

MARAUDING MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

The widespread anti-foreign demonstration in which the Boxer movement culminated probably brought more suffering and injury to missionaries than any other class of foreign residents in China.

The fact that they were isolated and more easily attacked was one reason for this. That some of them had been largely instrumental in imbuing the Chinese mind with an intense and in-

extinguishable hatred of foreigners is another, says the London Daily Mail. It must not be assumed that all the missionaries are wholly responsible for that hatred. I think, when some political economist carefully analyzes all the elements of it, he will find them originating in the old, old labor question, brought to a head by a succession of crop failures. On the foreigners, who are attacking the hoary labor institutions in China with their steamboats on her rivers, their railroads on her sacred land, and

their factories in her cities, this wrath would naturally fall. That the imperial government should prefer to see the wrath fall on foreigners than on itself is also natural.

But missionaries did suffer. Some will say they merely reaped where they had sown. I do not agree as to this, although exceptional cases might be cited to prove it. The average missionary was simply caught in a maelstrom.

TO RELIEVE CHINESE CHRISTIANS. Scarcely had the foreign settlements in Tien Tsin and Peking been relieved by the arrival of the allied forces than a percentage of the missionary colony was keen on the scent of loot. This statement is not made lightly. It is based upon facts which cannot be doubted. However, it requires elucidation.

I shall not undertake to fathom the motives of the looting of north China by the allied troops and foreign residents. It has already gone through several distinct phases, each phase affording infinite variations. In the beginning everybody took what they saw and wanted. This was the phase of unadulterated appropriation, without excuse or reason for excuse. Then officers began to remember that they were supposed to be gentlemen, and orders forbidding individual looting were issued. After a while these orders were enforced, which meant that a soldier had better not let an officer catch him stealing. But the officers and any other people who liked, would purchase looted articles from the soldiers, and no questions asked. Thus was inaugurated a purchasing period. This has been modified so gradually that now a stage has

been reached where the buying and selling of looted goods is the aspect of legitimate commercial transactions. In all the looted phases, missionaries have had their share. The day after the legations in Peking were relieved a prominent missionary, accompanied by a large number of Chinese Christians, invaded the residence of a prince, and made a big haul. Incidents like this were numerous. When the purchasing period came, missionaries not only attended the sales, but opened looted markets themselves, sending their Chinese converts out to provide the stock. A legitimate colour was given to these transactions by creating out of the proceeds a fund for the relief of Chinese Christians who had suffered persecution and loss of property at the hands of their dissenting countrymen.

"TRIBUTE EXCURSIONS." Even here, where moral perceptions have been blunted by war, considerable scandal has arisen out of what are denominated "tribute excursions." A few days after the relief of Peking military authorities went to the military authorities in the vicinity of the capital many native Christians were in peril, requested escorts to succor them. In many instances these escorts were granted particularly by the British and Americans. In not a single instance that I have heard of did these excursions develop a genuine rescue.

An American cavalry officer who commanded one of the earliest of these expeditions thus described it to me: "The missionary who guided us, with his Chinese interpreters, made inquiries as we went along, but failed to develop, as far as I could see, any evidence that Christian Chinese had been murdered. The missionary suggested that we burn the first town we came to, and was much put out when I positively refused. He renewed the proposition at other towns, but I told him finally that I was a soldier, not a house-burner and slaughterer of peaceful non-combatants. After that he did not renew the subject, except once, when, as we were leaving a large town, he pointed to a large house, and said it belonged to the brother of one of his Christian interpreters.

"My interpreter says that his brother is a very bad man," the missionary told me, "and much against the foreigners, and he requests permission to burn his house." "Of course," I refused the request of the loving Christian brother. On another day one of my men shot a Chinaman who attempted to get away with some loot, severely wounding him. When I rode to inquire into the matter the wounded man was writhing on the ground, while two soldiers were endeavoring to aid him. I sent for a surgeon, but the missionary seemed very impatient at the delay.

"Better put him out of his agony, without any more trouble," he said. "I'll do it, if you like," tapping his gun, for he was heavily armed. OF A BUSINESSLIKE TURN. "He must have seen my disgust at his proposal, for he did not refer to the matter again, beyond a poor attempt to turn it off as a joke. I think he was in earnest. As we got further to the north we found the towns full of people, who gazed on us as if wondering what brought us there. In one of these towns—a walled one—the missionary had a long conference with some of the leading Chinese. After we left he told me that the citizens of the town had proposed to pay an indemnity to the missionaries for any damage done the property of Christian Chinese. If the town would not be burned. It then dawned on me that the missionary had threatened to have the town looted and burned if the inhabitants did not pay an indemnity. I was indignant, but made no comment.

"During the entire trip I had the greatest difficulty in preventing the Christian Chinese who accompanied the missionary from looting. At the first important town they proceeded to fill their carts. Their conduct left no

doubt that they considered looting the real object of the expedition. As soon as my attention was called to their conduct I made them replace the stuff, and told the missionary that if he could not control them I would. After that they confined their looting to articles they were able to conceal. I was glad to reach Peking and be rid of the outfit."

RESCUE PARTIES.

Out of this expedition the missionary "tribute excursions" undoubtedly grew. So-called rescue parties became merely armed escorts, under whose mailed wings missionaries collected indemnities from the towns about Peking. Under fear of having their towns burned, the inhabitants would suffer almost any extortion, and huge sums speedily accumulated in the Peking mission houses.

Now the "tribute excursions" has run its course. For a month it wended where it listed, protected by soldiers who made believe they were engaged in war. Then the upper military authorities suddenly perceived the black-mail aspect of it, and declined to furnish escorts. As it could not continue business without an escort to bluff with the "tribute excursion" languished and finally gave up the ghost.

North China is still, nevertheless, at the mercy of any band of either military or civil looters who may choose to wander, plundering as they go, over the country. In Peking and Tien Tsin provost guards have enforced a tardy semblance of protection to the inhabitants; but far from the camps and staff headquarters bandits wearing the uniforms of civilized nations still wander in range and wreak their will upon the people. The reign of terror inaugurated at Taku still, months after opposition has ceased, holds a great part of Chihli province in its thrall.

"When a Chinaman professes Christianity," said a prominent missionary to me, "he must abandon his home, his family, and all his prospects in life. He becomes an outcast among his own people. It surely is the concern of the Christian world to provide these converts with a livelihood in place of the one they cast away when they reject Paganism. Is not the money used in caring for our converts as truly spent in the cause of Christianity as it would be in dispensing charity or building churches at home? If out of ten professors we get one real convert, is not that worth the doing?"

Here is an incident which happened to an American officer a few days ago. He employed a Chinese servant to accompany him on a "tribute excursion," which also brought a number of Chinese Christians back to Peking. On the return trip it became necessary to cross the Pei-ho, whose waters are now exceedingly cold. The Chinese Christians were ferried over, with all their property; but the officer's servant was compelled to strip and wade, carrying his clothes on his head. He emerged with chattering teeth, and for several hours thereafter was observed to be in a contemplative mood, as he tramped over the carts which conveyed the converts. At the next halt he came to the officer with a mission interpreter, who explained that the man wanted to become a Christian. Astonished, the officer demanded the reason for the sudden change of faith.

"He says he like no have wade river, and ride in cart alle same Christian," explained the Christian interpreter, with an approving grin.

WHAT THE SOLDIERS THINK. The missionaries and missions referred to in this story are English and American. They are the least blamable of the lot. If I wanted horrible examples I would find them among the French and Russians. The missionaries of those nations looted and levied tribute with an abandon worthy of a Chasseur d'Afrique. I have not mentioned names, but can do so if it becomes necessary.

One thing impresses me very forcibly. The missionaries without exception, re-

gard the presence of troops as a good thing to promote their work. Recently an American missionary called on an American officer in Tien Tsin to ask advice how to collect a bill for rent of the mission compound, which had been occupied by American troops for a period during their presence in Tien Tsin. The officer, with a ward the claim to Washington, "And now," continued the officer, "how would you advise me to go about collecting a claim against your board of missions for all the money I have contributed to foreign missions since I school? It was obtained under false pretences, and used for purposes that I do not now approve."

The troops in China have some deep grudges against the missionaries. They accuse them of refusing to offer their relief column was high shelter, and comment on the fact that no missionaries volunteered to aid in the hospitals when aid was sorely needed. If you would not hear hard words about missionaries, do not sit in the tents of the men who marched scores of feverish miles to succor them.

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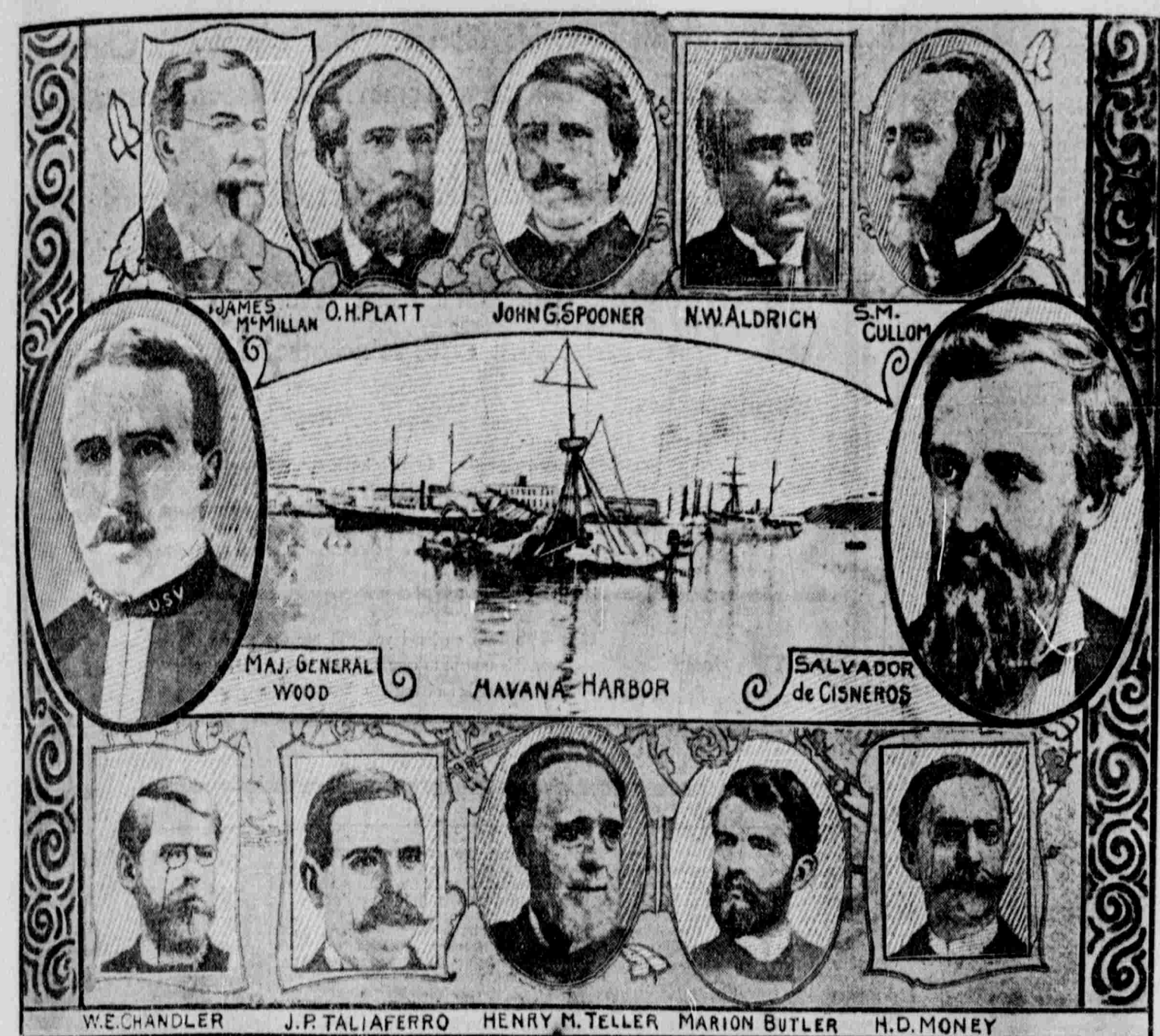
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CUBAN RADICALS SECRETLY FOMENT REVOLUTION.

The Military Governor of Cuba Expresses Belief That Natives Will Accept Terms, But Agents Are Actively Urging Defiance.



While Cuba at the present time does not look favorably upon the prospect of continued American supervision of the affairs of the island, Gen. Wood believes that after a careful investigation he believes that the Cubans will be satisfied with the action of Congress in fixing the relations of Cuba and the United States. It is known, however, in Washington, that a party of agitators is trying to stir up active rebellion. It is quite on the cards, therefore, that the United States may have more fighting in the Pearl of the Antilles. The above picture shows Major General Leonard S. Wood, military governor of Cuba, Salvador de Cisneros, who would brook no American interference, and the Senate committee in charge of the Cuban situation.

ALABAMA TO ANNEX PART OF FLORIDA.

New geographies may have to be drawn if the present plans looking to the absorption of that part of Florida lying west of the peninsula portion by the State of Alabama mature, says the New York Herald. Western Florida wants to become a part of Alabama. Florida peninsula does not object if fair compensation is received.

But the constitutional question involved is a new and intricate one. Can a part of a State secede, when a whole State could not? If the secession is an amiable one on all sides, how shall the

transition be effected? The legislature sitting at Montgomery has favorably considered propositions looking to the annexation to Alabama of the seven counties in West Florida lying west of the Apalachicola river, and including the city and navy yard of Pensacola. The people in these counties are geographically, commercially and socially connected much more strongly with Alabama than with Florida. The secession sentiment in that part of the State has been strong for years. Recently they sent a committee to Montgomery to appear before the legislature and urge this annexation movement. As a result a bill is now pending providing for the appointment of a com-

mittee to confer with the governor and legislature of Florida to ascertain upon what terms this matter may be effected. The Alabama committee are authorized to purchase West Florida for not more than \$2,000,000 if the rest of Florida and the Congress of the United States are willing. Governor Sanford, of Alabama, indorses the project, as do a majority of the Alabama legislators. Pensacola recently entertained the Alabama legislature, and by speeches, banquets and individual arguments and appeals tried to reinforce the annexation sentiment. The proposed purchase price would more than pay off the entire State debt of Florida, and this point is being strongly urged by the annexationists. The territory involved embraces the counties of Calhoun, Escambia, Holmes, Jackson, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington. It contains a population of 94,377.

Another point urged by the annexationists is this:—Pensacola has stagnated for fifty years. Lately it has been improving, and is doing considerable export business in Alabama coal and iron. Much large business seems certain if it is annexed to Alabama and its harbor is improved. Alabama's congressional delegation has much more weight than Florida's. Florida has several harbors which she has been trying to get Federal appropriations for. With Pensacola in Alabama, Florida's other harbors would stand a better chance relatively, and Pensacola and Alabama would be bettered very materially.

Florida's capital, Tallahassee, is an insignificant town. It was chosen, like most other capitals, because of its central location. The old State House is no longer suited to the needs of Florida. A new one must be built. Advantage of this fact has been taken to propose that the new capital be erected at some point more central to population, and easier of access than Tallahassee. Immigration and capital have poured into Florida and filled its eastern portion. Railroads and the bulk of population are in and about Jacksonville. If municipal jealousies do not develop so strongly as to postpone this phase of the question the division of Florida seems imminent.

West Virginia seceded from Virginia and Vermont split off from New York, but the circumstances in both instances were widely different from the Alabama-Florida proposition. Then it was sought to establish new States. The question whether the right of counties to secede can be recognized while that of States is rejected seems likely to involve a mixed and unsatisfactory condition, with the possibilities of States changing their boundaries every few years.

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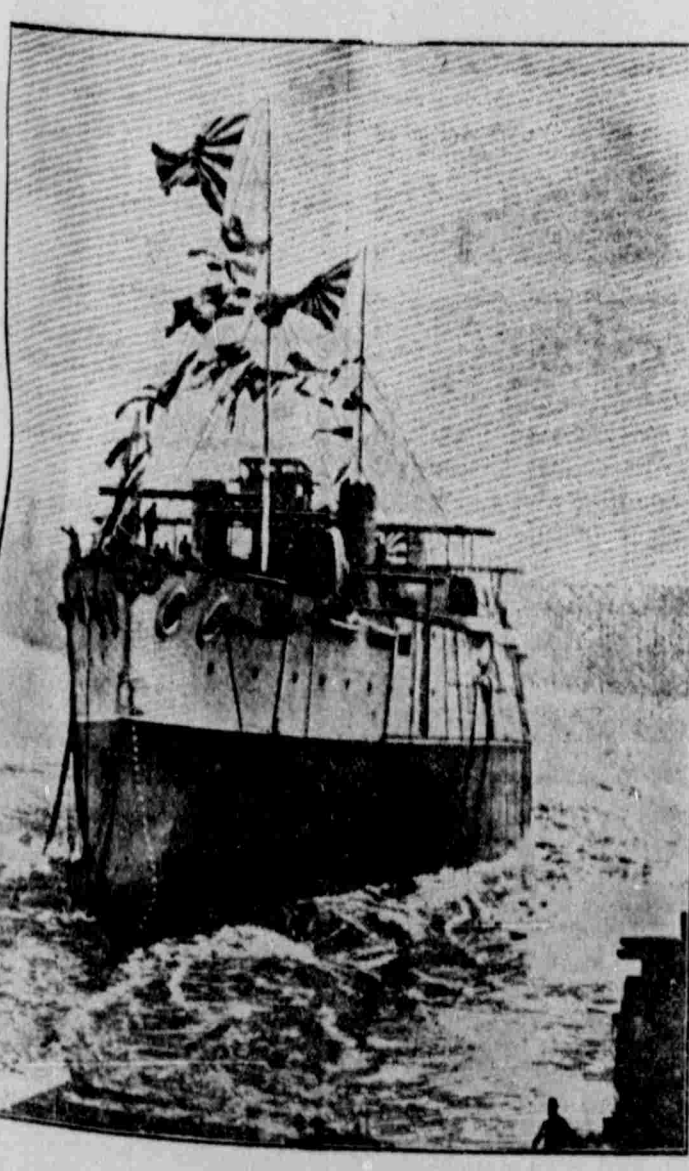
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The above photograph shows the launching in the Japanese shipyard of the new battleship of the Mikado. The latest advices from Japan say that Russia has marched her armies over the frontier at the headwaters of the Tumen in pursuit of the Boxers. Japan regards this as an act of war and orders have been given to hurry the many new battleships, cruisers and torpedo boats now building in Japan and England. The war feeling is intense in the Mikado's realm.