

# CHINESE AVAILABLES FOR PEACE COMMISSIONERS

**N**EXT to a responsible government, the crying need of the hour in China, it would seem, is a body of patriotic statesmen that can rise to the occasion and satisfy the demands made upon the country at this crucial period of its exaltation. The emperor, the empress dowager—all, in fact, who constitute

reigning emperor has the inalienable right to choose his own successor from among his own sons, if he have any, according to his ability. If he should fail to do this and die without having manifested his choice, his brothers or uncles, being royal princes, may most and choose their sovereign from the family immediately succeeding. The so-

imperial category, including the titles of grand secretary, "guardian of the heir apparent" and your excellency. It might puzzle the great "Bismarck of China" himself to give his proper title, he has been so many times elevated to high rank and as often degraded, by being deprived of his valued yellow jacket and peacock feather.

It has been Li Hung Chang's boast that he was instrumental in putting down one of the greatest uprisings of modern times; but when it is recalled that the men most in evidence in suppressing the Chinese rebellion, the Taipings, were an American, Frederick G. Ward, and an Englishman, "Chinese" Gordon, and that the latter searched high and low for the deceitful Li at one time, intending to shoot him for double dealing, Chang's statement will have to be taken with a grain of salt.

The Arabs have a saying that if a man

is based mainly upon the fact that he has never been outside the limits of his native province. Until the recent outbreak caused the disruption of the royal household and his deposition by his rival, Prince Tuan, he was commander of the Peking field force charged with the protection of the emperor and the capital. He is about 60 years old, of medium stature and is considered prudent and sensible.

Yung Lu, another Manchou favorably regarded by the empress dowager, was yet said to be opposed to Prince Tuan in his operations against the legations, and some years ago he incurred the displeasure of the emperor by ordering his chief eunuch, who was recently reported to have committed suicide, to be banished. A man of force and independence, Yung Lu rose rapidly in rank through the various army grades until he was appointed captain general of the White Banners and made a member of the tsung-li-yamen, soon afterward being promoted to be inspector general of the Yellow Banners. He was appointed viceroy of Pe-chi-li and generalissimo of the Chinese armies in 1898, having in four years risen to some of the highest positions by a combination

of native shrewdness and good fortune at court. He is credited with having saved the life of the emperor on at least one occasion, notwithstanding that his sovereign had issued a decree of banishment against him on account of his treatment of his chief eunuch. All Europeans who have met him agree that he is well informed and progressive in some respects, but few regard him as a friend of the foreigners when the issue at stake is the liberties of China.

found only in the central provinces, in the real Cathay, or Flower Kingdom. A few of the Manchou generals, like Sou, Botenga and Nih, have won local fame, but they are not likely to be prominent in any affairs of importance that presuppose familiarity with statecraft.

In the southern provinces there is that notable triumvirate composed of Li Hung Chang, Chang Chi Tung and Lu Kun Yi, all viceroys who have achieved reputations. Chang Chi Tung, famous for his iron and coal mines, foundries, etc., is the able viceroy of the two provinces of Hupen and Hunan. He is said to be honest, but weak, and is easily swayed by his friends and relatives, who have not his reputation for probity. The third to be named, Lu Kun Yi, is viceroy over three provinces and resides at Nankin. Like the other two, he seems to be imbued with the so-called reform ideas, but his character is not strong enough to warrant the assumption that he would insist upon them in the face of determined opposition from the imperial court.

One of the greatest names at present standing forth is that of Sheng Tsai, the director general of railways and telegraphs, who resides at Shanghai. It has been said of him that he has a European head on Chinese shoulders, for he is a man of affairs, extremely capable and comprehensive in his grasp of public questions. He is also noted for his capacity for grasping other things, particularly literature.

Because of his great wealth Sheng has been called the "Crocus of China." Like his compatriots mentioned above, he is cultured and talented, fitted to shine in diplomatic society and able to assist in solving the perplexing problems which will be presented to the international body at Peking.

TRISTRAM W. WILCOX.

## THE TRAINS OF THE CAAR AND KAISER.

Very costly are the trains of modern sovereigns, and even the beautiful and commodious train of Queen Victoria, which, by the bye, is kept in Brussels when not in use, cannot be compared in magnificence with that of the kaiser. This cost nearly \$500,000, and consists of 12 carriages, connected by corridors. The drawing room car is superbly furnished and is hung with splendid tapestries from one of the state apartments at the palace at Charlottenburg. The nursery compartments are exquisitely fitted up, and the sleeping apartments each have the luxury of a fixed bath. The kitchen arrangements of the imperial train are perfect, and the kaiser has his traveling canteens of glass, china, plate, etc., so that everything is at hand for serving up the most complicated repasts at a short notice. When passing through a large town in the course of a journey, the Emperor William makes a point of standing or sitting on a high chair, so that his faithful subjects may have an opportunity of seeing him.

The Russian imperial train is a marvel of luxury, and the czar's car is quite a dream of beauty. In none of the older Russian palaces is luxury to be found equal to that which is exhibited in the imperial train.

British visitors at St. Petersburg often express astonishment at the utter lack of comfort and modern appliances in the sometimes gorgeously handsome suits of rooms occupied by the Russian royal family when at home, and the same thing appeared to have greatly impressed the late President Faure on the occasion of his visit to Russia. It is strange that such great luxury should be indulged in by the royal family when traveling, as they are content to do with such very poor accommodation at home.

## HIS LAST MESSAGE.

Mr. Treves, the celebrated English surgeon who went to South Africa to look after Tommy Atkins, tells some curious stories of his experience, mostly illustrating the stolidity of the common soldier. One day he found a soldier in hospital, wounded to death, his nurse kneeling, with pencil and paper, by his side. "Wouldn't you like to send a message to anybody in particular?" she asked. "I'd like to send one to my girl," said the soldier. "What shall I say?" asked the nurse, with pencil poised. For a few moments his emotions struggled for literary expression. "Give her my kind regards," he said.

Danish lighthouses are supplied with oil to pump on the waves during a storm.



LI HUNG CHANG



SHENG.



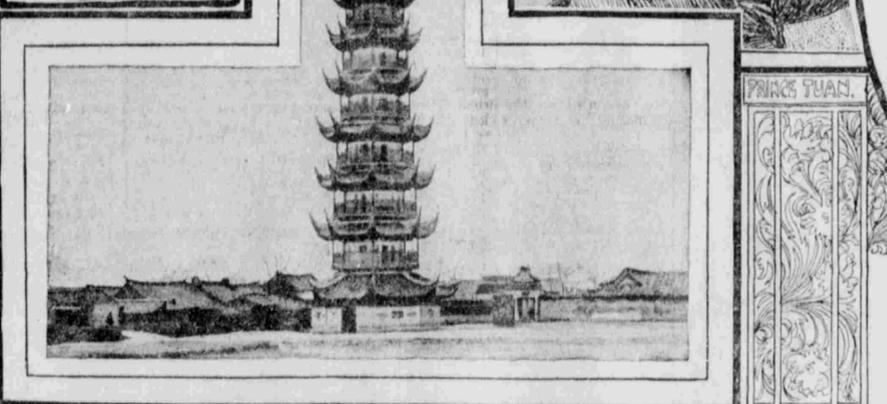
PRINCE CHING.



PRINCE TUAN.



HSU TUNG.



the official court—having fled to the interior and basely abandoned their trust, the government was left without a head. This anomalous condition of affairs, though it might be considered in the light of poetic justice, since the official personnel has been so often depleted by the loss of individual heads, was yet almost as embarrassing to the victorious allies as to the conquered Manchou-Chinese.

The allied forces had assaulted and carried the walls of Peking by storm, they had accomplished the object of their long and toilsome march from the coast—the relief of the legations, they had even made their triumphal entry into the precincts of the hitherto inviolate Forbidden City. Then they were compelled to halt and wait the initiative of the foe they had overcome.

It seems to have become an accepted truism of international relationship that even a bad government is far better when it comes to diplomatic intercourse than no government at all, and the leaders of the allies may have regretted that before advancing upon Peking they had not executed a grand flank movement with a portion of their forces and intercepted the recent sovereigns on the way to their place of refuge at Hsian-Fu. This contingency of flight had not been anticipated, or, if anticipated, had not been guarded against, and by their cowardly retreat the self-proclaimed Manchous had, in popular parlance, put the allies "in a hole." This may have been the more reasonable supposition is that their flight was prompted by cowardice and fear of the consequences rightfully due for the base betrayal of their obligations.

However this may have been, the first step of the allies toward extricating themselves from the dilemma was to seek some responsible person or persons with whom to treat for peace and adjust the penalties to be applied. Like a schoolboy shrinking from well-merited punishment, the real culprit in this affair sought to delay the investigation as long as possible. But, unlike the average schoolboy known to Americans, when pressed to the wall they put forward an irresponsible third party to act as a buffer and bear the brunt of battle.

Li Hung Chang was the person selected to act for the self-deposed government, but, though it was admitted that his headpiece was perhaps as good as that which adorned the shoulders of the empress dowager or the "Son of Heaven" himself, the powers were somewhat dubious as to his real status, and particularly as to his rank. In default of the presence in Peking of the nominal emperor or the actually reigning regent, the personage by them deputed to act for the government ought to be at least next in rank to and connected with the royal family through ties of blood. Both the emperor and the empress dowager are supposed to be so enveloped in the odor of sanctity as to be unapproachable by ordinary individuals, even if of the most exalted rank in European courts, so that these two were out of the question. Failing them, the duty devolved next upon some of the princes attached to the throne, and in their default upon some members of the nobility.

Now, there is this peculiarity, both in the peerage and the succession to the throne, that neither is, in the strictest sense, hereditary. While the succession to the great "dragon throne" is in a manner hereditary in the family, the

called "their apparent" of China, who was chosen to succeed the present emperor, Kwang-su, is the son of a royal prince attached to the cause of the empress dowager. The succession is altogether a family and not an individual affair, and that is what makes it so peculiarly interesting.

The Chinese have also been very chary in bestowing their patents of nobility, and they are never perpetually hereditary. In each succeeding generation the rank diminishes, until at last the ennobled ancestor becomes a mere memory, as the family joins the common herd again, and if there are in the future any nobles they must gain their titles by their own deeds.

There is one exception to the rule, and that is in the family of the revered Confucius, whose dukedom had descended to each direct heir for more than 2,000 years, and the Duke Kung of today lives on the same land his great ancestor once occupied.

Even in the royal family the imperial descendants lose one degree in each generation, until in the fourth they have reached the level of the common people. But thereafter, while they may not have official titles, they are permitted to wear the yellow girdle and are known as huang dai-as, or yellow girdlers of royal descent, the capital city being well supplied with them.

will keep silence, look wise enough and sit still long enough he may gain a reputation for great wisdom. And this seems to have been the case with Li Hung Chang. On the strength of the battles won by Gordon and his "ever victorious" army, Li was made governor of Suchau, and afterward viceroy of Chi-li, in which latter capacity it was his misfortune to become involved in the war with Japan in 1894-5. Whatever credit the world outside China may have given him for his part in that war, it was made manifest that his services were hardly considered brilliant by the court, for he lost his feather and yellow jacket and had to go to Japan as penitentiary in order to save his reputation. If he had not been shot in the cheek by a fanatic while in Japan conducting the peace negotiations, he might have lost his head when he returned to Peking, for the treaty he signed, notwithstanding the leniency of the Japanese on account of his wound, was about as bad as any that could have been made for China. But the wound in his cheek, so to speak, saved his "face," and perhaps his head, so that he still lives, at the age of 75, to again lead a forlorn hope for China's benefit. In this connection, as having a possible bearing and casting light upon present developments, it may be remarked that Li was accused of having a secret understanding with Russia, by which that power came into possession of Port Arthur and the Liao-Tung as a residuary legacy after Japan had been ousted, owing to Russia's protest. Acute observers of the present situation may detect a possible parallel between the recent action of Russia in proposing to withdraw her troops from Peking and occurrences precedent to the forcing out of Japan from Port Arthur, and also infer therefrom that a remuneration on account of having taken this initiative in the matter. At all events there is little doubt that Earl Li's sympathies, as well as those of his imperial mistress, are pro-Russian, and the other powers may well view his appointment as supreme plenipotentiary with deep distrust.

There seems to be an opinion outside China that Li Hung Chang is the man who stands head and shoulders above all his contemporaries, particularly as a statesman and diplomat. This opinion

placate on one hand and his suspicious countrymen to pacify on the other, it will be somewhat strange if he does not risk his honor or his head.

It is surmised that Li Hung Chang, notwithstanding his advanced years, is against the foreigners, with a reservation in favor of Russia, but there is not the shadow of a doubt that the empress dowager is anti-foreigner. So it was not a matter of surprise that she should have nominated three Manchous as Li's coadjutors, two of whom were rabid reactionists. The Chinese peace commission, as the empress dowager at first had it constituted, consisted of one galvanized Celestial, or Chinaman—Li Hung Chang—and three Manchous—Yung Lu, Hsu Tung, and Prince Ching.

When the Manchous are compared with the true Chinese, it is seen that, while the former have the greatest military men, the latter possess a monopoly of statesmen. It is said that there is not a single man among the Manchous who has won a reputation as a diplomat, and that China is mainly represented abroad by descendants of the despised people who were brought under subjection to the Tartars at the founding of the Tsing dynasty.

One of the most eminent of the Manchous is Prince Ching, who at one time was said to be openly aiding the legations at Peking when they were in dire distress. He is not reckoned as a foe of the foreigners, even if not imbued with the advanced ideas of the "reformers." He is of royal blood, a son of Prince Kung, who, at the invasion of the allies in 1850, was the only member of the imperial family who remained in Peking. As the oldest nephew of the Emperor Tung Chih, who died without heirs in 1875, Prince Ching might have been chosen to ascend the throne but for the fact that his elevation would have meant, according to Chinese etiquette, the retirement of his father, whose services were considered invaluable. So he was passed over in favor of his cousin, the present emperor, and has remained with the court in an advisory capacity. He was at one time president of the tsung-li-yamen, which his father established, and when in that position was interviewed by Lord Charles Balfour, whose views seemed to make an impression on the prince, though he is ranked as a conservative and proudly boasts that he

had the pleasure of meting out punishment to the unfortunate "reformers" whom the empress dowager so cruelly suppressed. He promptly beheaded all he could catch, and upon the leader, Kang Yu Wei, who escaped, he passed the sentence of "ling-chee," or "strangling," which has never been revoked. He was the Weyler of the Boxer uprisings, it is said, and hesitated at no kind of atrocity that human fiendishness could suggest.

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A MERCHANT WITH MANDARIN'S BUTTON.

The expression, "Money talks," may have had its origin in China, for at all events it has a voice in affairs. The itching palm and "palm oil" are notorious in political as well as business transactions, the politicians generally possessing the palm and the business men the lubricant. It is owing to this universal desire to amass lucre and the unlimited means for granting titular honors at the disposition of the court that many a mandarin, like the original of this illustration, has obtained his coveted "button," or emblem of rank.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

The new engines of the Denver and Rio Grande railway have a novel fitting for preventing train robbers from climbing over the tender. They have a pipe extending along the roof of the tender and connected with the boiler. Through this pipe, without making a perceptible motion, either the engineer or fireman can send, at a 200 pound pressure, a jet of steam and boiling water that would effectually kill or injure anything living that happened to be on the tender or the front end of the baggage car.

A slump in early Klippings has been noted at recent London auction sales. The "Schoolboy Lyrics," which a couple of years ago brought \$650, has been sold recently for \$18.25.

There is much to be learned after the world's capture of China. Many scientists believe that the nucleus of great events is imbedded amid the mysteries of that great region of country, which may not be so benighted as is generally supposed. The preservation of grapes, to make use of one illustration of Chinese industry, is one of the many things that is only known in that country.

An apparatus for condensing sea fog into drinking water has been invented by Professor Bell. It will be welcomed as a desideratum by ocean voyagers.

The ceremonies at the creation of a knight have been various. The principal features were a box on the ear and a stroke with a sword on the shoulder. The blow with the naked fist was in use among the ancient Normans. It was afterward changed into a blow with the flat of the sword on the shoulder of the knight, and this ceremony is still in use.

Ice has proved successful as an insulator on Mont Blanc. A double line of ordinary galvanized iron wire was laid on the ground between the Grand and Petit Mulets at the base. Each line was 5,500 feet long. Messages were sent without trouble, and the loss of electricity, as measured by the instruments, was very slight.

There are many dormant accounts in the savings banks. They result from many causes, such as crime, loss of memory or reason, sudden death or neglect on the part of a depositor or make a proper memorandum of where long. This year's harvest from it will come close to 1,000 carloads. An average crop is 200 bushels an acre.

With a population of 6,000,000, London harbors every day 120,000 foreigners.