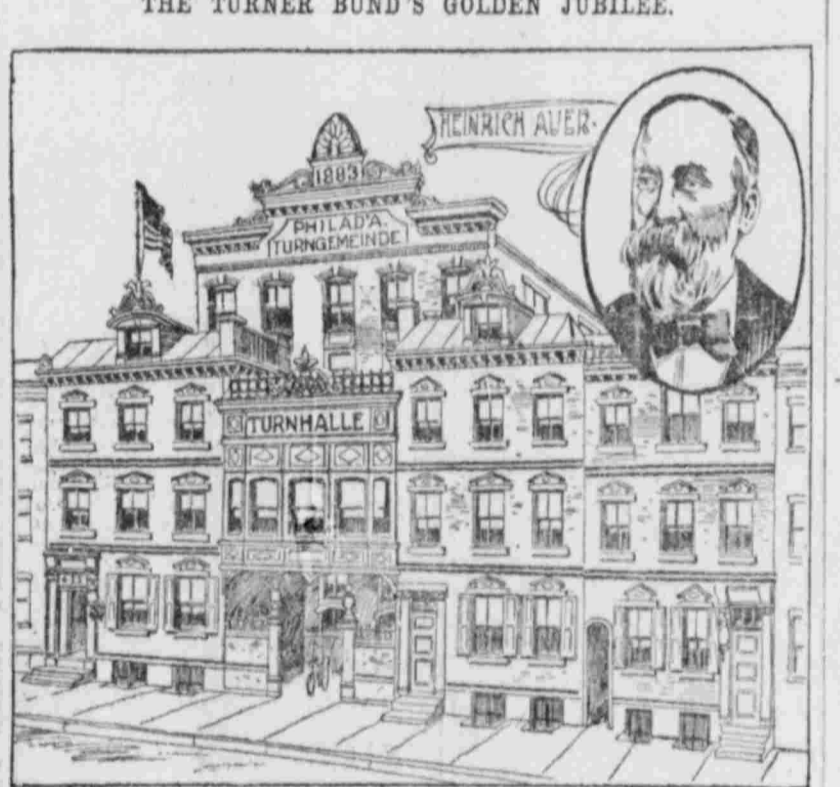
Accompanied homeward a portion of his journey by nearly all the Danish royal family, including the king of Denmark.



mark, his father-in-law, at one point in the journey he was met by Prince Henry of Prussia, and at another by the Emperor William himself. Crowds of French people sent him off with cheers at Calais, and on landing at Dover thousands of English welcomed him back to Britain with loud and continuous cheering.

At the London station the future king of England was met by his son and heir to the crown, the Duke of York, accompanied by the stalwart king of Sweden, and the snap shot fender managed to get in his work at precisely the right moment. The result is shown in this illustration.

THE TURNER BUND'S GOLDEN JUBILEE.



The great national meet of the famous Turner bund, or societies of North American Turners, is to occur at Philadelphia this year, beginning on the 18th of June and lasting a week. Athletes and gymnasts from all over the country are to participate, and it is to be the greatest gathering of the sort that ever met on American soil, as it is the fiftieth anniversary—the golden jubilee—of the organization, which was founded as a "turner bund," or aggregation of separate societies, in 1850. The first "turnverein," or German athletic society, in America was started in 1848, and last year in Boston the fiftieth anniversary of that local organization was celebrated with great eclat. This year the Turner bund, which contained 14,000 members in 1890 and now consists of more than 35,000, is resolved to outdo the festivities of any former occasion. Preparations for this great event, which marks an epoch in the athletics of America, have been going on for nearly three years, and the entire week will be devoted to the exhibition and attendant jubiliations. Carrying out the idea of conjoining athletics with a popular festival, the president of the Turnverein, Mr. Henry Auer, has projected a programme which embraces fencing, wrestling, putting the shot and hammer and other feats at which prizes will be contested for. The first meeting will be held in the Academy of Music, but the local committee have leased the great ball park for the principal functions and have turned it into the largest and most complete outdoor gymnasium on this continent.

dull monotony of country life is brightening the rustic innocents in ever increasing numbers into the juggernaut of city life.

The jambok, which is frequently mentioned in dispatches from South Africa, is a long whip made from rhinoceros hide and polished until it looks almost like amber. It is very tough and durable and is used by the Boers upon animals and natives and also for the chastisement of criminals.

The crack of the jambok sounds like a pistol shot.

The Bank of France has an ingenious arrangement by which suspicious visitors can be photographed without their knowledge. Behind the desk of the cashier is a hidden photograph studio, and at a signal from any of the employees of the bank a picture of the suspected customer is instantly taken.

Then the American colony became delirious. It danced and whooped and demanded encores until the band was exhausted. The Frenchmen present couldn't understand it.

A New Yorker who had been called to serve as a juror in the supreme court was discharged by his employers on that account the other day. The matter was brought to the attention of the court, and the employers, greatly to their surprise, were informed that they had violated the law in dismissing the juror. They have taken the man back.

Paupers are no longer to be employed as nurses at Bellevue hospital, New York. This is a distinct advance in the treatment of impecunious patients and should tend to lessen the dread that many poor people have of being sent to that institution.