

of our individuality, but we shall probably hold our own."

"But, your excellency, is China now really open to the world?"

"Yes," was the reply.

"Can you notice any material changes going on?"

"I think so," replied his excellency, "but you must remember that our country is very large. We have an enormous number of people, and it takes time to move such great masses. An attempt to change matters quickly would be very likely to create a revolution. You will understand the danger when I tell you that there are tens of millions of Chinese who have never seen a foreigner, and who know practically nothing about foreign matters. The only way to make changes in China is by education. It is by this means that China may be led to adopt modern methods. Such education is not a matter of days, but of years. I believe the time will come when our people will select from your civilization the best things in it, and will add them to those which we now have. The bad elements of our civilization will be eliminated, and it may be that the new civilization, the Chinese civilization of the future, will be better than anything which exists today."

"How about the building of railroads in China, your excellency?"

"We are pushing right ahead along such lines," was the reply. "The road from Tien Tsin to Peking will be completed in June, and you will then be able to go from the seashore to the capital by rail."

"Where will the Peking road end, your excellency?"

"It will go to the very gates of the city. The distance is from eighty to ninety miles, and fast trains will probably take you from Tien Tsin to Peking in about two hours. At present the journey requires from one to three days, according to the route, whether by river or by land."

"How about other railroads?"

"We have, you know, a very good line from Tien Tsin to the Shanhaikwan, on the edge of Manchuria. This is well built, and the trains run regularly."

"How about the line to Han Kow?"

"That line is also being pushed," said Mr. Wu Ting Fang. "It will run through one of the most populous parts of China, and will go south through some of the best of our provinces, touching large cities of every few miles. There are now great car works at Han Yang, a little bit above Han Kow, and all sorts of railroad machinery are being made there."

"How about factories? Are many new ones being built?"

"Yes; but these are constructed by the Chinese merchants and business men, and not by the government. There is a large cotton mill at Han Kow, hundreds of miles in the interior. There are other mills at Shanghai, including silk mills."

"How about the Japanese. At the close of the war they expected to do a great deal of manufacturing in China, did they not?"

"Yes, I know they did," replied his excellency. Wu Ting Fang. "They investigated the situation and made many plans, but so far they have not carried them out. I do not know what they will do in the future."

"But, your excellency, do you think

the Japanese could do much in China? I have always thought the Chinese superior to the Japanese in business ability."

"There is little doubt of that," replied the Chinese minister. "The Japanese are very quick to grasp at new things. The Chinese are careful about going in to anything they do not understand. Still they are very determined and sure. They are reliable and safe, and such progress as they make will be permanent."

"What are our missionaries doing in China?"

"I think that the medical missionaries are doing great good," replied the minister. "They are earnest, able men and women. They heal the sick, and they are introducing modern medical ideas among the people."

"How about the other missionaries?"

"Oh," replied his excellency, "they are like all other kinds of men. Some are good and some are bad. There are black sheep in every flock, and the missionaries are no exception. Still they do some good. They teach the practice of morality and virtue, and people who teach such things will always make some converts."

"Will they ever convert the whole Chinese nation?"

"No," replied his excellency, with a laugh. "Do you realize how many people we are, and how long our religion has lasted? Such a conversion will be impossible."

"I have often wondered, your excellency," said I, "whether this great Chinese brain which invented gunpowder, printing, the mariner's compass and other things may not turn back to invention again. The bringing in of our ideas and civilization may stimulate it, and it may produce many new things."

"That may be so," was the reply. Some of your scientific men who have lived in China say that our people are great imitators, that we can copy anything, but that we cannot invent or originate. Now that may be so, but I doubt it. The trouble with us today is that we have no incentive to inventions as you have here in America. We have no copyright laws and no patent laws. If a man writes a book he does not want to publish it, for any printer near by can get out an edition and compete with him. If a man has an idea for a labor-saving device he keeps it to himself or perhaps makes only one or two machines. If he tried to sell the machines other men would copy them, and he would have no protection. If we had patent laws I think the Chinese would display their former inventive power. I don't see why not."

"How could such laws be secured?" I asked.

"Very easily," replied the minister. "Any of our great statesmen might suggest or memorialize the Emperor. If it seemed good to him he would put out a decree establishing a patent law, and the law would be enforced."

"Have you seen many evidences of inventive genius existing among the Chinese?"

"No; I cannot say I have," replied the minister. "But our people are, you know, a very ingenious people, and I have no doubt that many wonderful inventions have been created in the past and lost because there was no patent law to foster or preserve them. We have instances of such things in our history."

You are now talking here of your vehicles which go without horses and other such inventions. Now, it is a fact well known to every Chinese gentleman that one of our great generals of the past who lived during the latter Han dynasty, about 220 A. D., invented wooden horses and buffaloes to be used for military purposes. These horses were worked by means of machinery placed in their insides, and they moved rapidly over the earth, carrying men on their backs. They were used in battle, and it was by means of them that this general conquered the enemy. Every Chinese boy knows of that invention, but the details of it have been lost and never rediscovered. I have no doubt that we have invented many other things which have met with a like fate."

At this moment one of the Chinese secretaries called upon the minister and our interview closed. Upon leaving the minister gave me his latest photograph, writing at my request his autograph in English and Chinese upon its face. The photograph was made by a Chinese photographer at Shanghai, and is as good as any of the photographs which are made in America.

*Frank G. Carpenter*

## TELLS OF PIONEERING.

MANTI, May 11, 1897.

I have been reading, with interest, a great deal concerning the grand Jubilee, to be held at Salt Lake City in July next, and the pains taken to prepare for the same. Also, to get the names of all those who arrived in 1847. My father, Albert Smith, arrived there in 1847 from California; but before we got to Salt Lake, I was advised to go back to California until spring.

I would not have written, but several were telling me I ought to write something of what we passed through in coming to the valleys of the mountains. We lived in Nauvoo from the commencement; and it is pretty well known the trying times that we had to go through there, until the Church had to leave their homes and go to the mountains. My father, Albert Smith, being called upon, went with the Pioneers; and I, Azariah Smith, and mother, Esther Smith, with three other children, Emily, Candace and Joseph, remained behind, but getting an opportunity with Brother Dame, we started on our way to Placah, I driving team. Father met us on the way, and after stopping at Placah a short time, we had the opportunity of going with Brother Woodruff to Winter Quarters. And then the Church was called upon by the U. S. government for five hundred volunteers to enlist in their service, in the war against Mexico. It being considered wisdom, the men were furnished and Albert Smith and Azariah Smith were two of the number; leaving mother and three children with the Church, and sending what money we could spare of our pay back to them.

At San Diego we drew our muskets, and carriage boxes, knapsacks, etc., which made out a pretty good harness, but we got a team and wagon, to take them on. As for the hardship that we passed through in traveling that long distance, to California, I have not