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## Better than Them All.

A moderate share of wealth is good  
To cheer us on our way,  
For it has oftentimes the power  
To make December May;  
And so is beauty, so is health,  
Or genius at our call;  
But a happy, careless, loving heart,  
Is better than them all.

A heart that gathers hope and faith  
From every springing flower,  
That smiles alike at winter storm  
And gentle summer shower;  
That blesses God for every good,  
Or whether great or small;  
Oh! a happy, hopeful, loving heart  
Is better than them all.

'Tis well to hold the wand of power,  
Or wear an honored name,  
And blush to hear the mighty world  
Re-echo with our fame:  
'Tis well if on our path the smiles  
Of kings and nobles fall;  
But to have a happy, trusting heart  
Is better than them all.

A heart that with the magic notes  
Of music is beguiled;  
A heart that loves the pleasant face  
Of every little child;  
That aideth weakness in distress,  
And heareth duty's call;  
Oh! such a loving, human heart  
Is better than them all.

[Correspondence of the London Times.]

## The British Expedition to China.

TIENT-SIN, June 4.

The day following the capture of the forts of Tung-koo, at the mouth of the Peiho river, described in my last letter, was occupied by the allied naval commanders-in-chief in demolishing the forts, getting off the guns, and securing our position. A line of junks moored across the river at the village Takoo, about three miles from Tungkeo, served admirably as a barricade against fire rafts, should the Chinese resort to that favorite mode of attack; behind these our advanced gunboats were anchored. It had been intimated to the Chinese authorities that the capture of the forts by force, in the event of their not being peaceably surrendered, was not intended by the allied Government to imply a hostile attitude on their part towards the Imperial government, but was to be regarded as a preliminary measure, rendered necessary to secure the safety of the ambassadors, who, in consequence of the refusal of the cabinet of Peking to treat with them at a distance, had determined to proceed to Tien-sin, with the view of putting themselves more immediately into communication with the high functionaries of the empire. Indeed the position of Tien-sin at the junction of the Grand Canal and Peiho river, its proximity to Peking, and its importance to the capital in a mercantile point of view, all combined to induce the belief that at no city in the empire, with the exception, perhaps, of Peking itself, can negotiations be carried on under more favorable conditions.

The first duty of the naval authorities, therefore, after the taking of the forts, was to proceed on the exploration of the river for the purpose of opening the way and securing a safe transit for the allied missions to Tien-sin. As they anticipated every description of natural and artificial obstruction, and conceived that the Chinese would offer a most violent resistance to their progress, they advanced at first but slowly. As they proceeded, however, it became apparent that these fears were groundless; the river, winding through a flat alluvial country with richly cultivated and partially wooded banks, had an average breadth of about two hundred yards, with a depth of water at half-tide ranging from ten feet to forty.

Villages were not very numerous, and consisted merely of a collection of mud huts such as grace the banks of the Nile. So far from the inhabitants attempting to oppose the progress of the allies or showing signs of distrust, much less of active hostility, they collected in crowds upon the banks, prostrating themselves with their foreheads to the ground as the first gunboats passed, and staring at those following with an expression of countenance peculiar to the race, in which the most listless apathy is combined with the extreme of wonder and awe.

The shore was occasionally lined with these curious spectators, who, as they invariably adopt a squatting attitude, looked like rows of penguins gazing for the first time upon some intrepid Arctic explorer. It was the first time that the "devil ship" of the barbarians had disturbed the muddy waters of Peiho, or that the agitated pant of a 60-horse power steam had aroused from noon-day siesta the placid inhabitants of its banks. But they did not content themselves with gazing at or worship-

ing the god of steam; regarding it as the precursor of a power destined to overthrow the present dynasty and raise itself upon its ruins they faced the decrees of fate in a spirit worthy a nation which has preserved its existence throughout changing dynasties for countless ages, and with cries of "Hail, great King! welcome, oh, King! come thou and reign over us and be our Emperor!" they brought cattle and poultry and vegetables down as presents.

The pioneer of European civilization in China would fare badly if he acted on the principle of timeo Dancos. On the 25th of May the Staunch and Bustard, leading gunboats, containing the marines and small-arm men of the Pique and Furious, under Captains Sir Frederick Nicolson and Sherard Osborn, sighted Tien-sin and the following day the admirals in their respective ships, Coromandel and Avalanche, anchored opposite the town. Their success hitherto had so far exceeded their most sanguine expectations that they pushed on beyond Tien-sin towards Toongchow, the port of Pegin, and distant only ten miles from that city.

The larger gunboats were brought to a standstill very shortly after leaving Tien-sin, but the Kestrel, of 40-horse power, with the ships' boats in tow, succeeded in reaching a village about 8 miles above this town. Meantime, other gunboats were employed clearing the junks out of the river between Tien-sin and the mouth, so as to render it impossible for the Chinese to bar our egress by sinking junks. The crowd of these making their escape in obedience to orders was sometimes so great as to cause as hopeless a jam as may occasionally be seen inside Temple-bar. Thus was accomplished in a few days, and without the slightest difficulty, an operation which the French Admiral had declared impossible unless supported by a land force of 4,000 men, and which might have been as successfully undertaken a month sooner had not obstacles existed of a far graver character than any which the Chinese have it in their power to interpose. At this time of year the loss of that month, the finest in the year, is most deeply to be regretted.

Already we have most disagreeable evidence of the proximity and probable temperature of a Peking summer. As soon as the Ambassadors were made aware of the complete success of the Admirals they determined to follow them to Tien-sin, in pursuance of their original intentions, and reached that city on the morning of the 30th of May. A spacious temple, occasionally used as a residence by a former Emperor, commanding a view of the river at its junction with the Grand Canal, and opposite the city, was appropriated for the accommodation of the French and English Ambassadors. Numbers of Chinese servants were in attendance; many of the rooms had been newly papered, and the work of furnishing up was going on briskly. Baron Gros and Lord Elgin occupy two light and airy pavilions on the summit of a mound, ascended by a pathway of ornamental rockwork. Their respective staffs are scattered in sundry fragile buildings of quaint construction, with paper walls, or have made their bedrooms in a joss-house in which gods and goddesses are the principle articles of furniture. A spacious garden, enclosed by a wall, surrounds the whole.

English and French guards occupy the out-houses and stand sentry at the principal entrances. The national flag floats proudly over all, and a line of gunboats are moored within twenty yards of the windows. These consist at present of the Coromandel, Cormorant, Slaney and Opossum (English), the Avalanche, Fusee, and Dragonne (French). The Staunch, Bustard, and Kestrel are anchored a mile above the town, and the Leven, Woodcock and Firm are somewhere between this and the fleet.

The Woodcock and Kestrel, both forty-horse power, arrived a few days after the capture of Tungkeo. A party of engineers have also arrived from Hong-Kong in the Sampson, and are engaged in blowing up the forts, after which it is expected they will come here. Numerous vamous afford abundant barrack accommodation. Notwithstanding the great variation in the temperature (the thermometer ranges from 65 deg. to 87 deg. in the twenty-four hours), the health of the men continues excellent; supplies are abundant, although some little reluctance has been apparent on the part of the country people lately in bringing them in, through fear of incurring the displeasure of the authorities.

Ice is a luxury in which the Chinese upper classes freely indulge during the summer months; boats and coolies carrying large blocks of it are constantly seen passing to and fro, and the barbarians have not been slow to avail themselves of so refreshing an article of consumption.

The interior of the city has been explored, but offers few attractions to the stranger. The streets are broader than those in southern cities, the houses poorer, and the curiosity shops not to be discovered at all.

## Cherbourg.

Cherbourg is directly south of the Isle of Wight, about sixty miles from Sandown, and of course a trifle further from Portsmouth. Off the western coast of this department of the Channel lie the Channel Islands—Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark.

The little bay, if we may so call it, of Cherbourg is wholly unprotected, and, except for purposes such as those for which it was designed, of a menacing character, it is not possible to conceive a more unsuitable or more unpromising place for the construction of a harbor. The first thing that was necessary to be done to make this unpromising spot suitable for a Sebastopol of the Channel, was to construct an immense stone breakwater, running east and west about 4,000 yards, or nearly two and a-half miles in length. This great work was commenced in 1782, and was not completed till seventy years afterwards, in 1852, and its entire cost has been 67,000,000 francs (about \$13,400,000).

The breakwater is protected by immense blocks of granite, but such is the violent action of the sea upon them that they require several thousand tons of granite every year to replace those which are carried away or destroyed.

The width of this artificial breakwater is 140 yards, and it slopes from the centre on each side inwards at an angle of about 170 degrees.

In the centre of this great work is a large fort, called "Fort Central," and at each end there is also a massive circular fort, the guns of which sweep in every direction, and there are six batteries, placed three on each side, between the centre and the extremities facing towards the harbor.

There are two entrances to Cherbourg, one at the east and the other at the west end of this strongly-fortified mole. At the eastern extremity the channel is narrowed by the island of Pelee, upon which is erected a large fort, called "Fort Imperial," which, with the corresponding fort on the eastern end of the mole, completely commands the narrow passage, and its guns cross fire with other forts to be afterwards mentioned. The western channel is equally protected by an immense fort, called "Fort de Querqueville," on the mainland, and which is immediately opposite the fort at the west end of the embankment.

The depth of water in these channels is marked on the French Admiralty charts at from 12 to 13 metres (39 to 42 feet); but these immense forts one would consider sufficient to sink in an instant any ship which would attempt to effect an entrance. They form, however, but a fraction of the fortifications with which the place abounds.

A ship entering the outer basin by the western channel would not only receive the concentrated fire of the forts on each side of the channel, but there is another huge fort erected upon a rock, dry at low water, called "Fort Chavagnac," which is between, but a little in the rear of, the west end of the mole and the great Querqueville Fort. Having run the gauntlet of these works, ships would find themselves in a tolerably capacious basin, where, from every point of the compass, in whatever position they might lie, they would be riddled by the cross fire of batteries and forts, which swarm in every direction, and which help to swell the aggregate of 3,000 guns of large calibre, which are mounted in the works in different parts of the apparently impregnable position. Along the face of the docks there are numerous small forts and batteries which command not only a portion of the entrance by the mole, but, assisted by other batteries on the shore, would soon "sink, burn or destroy" anything which had passed the ordeal of the outer forts. The docks are formed of a large basin, communicating with one to the north, and this again with a large one to the west; there are three smaller basins beyond these at the north, and there are three at the southern part of the excavation, into which an entrance is obtained through the central opening and basin.

There are nine basins in all, and it is the completion of the inner floating dock, called "Dock Napoleon the Third," which forms the subject of the forthcoming celebration, and the dimensions of which, given in the *Moniteur*, we have already stated. It has cost 16,000,000 francs, (about \$3,200,000) the first floating dock having been completed in 1829.

At the entrance of the dock is a gigantic fort, built on what is marked on the French Admiralty charts as Basse du Chenal. It is a rock dry at low water, and upon this has been constructed the huge work called "Fort des Flamands." The fire of Fort des Flamands crosses with that of Fort Imperial at the eastern end of the mole, and it would appear absolutely impossible for any vessel to pass the concentrated fire of these mounted forts. To make security double sure, this Fort des Flamands is supported by a redoubt, called "Tour la Ville." Approaching nearer the entrance of the dock, there is Fort du Galet, still nearer Fort du Longlet and Fort du Homet. The published plans of the French Admiralty do not show more than two or three of these forts, and a statement professing to be a description

of Cherbourg, which appeared in the *Moniteur* of Friday, mentions only six forts and batteries.

We now come to the other fortifications which surround Cherbourg on the land side, and which completely dominate the whole of the town and harbor. There are fourteen forts and redoubts, which form two semi-circles around the town on the land side, the outer one consisting of a chain of detached star forts, and the inner being formed of a line of redoubts. These are all in a commanding position, and the guns would sweep the outer harbor as well as the entrance channels. The chain of forts which surround the town in parallel lines with the redoubts consist of the usual bastions and re-entering angles. They command the country on the land side, as well as the harbor and works seaward. There are, therefore, twenty-four regular forts and redoubts for the protection of Cherbourg, in addition to the six batteries on the mole. Other batteries on the land could, of course, be quickly constructed in case of emergency. Along the docks there is a series of large buildings constructed for arsenals, magazines and naval stores of every description.—[Observer.]

THE MAN WHO MINDED HIS BUSINESS.—Stephen Girard, the merchant and banker, who flourished in Philadelphia not many years ago, was one of the best friends of the working classes that ever lived. He admired industry as much as he despised sloth, and there has never been known an instance where he did not furnish employment or money to an industrious man in distress. Early one morning, while Mr. G. was walking around the square where the mechanics' houses now stand, John Smith, who had worked on his buildings in the humble capacity of a laborer, and who Mr. G. had noted for his unusual activity, applied to him for assistance, when something like the following dialogue took place:—

'Assistance—work—ha? You want to work?'  
'Yes, sir; it's a long time since I've had anything to do.'

'Very well; I shall give you some. You see dem stone yondare?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Very well; you shall fetch and put hin in this place. You see?'

'Yes, sir.'

'And when you done, come to me at my bank.'

Smith diligently performed his task, which he accomplished about one o'clock, when he repaired to Mr. G., and informed him that it was finished, at the same time asking if he could not give him some more work.

'Ah, ha! oui. You want more work? Very well; you shall go place dem stone where you got him. Understandez? You take him back.'

'Yes, sir.'

Away went Smith to his work, which having got through with about sunset, he waited on Mr. G. for his pay.

'Ah, ha! you all finish?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Very well. How much money shall I give you?'

'One dollar, sir.'

'Dat is honest. You take no advantage. Dare is your dollar.'

'Can I do anything else for you?'

'Oui. Come here when you get up to-morrow. You shall have some work.'

Next morning, on calling, Smith was not a little astonished when told that he must 'take dem stone back again,' nor was his astonishment diminished when the order was repeated for the fourth and last time. However, he was one of those happy kind of persons who minded his own business, and he went on with his job with all the indifference imaginable. When he called on Mr. G. in the evening, and informed him that the stones 'were as they were,' he was saluted thus in the most cordial manner:—

'Ah, Monsieur Smith, you shall be my man; you mind your own business; you do what is told you; you ask no questions; you no interfere. You got one vife?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Ah, dat is bad. Von vife is bad. Any de little chicks?'

'Yes, sir; five living.'

'Five? dat is good; I like five; I like you, Monsieur Smith; you like to work; you mind your business. Now I do something for your five little chicks. There, take these five pieces of paper for your five little chicks; you shall work for them; you shall mind your business, and your little chicks shall never want live more. Good bye.'

The feelings of the grateful man being too much overcome to allow him to reply, he departed in silence; and by minding his own business, he is now one of the wealthiest of the name in Philadelphia.—[Merchants' (New York) Monthly Magazine.]

It is not a little disgraceful that all do not follow [Mr. Smith's example, and 'mind their own business,' especially all those letter-writers who are too pusillanimous to send forth their names in connection with their slander-