

EMPRESS WORKS HER OWN RUIN.

Dynasty Deamed Through Recent Folly—Has Set Aside All Advisers of Intelligence, and Put in Motion a Fierce Power She Cannot Check—Grave Report Made by American in Tien-Tsin.

China will be divided, but much blood will be spilled before this is accomplished. Such is the conclusion of Charles K. Gammon in his report to the American Bible Society, of which he is the representative in Tien Tsin. In this report, which shows a comprehensive grasp of the situation, he says: "The recent punishment of the murderers of Mr. Brooks—one by decapitation, one by strangulation, one by imprisonment for life and several others, more or less implicated, by banishment, imprisonment and beating—has had apparently no effect in subduing the spirit of the Boxers. Late information from Lin Ching and vicinity is to the effect that rioting has again broken out, the Boxers saying that they now want not

through her officials would doubtless turn its energies and direct them to rebellion against the throne. "The lawlessness in Shanghai resulted in driving the Germans to take the law into their own hands. They punished local offenders, which, in turn, aroused hatred in the breasts of the natives, who were further incited to acts of violence by traveling leaders of the Boxers. Exalt the dynasty and kill the foreigners" was their cry, and, while no efforts of theirs could do the former, there has been and still is every promise of their doing the latter, though not as effectively as they desire. The government was finally stirred somewhat by the fear of certain consequences that must follow the loss of foreign lives and property, and strove by mild and pacifying edicts to stay the hand of lawlessness—but too late, for even had these edicts been widely

aliened from fear of them, and thus their real plans and movements are hidden in mystery, and no one can say whether the organization will gradually die out (which is very doubtful) or result in a general uprising or in open rebellion. We hope for the best, but indications point to grave results. "But it is not alone the Yi He Chuan, or Boxer society, that causes a grave situation and threatens rebellion and bloodshed. The central government, following out the mistaken policy of the empress dowager, after the practical debasement of Emperor Kuang Hsu, has brought the nation to the verge of ruin, and is in itself in such a condition that the next year, it would seem, must bring about some great and overwhelming change. Never, probably, in the history of the empire was the imperial government composed of such ignorant, greedy, anti-progressive men.

GREEDY MEN IN POWER.

"One by one the empress dowager has replaced men of even slight intelligence or faint ambition by believers in her own evil policy, or whose greed for wealth or title led them to support her. These men have sold their loyalty (?) for the rank and power she had to offer, while she, intelligent in some ways, shrewd, but blind to the future, has thought to support her position and further her designs by the free-handed bestowal of rank and title upon evil men, whose only desire is to line their pockets as rapidly as possible, forgetting, or not knowing, that every man thus bought repays in kind, and is degraded and turned to hatred. For every friend she has purchased she has made at least two enemies, and as for her future good she has no greater enemies than her friends. The degraded officials who have made way for men of her own choosing have, it is true, lost their rank, but not their influence among the people, and much may be expected from their efforts.

"The dowager has not been content to surround the throne with men after her own heart, but throughout the whole empire, by a slow but certain process, has filled almost every influential post with men after her own stamp. It is impossible to guess what an influence on ignorant, conservative, anti-foreign official may have—what seeds of evil he may scatter among his family servants, friends and acquaintances, each in turn doing likewise; but what can estimate the power of the empress dowager, who controls and guides hundreds of men of this character?

"Each man thus appointed realizes that he now has an opportunity to become a ruler for the rulers are, and every official has enemies, and so his one desire is to enrich himself as quickly as possible. He cares nothing for the throne, beyond keeping it for himself, and is satisfied, he refuses to use or bear of danger to rulers or country, hoping, caring only that things may continue as they are until his own end is gained. Of patriotism he has none, but he hates the foreigners and favors foreign methods and influences, since they menace his power for gain, and this very hatred is his recommendation to the dowager empress. He sows seeds of discontent and fosters every form of evil, all for self.

WORD "REFORM" MEANS DEATH.

"Circumstances absolutely forbid the existence of one honest official—one progressive man in power. Above, below, on every hand, he would be pressed by corruption and evil suggestions, and he must follow the wicked methods of others or be crushed, while one progressive move on his part would condemn him to the throne and prove equally fatal, for the word reformer now means death. Never was Chinese officialdom so low; never were the confidential advisers of the rulers so ignorant or so opposed to every good thing. It would seem that the dowager, in her downward course, must have sighted or scented the danger she was courting, but the men she has chosen to aid and advise her bent only on gain, loving only self, have soothed her fears and encouraged her misplaced ambition. Good advice would, if followed, mean their own ruin, and why should they give it, even if they were not too ignorant and blind to do so?

"Two things, usually regarded as invaluable blessings, have but increased the power of the throne for evil. I refer to the postal system and the telegraph, which now link together the provinces and favor rapid communication. Previous to their introduction it took weeks, and sometimes months, to deliver the imperial commands in distant provinces, and the emperor knew little of what was going on beyond the capital. But now all this is changed.

"The spies of the empress dowager are in every center, and she is in touch with the feelings and doings of her people in every part of the empire. The first step toward progress taken by any official, however distant, would be immediately checked by telegraphic orders for his dismissal, and the post would carry orders to his successor.

"The present outlook is black, indeed, and one can only see in the future rebellion, strife, bloodshed, perhaps the actual breakup of this ancient empire. Despite the overwhelming wickedness, however, despite the ignorance and superstition which darkens the lives of the masses and renders them an easy prey for malicious leaders, there exists some knowledge of the truth, some desire for reformation.

OPPOSITION TO THE DYNASTY.

"The words of one enlightened man, in reference to the murder of six reformers by the empress dowager, 'They may cut the grass, but the roots that remain will grow again.' The consummation of the reformed Kuang Yu Wei, and the emperor's old tutor, Wang, is not forgiven by the people of the south, who knew and respected them both, and the desecration of the graves of Kuang's ancestors, by order of the dowager, cannot be forgotten or forgiven.

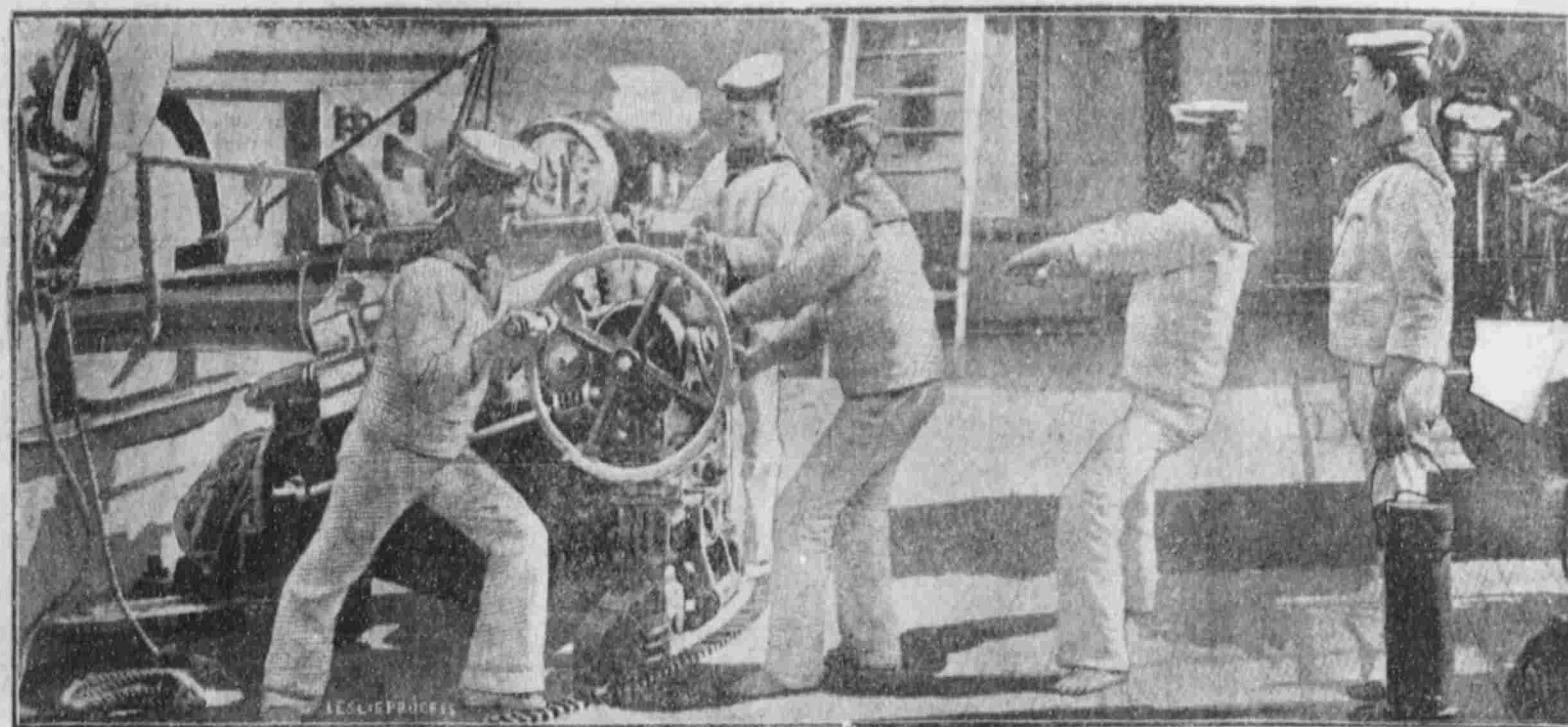
"Many saw a glimpse of light during the brief stay of the reformation, which they cannot forget, and among intelligent natives there is love for Kuang Hsu and a sincere desire for the changes he proposed. Then, too, the hundreds of officials thrown out of office and favor by the empress are sowing seeds of opposition to the dynasty, and in the south there is every indication of rebellion, for the people there desire to see the end of Manchu rule and a Chinese on the throne.

"Foreign newspapers in the ports and native newspapers under foreign control are forbidden to the Chinese, and reading them is made a crime, yet it is a sign that there exists an undercurrent of progress that native newspapers, both in the foreign concession of Tien Tsin, and one under Japanese control, have larger circulations than ever before, and they are very outspoken on the worst acts of the officials and criticizing daily the conduct of the Empress Dowager. Hundreds of these papers go daily to Peking itself, and they must have influence for good.

"Something must come of all this, and that something will mean the overthrow of the present dynasty, or the dismemberment of China—or both. Throughout the ages the Chinese have exercised the right to revolt against unjust rulers, and at no time could such action be more justifiable than now. The Southerners are anxious for it—are preparing for it; the Northerners are indifferent to the extent, and the Boxers are an unknown quantity.

"General Yuan, the military governor who replaced the civil governor in

HOT WORK BEHIND THE GUNS AT THE BOMBARDMENT OF THE CHINESE FORTS.



British bluejackets on the Terrible, toiling under a blazing Oriental sun to send corrective missiles hurling into the strongholds of the barbarians. The English sailors fire almost as fast and true as our own gallant tars. Small wonder that the fortifications of the yellowskins crumble under their cannonading like walls of wax before a furious conflagration.



Admiral Seymour, failing to reach Peking with his 2,000 sailors and marines representing the above nations, and having been saved by a Russian relief party headed by Col. Schirinsky, is reorganizing his shattered forces at Tien Tsin preparatory to a second advance upon China's capital. He is deeply chagrined by his first failure, and his sworn to enter Peking fighting at the head of his men or return to England feet foremost, wrapped in the Union Jack.

money, but lives; and all over Chi-Li and Shanghai recruiting and 'drilling' are carried on with renewed vigor. "The report that thousands of the imperial troops are uniting with the Boxers, particularly those under Prince Tuan, adds a new and serious phase to the matter. What the real object of the Yi He Chuan, or Boxer Society, as a whole, may be—what the final outcome will be—cannot be stated. In some sections (coincidentally few) the movement is wholly directed against Roman Catholics. Protestants being distinguished and undisturbed; in other sections it is anti-Christian, while in most sections it is anti-foreign, affecting missionaries, native Christians and foreigners generally.

EMPRESS IS TO BLAME.

"The edicts of the empress dowager to the people of Shanghai calling upon them to form a militia for local and national defense, were doubtless the origin of the Yi He Chuan. The Germans had already located in a portion of the province, and the dowager, hoping, by stirring the people to opposition and a display of anti-foreign feeling, to discourage their further encroachments. This is the view taken by many well informed foreigners, and the inactivity of all the officials during the worst periods of rioting by the Boxers seems to bear out the opinion. "The government is now powerless, and any active measures by the empress against the society she herself brought into life and encouraged

published (which they were not), the ruffians, who had banded themselves together by imperial command, had gone too far to be content with anything short of plunder, the sight of burning homes and the flow of blood.

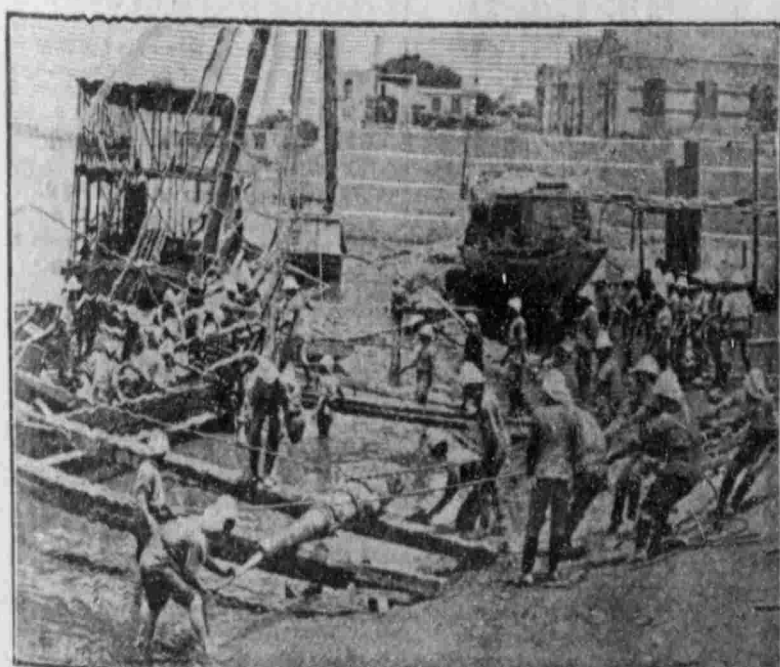
OFFICIALS HELPED IT ALONG.

"Minor officials believing, as they were taught, that inaction would best recommend them to the throne, and fearing the rising bands that had assumed such vast proportions and displayed so much power, denied the very presence of Boxers in their districts, while at the same time bribing these bands to go elsewhere, and feeding them while they chose to remain.

"The Boxers have been led to believe that they were carrying out the will of the throne, and all edicts and proclamations contrary to their motives have been taken as customary Chinese deceit, destined to 'pull wool over the eyes' of foreigners.

"As the Yi He Chuan now stands it is fearless and independent—strong enough, or scattered enough, to defy the imperial troops (of whom many are in its ranks) if necessary, and self-confident enough to believe in its power to clear the borders of China of foreigners and foreign influence. There is unrest on every hand, the peaceful natives having more to fear than the foreign residents. Honest men who cannot but be acquainted with the plans and projects of the Boxers are

RUSHING GREAT GUNS ASHORE AT TIEN TSIN.



American and English seamen work side by side—even as they fight—to defend their countrymen at the above city and other Boxer-besieged forts. They are shodding naval cannon rapidly as possible in anticipation of the expected attack upon Tien Tsin by the Finnish yellowskins.

THE OLD MONOCACY.

The old Monocacy, which successfully resisted the attack of Chinese riflemen on the Pei-Ho river during the recent engagement at Taku, though she is said to have received a shell through her bows, has stood guard over our interests in China for 35 years, and while she would not be rated as a formidable craft in modern naval classification, still, in the eyes of the conservative Chinaman, she has represented a great deal of potential force. Built in Baltimore in 1865, and as a double-

She draws only nine feet of water, has to her credit a speed of 11 knots, and carries a complement of 158 persons. With the "flowery flag," as the Chinese have been pleased to term our ensign, floating at her peak, this quaint craft of other days has exerted a very wholesome moral influence through all her years of usefulness, and that she did not participate in the attack on the Taku forts can be explained only by her temporary absence.

ONE LANGUAGE

For the Eye and a Hundred for the Ear Has China.

Chinese has a written and many spoken languages. One says, "China has one language for the eye and about a hundred or so for the ear." This refers to the tones and local changes of dialect. The fact that there is one language for books and many for speech makes the acquisition of this peculiar lingua exceedingly difficult. The collo-

HON. EDWIN M. CONGER.



Penned in the gruesome shambles ruled by her majesty the empress dowager of China, Minister Conger plays a waiting game with death. Even as we go to press, the sword may have fallen on his head. Admiral Seymour and his international relief party, 2,000 strong, having been driven back to Tien Tsin, the chances for the rescue of the American and European ambassadors are small, unless the new Russian column arrives in time.

ended paddle-wheel steamer especially designed for river service, was at once detailed to the Orient when she could be spared to look out for our commercial warfare which, and suffered through stress of our domestic difficulties. In 1865 she reached the Asiatic station, and from that day to this, in concert with her sister-ship, the Ashuelot, lost in 1883, proved a tower of strength in more than one emergency. Actual conflict won her renown, and the open mouths of her ancient ordinance have had persuasiveness enough to win the grace of many a jaded mandarin not too kindly disposed toward our citizens resident in the Flowery Kingdom.

Could the old craft have been at her erstwhile anchorage we should not have had to bear the recent anxious days over the questionable safety of our representatives at the court of Peking. In years gone by, in fact, so recently as '96, it was possible for the Monocacy to lie at Tien Tsin, only eighty odd miles from Peking, then the head waters of steam navigation. For months at a time the old ship lay off Tien Tsin and by the aid of each spring freshet made her way back to the sea over the changing channels and through the soft mud of the Pei-Ho, only to find her way back later in the year when the waters had once more determined their way. To approach and there our vessels must be content to halt on the highway to the capital.

The old "Monocacy" boasts a time-honored battery of four muzzle-loading, smooth-bore eight-inch guns and a couple of sixty-pound breech-loading rifles, to which the deprecating spirit of modernity has added nearly a dozen rapid-fire guns of very light caliber.

qual dialect is known as the Mandarin and is the official language. The Wen-Li is the literary style. The native dictionaries show a collection of 44,449 characters or hieroglyphics. They are ideographic, pictorial and phonetic. The language has neither alphabet, inflection, declension nor conjugation, and consists of 600 or 500 spoken monosyllables which have different meanings, according to intonation, and connection. Time, number, gender, etc., are expressed by using two or more words. The characters are written or printed in vertical columns, beginning at the right hand top corner of the page. One can read the classics with a knowledge of 5,000 characters.

QUEER CUSTOMS

Which Appear Absurd to the Travelers from the Occident.

The Chinese eat rice three times a day. They ply their chop sticks as dexterously as we do knife and fork. They say our use of the knife is barbarous. Men shave their heads and grow pig-tails. The "pig-tails" is the badge of servitude forced on the Chinese by their conquerors, the Manchus. Women that are married pull out the hair over the forehead. Some finger nails are six inches long, and are protected by bamboo and silver tubes generally worn over the third finger. A coffin is a fine present either father or mother. It is often kept in the bedroom. Incense burns around it night and day to keep away evil influences. When a person dies the body is elaborately dressed and paper money is piled in the coffin. This pays the way to Nirvana.

WU IS A FINE DIPLOMAT.

Washington Admires This Chinaman for His Reticence—His Knowledge of English—Comes Honestly by It, for He Was Educated in This Country—Chinese Legation One of the Finest in the Capital.

Special Correspondence.

Washington, July 4.—Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister in the United States, has been one of the most interesting of all the diplomatic representatives here ever since he took up his abode in Washington. Since the beginning of the trouble in Tien Tsin, Peking and the neighborhood of those Mongolian cities he has advanced in a way to the level of first importance.

This is because it is generally believed that if he would he could impart a lot of highly important, highly interesting information just at this time—information for which the people of every civilized nation under the sun are hungering and thirsting. And, of course, he has been more sought after by the newspaper men since the beginning of the Boxer trouble than ever before; but, also of course, Wu Ting Fang has mightily little to say. He professes to have no information beyond that which is cabled here from China to the newspapers, and only when requested by his government to ask that the sending of troops to China by the United States be stopped has he vouchsafed a word to any one.

HOW MUCH DOES WU KNOW?

Now it may be that Mr. Wu knows not a whit more than he says he does. Indeed, say some among the diplomatic corps, it would be strange for the Chinese authorities to communicate with him in any way except when it was desired that he should prefer a request to the government of the United States. At the same time it is hardly credited that he can know absolutely nothing of the situation beyond the knowledge that is possessed by humanity at large. That he should be reticent is considered his right. In fact, in the circumstances it is generally acknowledged that he would make a great mistake were he to indulge in much talk, and his standing as a diplomat is going up steadily here at the present time because of his reticence.

It is not too much to say that Wu Ting Fang is altogether the most successful representative ever sent from China to America. He is, in fact, the only one who has ever been able to enter sufficiently into the life of the people here to make a real impression. His achievements in this line have been due to the circumstance that he understands the English language as well as most students thereof, either of English or American birth, and it is not stretching a point to claim a better knowledge of the tongue for him than is possessed by many among those who hold high places in the government. Wu comes

honestly by his proficiency, because he was sent here from China when a youngster and was educated in American schools to serve his government diplomatically among English speaking people.

Mr. Wu is tall, measured by the stature of most of his countrymen. Were he a Caucasian he would be counted of medium height. His face is plainly Mongolian, but of pleasing expression, and he has the faculty of making friends in marked degree. His knowledge of English is so intimate that he can both understand and make use of slang. He keeps himself thoroughly posted with regard to the latest cant words and phrases and rarely makes misuse of them. More than once this has stood him in excellent stead, and it has helped him more in acquiring a reputation as an after-dinner speaker than has any other personal qualification.

THE CHINESE LEGATION.

Mr. Wu's official residence, known as the Chinese legation, is one of the handsomest houses in the capital. It was built for T. F. Schneider. When it was erected, Mr. Schneider expected to live in it permanently with his family and in fact, did occupy it as a residence for several years. While the house was in process of erection it was seen that it would be one of the show places of the capital on completion, and Mr. Schneider, who had turned it over to the Chinese government, was not long in removing it to his diplomatic place here.

Some years before that time the Chinese legation had been located on Dupont circle, in the west end, but Mr. Wu's predecessor, Yang Yu, came to the northern end of town. Wu, however, decided to move back to the part of the city most affected by the diplomats, and the present legation is within a few doors of the old one. It may be mentioned in passing that nearly all the legations are located within the compass of half a mile. It was understood when the house was taken that its owner insisted on the payment of a very stiff rental, but Mr. Wu did not mind that, and the lease under which the house is held is for an unusually long term.

The house was an exceptionally large one to begin with, but Mr. Wu wanted it made bigger and offered to increase his rental if additions were made. Mr. Schneider had it enlarged, therefore, and now all the legation attaches, some forty odd in number, not counting servants, dwell under the one roof. Mr. Wu's predecessor, Yang Yu, came here in 1893. He was preceded by Tsui Kwo Yin, who was recalled in disgrace to China because he allowed himself to become mixed up in the visionary schemes of a certain courtier who yearned to cover the Chinese empire with a net of railroads.

CHAFFEE FOR CHINA.



Brigadier-General Adna R. Chaffee is going as rapidly as possible to Peking, via Nagasaki and Taku, at the head of a brigade, to assume command of the United States troops in China. He is to give adequate and continuous protection to Minister Conger and other Americans, and is arranging to pass the winter in that country. This is taken to mean that the administration expects a long and stubborn war with the Mongolians.