

like America an really comprehend the true condition of this people. When they see an officer of the government they hide like prairie dogs, and only come to daylight when they feel that the storm is fairly past, many times only to find that they have been swindled by some impostor in the name of the Sultan.

FRUIS.

Aintab Asia Minor, June 20th, 1889.

ORIENTAL NEWS.

The *Japan Gazette* of June 20th, says: Intelligence has been received at Hong Kong from Kiaying Chau prefecture, in the northeast of Kwangtung, that early on the morning of the 2nd inst. the Chau Ping and Ping Yuen districts were flooded by the bursting of a water-spout or a tornado, described by the Chinese as a water dragon, and the level country flooded with three cheongs (nearly thirty-six feet) of water. The villages of Chae Kon and Ha Ku-hui in the Ping Yuen district, and Cheong Tan, Hop Lui, Ngai Ku, Sam Chan Klu, and San Po-hui in the Chan Ping district, were overflowed, many houses being wholly swept away while others were inundated. Upwards of 6000 lives were lost, many of the unhappy people being carried away by the force of the flood and others drowned in their houses. Large numbers of live stock were also engulfed, and an immense amount of property was destroyed.

The adjoining villages of Shek Chai, Tsung Yuen and Yew Tong in Kiaying Chau, and Fung Sz in the Shenne Hong district of Ting-chau-fu, Fukien, were likewise flooded, numerous houses demolished and several hundred lives lost. Over 10,000 persons, survivors of the disaster, have been rendered homeless and destitute. The local authorities are doing their best to relieve the destitute, but the task is a difficult one, the distress being so great, and officials have been sent down to Hong Kong and Canton to endeavor to procure assistance.

The *Chinese Times* translates from the *Shih Pao* the following account of the tornado which visited the country between Newchwang and the Great Wall on June 2nd: A great storm passed Ching Chou, one of the western districts of Fengtien, on the fourth day of the Chinese fifth month. When the storm was coming up people heard fearful sounds and thought that it thundered. After a little while they heard a sound of moaning mingled with that of people calling for help, and that of falling trees and houses, and saw all kinds of furniture and other things flying in the air like kites. The storm lasted from noon to evening. When the storm was over they found that a great many houses and cottages had been blown down; and the roofs of some strong houses and a great many trees had been blown away. Many boats had been upset and sunk, and some of the smaller ones lifted upon the shore. It is said that such a storm has not been seen for scores of years.

We hear from Kai-feng Fu, says the *Chinese Times*, that the Cheng Chou breach of the Yellow River stands well, but that the lake to the south of it, formed by the eddying waters, which have scoured out a vast excavation nearly fifty feet deep, is regarded with anxiety, as it has a tendency to undermine the new embankment after a time. The laborers that were employed at Cheng Chou are now nearly dispersed.

The new dyke at Chung Chou, made to close the breach there, according to the drawings and photographs now here, is a cyclopean work never surpassed in this empire, and the technical details will certainly excite great interest among the engineers of Europe. The work is a mile and a third in length, and the average width is about 335 feet.

At one time 70,000 men were employed in numerous and fairly organized gangs, and for a while all the combined efforts seemed to be futile, for as fast as the bags of earth and sand, fascines, stones, timber and other materials were thrown down, they were swept away by the irresistible rush of the flood waters. But step by step, by dint of patience and much practical skill, the breach was narrowed gradually, in fact inch by inch; until, when the waters were at about their lowest, the remaining gap was stopped. Certainly the work is of an astounding character; and Li Hung-tso and Ta-cheng both rendered very eminent services to the empire. Wu-Ta-cheng's estimate at the cost of closing the breach in the Huang-ho is 12,000,000 taels.

THE IDAHO CONVENTION.

The "Mormon" question is still agitating the Idaho convention, who seem to be in a quandary just how to apply a religious test to exclude American citizens, and at the same time make people believe that such a test is not being made. Following is the provision reported by the republican majority of the committee on elections:

SEC. 3. No person is permitted to vote, serve as a juror or hold any civil office, who is under guardianship, *non compos mentis*, idiotic or insane, or who has at any place been convicted of treason, felony, embezzlement of public funds, bartering or selling his vote, or other infamous crime, or who, at the time of such election, is confined in prison on conviction of a criminal offense, or is a bigamist or polygamist, or who is living in what is known as patriarchal, plural or celestial marriage, or who is living in violation of any law of the State or the United States forbidding such crime, or who in any manner teaches, advises, counsels, aids or encourages any person to enter into bigamy, polygamy or such patriarchal, plural or celestial marriage, or to live in violation of any such law or to commit any such crime, or is a member of or contributes to the support of any order, organization, association, corporation or society which teaches, advises, counsels or aids any person

to enter into bigamy, polygamy or such patriarchal or plural marriages, or which teaches or advises that the laws of this State prescribing the rules of civil conduct are not the supreme law of the State; nor Indians, until the right of suffrage is conferred upon them by the Legislature.

SEC. 4. The Legislature may prescribe qualifications, limitations and conditions for the right of suffrage additional to those presented in this article, but never shall annul any of the provisions in this article contained.

The minority draft, made by the democratic wing, reads:

SEC. 2. Any person who is a bigamist or polygamist, or who is living in unlawful cohabitation in what is called or known as patriarchal, plural or celestial marriage or in violation of any laws of this State or of the United States forbidding any such crime, or who in any manner teaches, advises, counsels, aids or encourages any person to enter into polygamy, bigamy, unlawful cohabitation or patriarchal, plural, or celestial marriage, or to live in violation of any such law, or to commit any such crimes; also any Chinese, or people of Mongolian descent not born in the United States and all Indians not taxed, who have not severed their tribal relations and adopted the habits of civilization.

SEC. 3. The legislature shall enforce the provisions of this section by appropriate legislation.

Buying a thing merely because it is cheap, is too much like falling down a well for exercise.

The Pope is said to firmly believe in the imminency of a great European war. This, rather than local unpleasantness, may be the cause of his holiness' proposed removal from Rome; when he leaves the "Eternal City" he goes to stay.

A company of French and English capitalists, having obtained the necessary concession from the Sultan, are going to build a railroad from Jaffa to Jerusalem. When it is completed, those who make trips to the Holy Land will not have to go mule-back or otherwise than in finely equipped coaches and gossipping over the burning sands at a rate of speed which the camel in his best estate is incapable of. We are advancing rapidly.

In 1865, when the telegraph was a comparatively new thing in Southern California, it became necessary one day to go out and replace a whole mile of line which had mysteriously disappeared. A detective was set to work, who found the missing wire and poles in a neighboring farmer's fence. On being accused of the theft, the old man was greatly surprised, saying, "That old telegraph concern has been there three years; I have watched it every day and never seen nothing go over it, so I thought they wasn't using it." It is but just to the Western Union to say that they declined to prosecute.