

## THE FRENCH EXPEDITION TO COREA.

The narrative of this remarkable but unfortunate expedition, as given by a letter from Chefoo to the *North China News*, shows that the people in that part of the world have made more progress in science, arts and literature than they have credit for, among the "outside barbarians." The French met with a disastrous repulse when approaching a pagoda situated upon the most elevated of a group of five or six mountains from 700 to 1,000 feet in height, the summit being strongly fortified. A number of those who sallied from the works were clad in armor, which proved effectual for their protection. The further discovery was made that the Koreans are perhaps the original manufacture of breech-loading cannons. In regard to other appliances of war the writer says:—[*Journal of Commerce*.]

It would seem almost incredible unless the information came from an honorable and trustworthy officer who reports it, that the quantity of gunpowder destroyed at Kanghoa exceeded two hundred and fifty tons. In one powder magazine alone, nearly six hundred cases of powder were found. The number of muskets burnt there were over three hundred thousand, besides large magazines of armor and swords. One hundred and fifty brass cannon of small size were carried off to be sent to France. The library of Kanghoa, consisting of about three hundred volumes, was also transported on board the Admiral's ship to be sent to the Museum at Paris; besides specimens of armor and arms. The most curious of the spoils of Kanghoa were a series of folding white marble tablets, encased in gilt metal, highly chased and edged with a crimson silk damask, with gilt inscriptions incised in the marble. They were found in the temple of the royal residence. One of these tablets has found its way hither, and it resembles more a work of classic art, like the old Roman consular "Tabulae," than the production of a people that are supposed to possess no taste for articles of beauty or luxury. The inscriptions are in Chinese character; and a literary Chinaman who has been permitted to examine these tablets pronounces them to be a code of moral law. They thus resemble the commandments of the old law, graven on tables of stone and preserved in the temple.

There is also a helmet here from Corea, and it certainly shows that the Korean armorers are no mean handicraftsmen. It resembles a Prussian helmet in form, with a red plume surmounted by a trident, screwing into a spike at the summit. It is composed of iron, encased in moulded leather or papier mache, covered with laminae of steel and white copper ornaments. The leather case for this helmet is made of superior tanned leather, and the workmanship is equal, if not superior, to any article of European leather-work. The swords that have been brought here are also curious from their manufacture. They are somewhat similar to Japanese swords, but they have a different blade, and judging from appearances, they do not seem to have been made in that country. The Koreans doubtless understand the making of arms, and their sword blades are thus curious that they cannot be broken; they are of soft iron and not sharp, about two feet long in the blade, and the hilt made for one hand. No two-handed hilted swords were found in Corea. On a musket to be seen here, there is a silver enamel let into the breech of the barrel, like an American rifle, and the neat finish of the stock, is a most creditable job for these barbarian artificers.

Strange to say, some of the cannon found at Kanghoa are breech-loaders. This is effected by the Koreans in a most simple manner. A small cannon of the length of the charge and shot is placed in the cavity of the breech, somewhat of the shape of the opened Snider Enfield breech-loading rifle.

A mat taken from the King's palace at Kanghoa, and brought here with other things, is really a handsome piece of work. Made of fine rice straw, and worked over with ornaments in colored silk and gold, it is superior to any Chinese or Japanese matting the writer has ever seen.

From all this it must be concluded that the Koreans are a warlike people, courageous and possessing the usual cunning of Orientals. They are clever workers in metals, and have a know-

ledge of arms. They have a literature and a grand ceremonial, for in the books of the library at Kanghoa there were manuscript volumes containing pictures of the court processions and rites of worship, with descriptions of them. They have a taste for the beautiful in art, as evinced in the marble tablets already mentioned, and no doubt when further research is made into their habits they will be found to possess a civilization equal at least to the Japanese. During the sack of Kanghoa about thirty thousand taels weight of silver was found under a heap of muskets. The ingots were not like Chinese sycee, but flat round plates of about six inches in diameter. This is a probable evidence of the existence of silver mines in the country, as it was part of the government treasury.

**LIKENESS OR NO LIKENESS.**—It is still a disputed point whether a portrait should be painted so as to be a literal likeness of the sitter, or that it should receive an additional expression imparted to it by the artist. Most distinguished painters have endowed their works with a certain character. Titian and Van Dyke always made gentlemen of their sitters, and Reynolds always painted a soul as well as a face. Our own Sully could not dismiss a portrait from his easel without softening the expression of the harsher features of his male sitters, and imparting a new grace when painting those of the other sex. The artist on these occasions does not, however, pretend to render his own conceptions, but to give the expression of what he conceives to be characteristic of the sitter. Johnson, in reply to a question on the subject, said that the chief excellence of a portrait is its being like. This, we might suppose would be the universal opinion, and yet how many would regard a matter-of-fact portrait as almost an affront. Few, like Cromwell or William Humboldt, have the independence, or, shall we call it, conscientiousness, to be content with being painted precisely as they are. Our readers may remember the positive command of Cromwell to the artist: "Paint me as I am—warts and wrinkles as well." The stern lord protector was obeyed, and we have, in consequence, Samuel Cooper's head of Cromwell, one of the best historical portraits. Humboldt, the diplomatist, who was neither good looking nor vain enough to believe himself to be so, refused to sit to Isabey; and when afterwards he saw his portrait in the picture of the Congress of Vienna, he exclaimed: "I determined to pay nothing for my portrait, and the rogue of a painter has taken his revenge by making it like me." The Chinese artists belong to the literal school, and cannot imagine how or why an ordinary face should be changed into one of a higher character. Few visitors to Canton in former years have not been told of the reply of a native portrait painter to his American sitter, who intimated that he need not make an exact copy of his face, but rather soften rugged features and a rough skin. "Hiaw!" exclaimed the astonished Chinaman, "how can make a handsome face, no have got?"

It has been demonstrated in London, that men can be carried far more cheaply than they can carry themselves. The laboring man is conveyed to and from his home, distances varying from one to six miles, for one shilling a week, or less than two cents a trip. It is easy for him to see that his time and strength saved are worth more than this to him in wages at his work, and that many times this can also be saved to him in rent by fixing his residence out on the railway. Accordingly two of the most costly railways in England command, by this policy, a laboring man's traffic which is nearly if not quite the most profitable they enjoy.—[*Leavenworth Bulletin*.]

**TEXAS ENTERPRISE.**—Texas has built 425 miles of railroad, forming four grand trunks diverging north, south, east, and west, from the city of Houston, and affording ample room for lateral roads when the wants of the country shall require them. The *Houston Telegraph* says: "These main arteries of trade will, when completed, not only link the railway system of Texas with the vast network of railroads in the Northwest, and with those of the States east of the Mississippi, but further, will bring through Texas the products of the wealthiest Mexican States in the onward course of civilization toward the Pacific Ocean."

## Dansk Læsning.

Mørke og truende Skyer svæver paa den politiske Himmel i Europa for Oieblikket, og Ingen kan sige, naar de vil briste og udslynge Forfærdelse, Elendighed og Død til alle Sider blandt Menne-skene. Det er en forfærdelig Blødtørst, som har grebet Nutidens Nationer; Fredens Gudinde indhyller sit Aasyn i Sorg og Taarer og viger angst tilside, medens en fortørnet Guddom udøser sin retfærdige Vrede over sine gjenstridige Børn. De sidste Efterretninger fra Europa melder, at et Brud forestaar mellem Frankrig og Preussen, og hvis dette virkelig sker, vil sandsynligvis alle de andre Nationer i Osten blive dragne med ind i Hvirvlen. Frankrig vil rimeligvis bevæge England til at hjælpe sig—ikke fordi der hersker nogen Sympati mellem de to, tvertimod ulmer Had og Misundelse under det venskabelige Ydre—men fordi de begge har Brug for hinandens Vaaben, thi skulde Frankrig gaa af med Seiren uden Englands Bistand, er der Udsigt til, at Napoleon med sine overvundne Fjenders Hjælp vilde vende sig mod Britterne, og disses Politik synes i den senere Tid at være beregnet paa at forebygge en saadan Skjæbne. Hvad Retten angaar, da er den aldeles ude af Betragtning. Hvor var Retten, da to af de mægtigste Stater i Europa kastede sig over vort lille Fædreland og røvede to af dets fornemste Provindser? Om Gjengjældens Time er kommen for disse Røvere, er ikke godt at sige; det staar i Guds Haand, som opreiser og nedbryder efter eget Behag; men om saa skulde være, vil vore Landsmænd neppe sørge derover. Man bereder sig imidlertid kraftigt til Slagtingens Dag, hvilket kan sees deraf, at Østerrig lader sex hundrede Tusind Rifler omdanne til Bagladningsgeværer samt har bestilt tre hundrede Tusind nye, der skal være færdige inden Aarets Udgang. Rusland lader 600,000 Geværer omdanne til Bagladnings ditto, Belgien 400,000, medens Danmark, Holland, Schweiz, Italien, Spanien, Portugal, Grækenland og Tyrkiet følger de Stores Exempel. Preussen har jo allerede sine Rifler og har anvendt dem ogsaa, men paa Arsenalerne arbeides der Nat og Dag for at gjøre Rustningen saa fuldstændt som mulig. En skjøn Gjerning for kristne Nationer! Man formoder, at Napoleon vil gjøre Alt for at bevare Freden til efter Udstillingens Slutning, om det er muligt.—Her i Amerika er der ingen Udsigt til Stridens Bilæggelse; Partierne staar ligesaa fjendtlige over for hinanden som nogensinde. Af og til gjør man endnu nogle Sidehug paa Utah, men med samme Virkning som altid; man har da opgivet den fortvivlede Ide, at slaa os sammen med Nevada.—I Mexiko vedbliver Parthövdingerne at bekriige hverandre uden synderlig Fremgang for Nogen. De Liberale under Juarez bombarderede Vera Cruz fra den 2den dennes; hvor Maximilians Tilhængere forsvarede sig efter bedst Evne, trods deres indbyrdes Uenighed; dog tror man Staden ikke kan holde sig, da Indbyggerne lider Mangel paa Levnetsmidler og Vandforsyningen er afskaaret af Fjenden. Keiseren selv vanker endnu omkring i sit ulykkelige Rige.—Paa Sletterne skal Indianerne være meget urolige. Indianerne er Aar efter Aar bleven drevne fra deres fredelige Hjem, længere og længere mod Vesten, eftersom de Hvides Brug for Landet er voxet. Man har paa en Maade kjøbt de Rødes Land, men Kjöbesummerne er desværre gaaet feil Vei, det vil sige i Slyngler af Kontraktørers og Agenters Lommer, medens de Røde fik Lidet eller Intet af hvad som tilkom dem. Hvor kan man forlange, at de stakkels Vilde, som lidt efter lidt mister Alt hvad de eier og drives næsten til Hungersdøden, hvor kan man forlange, at de frivilligt skal underkaste sig saadan en Skjæbne? Flere mægtige Stammer har derfor rottet sig sammen og vil forbyde de Hvide at drage længere frem, samt forbyde dem at anlægge Emigrantveje over visse Strækninger, hvor deres Vildtholder til; men Regjeringen lader sig naturligvis ikke foreskrive Regler af den faldne Indianer, og har til den Ende efter Sigende sendt ti Tusind Mand Soldater ud imod dem.

**DEODORIZING INDIA-RUBBER.**—India rubber is useful for an infinity of purposes, but it always has an evil odor. An English inventor proposes to overcome this defect by subjecting the rubber to the action of animal charcoal, which has an affinity for gas and smells. The mode of application varies according to the description of articles. Generally speaking, they are laid in shelves or trays in a hot chamber, with a thin stratum of charcoal beneath and on top, and exposed to a temperature of from 120 to 180 degrees for from three to six hours, after which they are removed from the charcoal, having sustained no other alteration than being rendered devoid of smell, and incapable of imparting any taste to liquids or other substances they may touch.

In a certain Sabbath School, the Superintendent made a powerful appeal to the scholars to be active and useful, and among other things, he told them to all be locomotives, each taking along his train to heaven. The next Sabbath, just as the school opened, in came one of the best and most zealous boys with thirteen new scholars behind him, and went up the aisle uttering a noise—choo, choo—imitative of the engine, to the amazement of the Superintendent and scholars.

"What does this mean?" asked the astonished Superintendent.

"Why," answered the boy, "you said we must all be locomotives, and here I am with thirteen cars behind me."

—Jones thinks that instead of giving credit to whom credit is due, the cash had better be paid.

R. T. ROSS.

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