



GEORGE D. CANNON, EDITOR

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BANQUET TO CHINESE MERCHANTS

THE banquet, recently given at the Sherman House, Chicago, by some of the leading business men of that city, to Choy Chew and Sing Man, Chinese merchants, possesses far more than ordinary significance, when the results to which it will most probably lead, are weighed and considered. The fact of the representatives of the oldest but most effete civilization now existing, and of the youngest but most vigorous, hitherto so widely separated, and between whom there has been no sympathy, meeting together as equals in the most cordial and friendly manner, is something to elicit surprise even in an age of marvels like this. No less strange is it to hear of Chinese, so notorious for their conservatism and of their long standing ostracism from the rest of mankind, mingling with the representatives of a race so dissimilar to themselves, talking the English language, complimenting Americans upon the beauty of their country, the glory of their institutions, the excellence of their laws, and, with every appearance of sincerity, giving utterance to the sentiment, that it is time for China to awake from the dreams of the past, and expressing the hope that railroads and telegraphs, and the other concomitants forming the grand distinction between the effete civilizations of the East, and the go-ahead, lively, growing and vigorous civilizations of the West, will soon be introduced among the denizens of the Flowery Land.

It is pretty generally understood that on all such occasions as this there is no small amount of "gas" or "huff" indulged in; and that a good deal of the talk about the brotherhood of nations, civilization, glorious and generous institutions, etc., *ad libitum*, springs from no holier of Toffie motive than the hope of driving good bargains and reaping golden harvests. Whether such was the case at the banquet given in honor of these Chinese gentlemen at the Sherman House, is immaterial; the real importance of the affair is just the same; the fact is no less patent that the way is being paved for real and extensive intercourse with the nations of the extreme East and West.

For scores of years the various Christian missionaries of Europe and America have been laboring with the most untiring zeal to break down this isolation, but their efforts have proved utterly futile; and instead of converting the Chinese and other peoples of the Orient to their faith and meeting with success in the introduction of Western civilization, recent accounts from China show that the missionaries and foreigners are becoming so obnoxious that organizations are being formed for their extermination.

To the people composing the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints this movement possesses far more significance than to any other people. The "Mormons," as they are termed generally, are engaged in establishing the Kingdom of God upon the earth, and have received a mission from Him to carry the gospel to every people under heaven. However much others may be inclined to sneer at such a declaration the Saints know that such is their mission. They also know that the work they are engaged in is onward, and that ere long the gospel must be sounded among the millions of Asia. It has been carried to all the nations of Europe, except to those in which the intolerance of priests and kings has raised insuperable obstacles. The recent movements in Spain, and the leaven of liberty and toleration now working so surely in other portions of continental Europe will soon clear the way for Zion's messengers to every part of it. But great as the work has been, and will yet be on that Continent, there is an infinitely greater work to be done in Asia. The intolerance and bigotry

which have prevailed, and, to a greater extent, still prevail in Europe, are of a very juvenile and insignificant character when compared with that which prevails in the far East. There they have had a growth of twenty or thirty centuries, and nothing short of the power of Jehovah can break them down. Seeing that the purposes of Jehovah cannot be fulfilled until the hundreds of millions of Asia have been warned, He has set His machinery in motion to prepare them for the reception of His gospel, and as President Young said the other day in the 15th Ward, "When He wants to accomplish anything among the nations, there is no such word as fail."

Some ascribe this growing disposition on the part of the Orientals to mingle with the Westerners, to the influence of ocean telegraphs, the Pacific Railroad, and to the mission of Hon. Anson Burlingame; and, so far as these things severally go, they are no doubt right. But all these have been brought about by the overruling of Him who controls all earthly affairs; and in addition to all these agencies, He is working by His spirit among the natives of the great east—India, China and Japan, and is breaking down their prejudices and long venerated institutions, and bringing them into closer communion with the most liberal nations of the West, in order to prepare them for the proclamation of His gospel and kingdom.

With this belief, and these views concerning the designs, purposes and movements of God among those nations, every movement made, having a tendency to bring them into closer communion with the Western nations, to do away with their traditions and to make them broader and more liberal in their feelings, is looked upon by the members of the "Mormon" Church with the liveliest interest, for they recognize in these movements the workings of God, preparing His creatures for the liberty of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to convince the whole world of mankind of the truth of His great Latter-day work.

BAD LAW IS NO LAW.

THE editor of the Oskaloosa (Iowa) Herald gives his readers and the country an article, under date of July 29th, setting forth his reasons for being a Republican. We like his remarks on one point so well that we insert them. He says:

"We are truthfully told, that every man should be able to give a reason for the hope that is in him." This was said in reference to matters of religion; but we can see no good reason why it is not just as applicable to matters of politics. Next to religion, the affairs of our country should occupy a prominent place in every philanthropic breast—may, will occupy such place. Without a government, chaos would reign, and every man's hand would be against his neighbor; and a bad government is next to no government at all.—Blackstone, in his Commentaries, will not permit us to use the term 'bad law'; as where such is the case it is 'no law'; and in this he is doubtless correct. We opposed the so-called Fugitive Slave law during its existence upon our National Statute book, upon this very ground. It certainly was bad, a violation of every principle of justice and humanity, and, as a result, was no law. Had not our Federal courts been so thoroughly hood-winked by desire for place, as to be totally blinded to the true interests of the country, the act in question never would have been recognized as a law. In fact had it not been for human slavery and its concomitant evils, a Congress never could have been convened in Washington, that would have passed such an act. It was, *ipso facto* a creature of the slave power, based upon oppression, injustice, and fraud; and, as a consequence, could not possess a single element of law. All enactments that violate the principles of justice, and contravene the doctrines of Revelation, cannot, according to the very nature of things, be a binding law. These are fundamental principles as old as human governments or Revelation.

That is our position exactly respecting the law made applicable to the Territories of the United States, passed July, 1862; we mean what is known as the anti-polygamy law. We certainly think it "no law," and it ought never to have had a place in the statute book of the United States. Enlightenment and liberality march on, and the day is not far distant when that act will be denounced in as severe terms for its unconstitutionality as the Fugitive Slave Act is to-day. The editor of the Herald states the truth exactly when he says that "all enactments that violate the principles of justice, and contravene the doctrines of Revelation, cannot, according to the very nature of things, be a binding law."

The law of July, 1862, is in this category. In this Republic no greater vio-

lation of the principles of justice, no more direct attack upon the doctrines of revelation, was ever attempted than in the passage of that infamous measure, and posterity will thus record it. In such cases, and in an age and government like ours, the arbitrament of time can safely be relied upon. We confidently trust our cause to its verdict, feeling assured that the day will come when this law will be repealed, and the rectitude, loyalty and patriotism of the people of Utah will be fully vindicated.

A NEW ERA IN FRANCE.

THE present age may well be called the age of reform, that being most decidedly the characteristic of the century. Reforms in religion, in politics, in medicine, and in diet are all making headway and promise in the course of a few years to create wonderful changes in the condition of the masses. Reforms in politics are the most apparent, or rather their results are, from the fact that they immediately affect the condition of the people at large, emancipating them from shackles that have bound them for ages. This political agitation has prevailed to a remarkable extent the last few years in Europe, its latest results being the recent revolution in Spain, the separation of Church and State in Ireland, and unparalleled Government reforms in France.

Hitherto it has been the unhappy fate of the last named nation, no matter what the name and style of the Government, whether monarchical or Republican, to be ruled in a most absolute manner. The whole war of the government has rested in the head of the government, who has held himself responsible neither to ministers nor to people, depending upon the army to sustain his acts. This absolutism has led to many grievous and tyrannical acts, and these again have led to those outbreaks of popular fury which have overturned the government and exiled their rulers, for which the people of France have become notorious. It has also led to immense military establishments, which, while they have placed France first among the military powers of the world, have also impoverished the French people. Perhaps no reign, at least in modern times, has been more marked by absolutism than that of the present ruler of France; and certainly no ruler has taken more pains to conciliate and gain the good-will of his army than Louis Napoleon. At the late general election the will of the people as given expression to at the polls, said as plainly as it could be said, that this system of absolutism would not be endured much longer; and that concessions must be granted, or the establishment of a new form of government would be very likely to take place at an early period. Some of the Emperor's advisers counselled him to grant reforms, and in fact, to drop the system of autocratic or antonymic government, and to adopt the representative, more like that of the United States or Great Britain.

Whether the advice of his ministers, or his own insight into the future has prevailed with the Emperor, one thing is clear, and that is that an entire change in the nature of the government is about to be instituted. Napoleon has determined to rule alone no longer, and henceforth the responsibilities of governing the people of France will be shared by the Emperor, his ministers and the representatives of the people, the ministry being responsible to the latter. The national finances are to be controlled by the people's representatives in future, and as in this country and Britain they will vote the supplies and say how the people's money shall be spent.

This is a new era for France, an era in which she will be likely to gain prosperity, and greater and more lasting glory than that derived from the false grandeur surrounding military achievements. Napoleon has the credit of being the most astute personage now filling a throne, and he has never given a greater proof of it than in thus yielding to the demands of the people; and his course in this crisis will do more towards the perpetuation of his dynasty than all the deeds of the family hitherto.

The age of and the rage for martial glory has passed; this is one of reforms, and of the advancement of science, knowledge and intelligence among the people. Napoleon has shown himself equal to the wants of the times, and henceforth the French nation has facilities for development and progress such as it has never before enjoyed. With

this change in the nature of the Government it may be reasonably expected that nothing more will be heard of the political excitement and changes of Government that have been so common in France since the dawning of the great revolution of 1789, for henceforth all reforms, concessions and privileges demanded or required by the people can be obtained through their representatives in Parliament. This change promises well, not only for the future of France but for Europe and the world, for if the untold treasure and life that have hitherto been expended by the rulers of France in war and in sustaining mighty armies be expended in promoting the arts and pursuits of peace, commerce and true civilization the moral effects of such a course will be felt throughout the world; and the inauguration of such a policy in France lays the firm foundation of true and lasting greatness for that nation.

THE POTATOE DISEASE.

THE potatoe disease, which made its appearance in Europe, twenty-five or thirty years ago, has been a source of great disadvantage and loss to the poor in every country where it has existed. Among the laboring classes in this country, as well as in Great Britain, Ireland and some of the countries of Europe it is extensively used, standing, as an article of food, next to bread; in Ireland, before the disease made its appearance, it stood probably first. The deterioration in quality, the decrease in quantity and the increase in price which have taken place since the disease made its appearance, have entailed loss and privations upon the people in those sections of country where it was most extensively used, in Ireland resulting in a famine and the loss of hundreds and thousands of lives.

Innumerable suggestions and experiments have been offered and made for its remedy; but all have failed, and it still exists, some seasons being much worse and more wide spread than in others. In the United States, Great Britain, and in most, if not all the countries of Europe, before the appearance of this disease the potatoe could be bought anywhere for a song almost, but it has been a very different matter since; before then, it could be purchased for a few cents or half pence per bushel, but it has since required three or four times the amount.

This Territory has, hitherto, been free from the potatoe disease, and there is hardly any hazard in saying that the very best potatoes grown in the world have been produced here. This has probably arisen from the fact that the soil and the seed have not been used over and over until all their life and virtue has disappeared.

Among the several varieties of this favorite edible grown in this Territory the "White Meshannock" has very deservedly held the pre-eminence, both for size and flavor; but it is not what is considered an early variety. For two or three seasons past some of our leading professional and amateur gardeners have imported other varieties, noted, among other things, for being early in the market, from the other side of the Atlantic and from the Eastern States. Among these varieties we have heard mentioned the "Early Ashleaf Kidney," (English) introduced by Brother Mark Lindsay, of the 20th Ward, in this city; also the "Early Rose" and the "Early Goodrich." The "Early Rose" has been planted by several this spring, and has given the utmost satisfaction as far as we have heard. Its yield is large, while its flavor and its entire freedom from blemish or defect of any kind promise to bring it into general favor here.

Now, the importation of fresh varieties of potatoes may be necessary in order to prevent the very results that, seemingly, have followed the use of the same seed over and over in other countries,—namely, the introduction of the rot or potato disease; but in the importation of varieties from the Eastern States or from foreign lands it does seem that the very greatest care should be taken to import those only that are known not to be infected, and that have not been propagated from infected or tainted seed.

Our attention has been called to this subject by seeing, to-day, for the first time in this Territory, a few potatoes, grown here, badly tainted with the disease. They are of the "Early Goodrich" variety, and were grown by Bro. Mark Lindsay, on the bench in the 20th Ward in this city. In the latter part of Spring he planted two-thirds of a bushel of this variety of potato; they