

country, and it was stated at the time that his baggage consisted of eighty trunks. He has entertained more magnificently than the Chinese ministers of the past, and has made a number of innovations in this respect in the Chinese legation. He brought his family with him, and, contrary to the usual custom of Chinese ladies, his wife has taken part in the social festivities of the capital.

The minister, himself has strong progressive tendencies. He looks at matters in a common sense way, and his answers to my questions were short, sharp and to the point. One of his secretaries had a list of my questions, and when his excellency had taken me into his private parlor he began to talk by pulling a Chinese manuscript from his sleeve and handing it to the Chinese graduate of Yale. These were the answers his excellency had dictated in Chinese to my manuscript questions in English. The questions were repeated and the secretary read the answers in English. From time to time I asked other questions. These were interpreted to his excellency, and he answered them in Chinese, which was in turn translated by the secretary to me.

THE CHINESE-JAPANESE WAR.

The first object was the Chinese-Japanese war, and I asked his excellency as to what, in his opinion, was the cause of the Chinese defeat.

He replied: "The Chinese were defeated because they were not prepared for war. They are as brave as any other people on the globe, and I believe if properly trained they would make good soldiers. Japan has been preparing for this war for the past twenty years. She has been remodeling her army and organizing her troops on the modern plan. Japan is a small country. It is much easier for it to adopt foreign methods than a great nation like China.

"The result is that the Japanese government have been able to adopt modern methods. They have established a better navy than we have and they did all this quietly and in such a way that the other Asiatic nations had no suspicion of their plans. Japan was our neighbor. We knew that she was changing her civilization, but we had no idea that she was studying the arts of war as they are practiced in Europe to fight her next door neighbor. I look upon it as a mistake on our part that we did not discover this fact. We should have known it and prepared for it."

"Then you do not think that the result is any index of the real strength of the Chinese nation?" I asked.

"No, it is not," was the reply of the Chinese minister through the interpreter. "The Chinese have not had a chance to show what they can do. They had no transportation facilities, and they could not move their troops. Speaking of the characters of the people, the Japanese have for years patterned after us. For centuries they were imitating the Chinese civilization. They considered us their superiors. Now, if they can learn the arts of war in the space of less than a generation there is no doubt in my mind but that the Chinese can learn them. I have no doubt of our capacity to do anything equally well, if not better, than the Japanese."

THE EFFECT OF THE WAR ON CHINA.

"But, your excellency," said I, "what

do you think will be the effect of this war on China?"

"It will probably teach us a lesson," was the reply. "Our government has learned of the wonders of foreign warfare. It will now realize that we must be prepared to defend ourselves against the other nations of the world, and that in time of peace we must prepare for war. There is no reason why China should not have stronger defenses than any other nation on the globe. We have a vast country made up of one people. We have vast resources which are yet undeveloped, and we have a people who are wonderfully industrious and, I believe, as brave as any people on the globe. What we will now have to do is to develop our resources. We must cover our country with railroads, so that we can bring our supplies from one part of the land to another at a moment's notice. We must reorganize our army and navy and must have our troops all trained after modern methods. We must have new ships and new forts, and we must so increase our military strength that we can defend ourselves against any nation or all nations."

THE CHINESE ARMY OF THE FUTURE.

"How much of an army might China have if it were properly organized?"

"It is hard to estimate its wonderful possibilities in this regard," replied the Chinese minister. "There are now more than 400,000,000 of people under our government. We could easily put twice as many men in the field as could any other nation of the world. The Chinese army of the future will be numbered by millions, and it will be ably commanded. The Chinese do not lack ability to organize forces and to carry out undertakings. We have men full of courage, men endowed with great executive ability and men who ought to make good strategic leaders. And, then, our country is big enough and rich enough to support a vast army. There is no soil better than the Chinese soil, and few countries produce more in comparison to the area cultivated. We have all kinds of food, and we have the material resources which will enable us to make with our own coal and iron the guns and munitions of war which we need. We have already a large number of arsenals. There is one in operation at Shanghai which employs thousands of hands and which has shown that it can make guns with Chinese iron. There are iron mines near Hankow which we expect to see developed, and there are arsenals and gun works in a number of the cities of the empire. Such works will now be increased. New plants will be established and the condition of China will, I believe, in a short time be materially changed as to her possibilities of self defense."

MODERN MACHINERY IN CHINA.

"Then this war will lead to the introduction of modern machinery into China."

"Of some kinds, yes," replied the minister. "We will have to have much new machinery, but it will be only of certain kinds. We will need all kinds of machinery for making ordnance and munitions of war. We will have to have railroad material and the machinery for ship building. Such machinery is very expensive, and the importations will probably cost a large amount of money. They will be introduced as a necessity. As to ordinary labor-saving machinery, however, I think China will keep out as

far as possible all which comes into competition with the trades and the labors of the common people. We have a vast population and we cannot afford to take the bread out of our own people's mouths. It would be hard to make them understand that such machinery would eventually be to their benefit. They would certainly create trouble if it was introduced in large amount at the start. I think you may safely say that the introduction of ordinary labor-saving machinery as to matters outside of railroads and gun works will be slow."

CHINA AS THE WORLD'S FACTORY.

"Will China ever manufacture for the whole world?"

"I think so," replied his excellency. "We have as skillful workers as you will find in the world. There are few things we cannot make, and there is nothing we cannot copy. We have enormous natural resources. There are large deposits of undeveloped coal and iron all over the empire, and our country seems to be well fitted for a great factory. Our labor is very cheap, and our people are glad to work for the wages they get. They are willing to work a whole day at a time if they get paid for it, instead of eight hours, and I think the time will come when we will go into manufacturing. We will some day export goods in large quantities to foreign countries. We will know what the wants of the rest of the world are, and we will probably be able to satisfy those wants cheaper than any other people of the world, and quite as well. The time when this result will be obtained, however, will be far distant. Have you ever reflected about the Chinese market? Think of our hundreds of millions, and remember that every man, woman and child of them has his wants that must be satisfied. The Chinese markets are enormous, and they will be big enough for us to work for years to come. You cannot quickly change such a vast nation as the Chinese. It must move slowly. The export manufacturing trade will hardly come until after the railroads. I think, in fact, that it will follow them."

"How about the development of China, your excellency?" I asked.

"Will the country be developed by the Chinese or by outsiders?"

"I think we will be able to develop our own resources. The Chinese are good business people. They are accustomed to the handling of capital and labor."

CHINA AND AMERICA.

"What ought we Americans do to increase our trade with China?"

"One great thing would be the building of the Nicaragua canal. This would bring you closer to the Chinese markets. You ought to study the wants of the Chinese people and make your goods as cheap as possible, in order to compete with those which are sent to us from Europe."

"Are the Chinese friendly to Americans?"

"There is no doubt about that," replied the minister. "Both the Chinese government and the Chinese people are friendly to the United States. They think that the Americans are sincere and just, and they are glad to be friends with them. There is some opposition to Americans in South China. It is from this part of the country that those Chinese whom you have in the United States have emigrated. Their hostility