

The Chinese Riots

How the Officials and Literati of China Are Stirring Up the People.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Shanghai, Aug. 25.—American ladies stripped naked and clubbed to death by Chinese mob!

Our missionaries massacred in cold blood in the very courts of the Chinese governors who are supposed to protect them!

White men, women and children thrown into the flames of their burning homes!

The hearts and heads of American girls torn from their bodies by Chinese ruffians and sent as trophies of patriotism to their rulers!

The highest officials of the celestial empire, including its cruel and tyrannical head, the old dowager, secretly inciting the people to riot, arson and murder!

These are some of the incidents which have been happening and which are still happening in China. Intelligent incidents which the powers are proposing to wink at for a bit or so of territory or a money indemnity.

THE OFFICIALS BEHIND THE BOXERS.

There is no doubt but the officials have been behind the Boxers from the beginning of their organization. There is evidence that the society is backed by a grand council composed of government officials and Buddhist priests, who hold their meetings in the monasteries throughout the empire and in the very back rooms of the government offices themselves. These men have their printing establishments and are sending out placards, cartoons and incendiary songs throughout the provinces. They have, I am told, organized the country just as our politicians organize for a presidential campaign, and have their runners working up clubs in the various districts. They have the support of men of influence in every province, and a number of the governors are said to have taken the oath of the order.

The positions of Prince Tuan, Governor Yu of Shantung and General Tung Fu-Shiang are well known; they are with the Boxers. Just where Li Hung Chang, Chang Chi Tung, Sheng and others stand is uncertain, but they, like the most of the officials, are merely the tools of the old empress dowager and dance as she pulls the string.

A STORY OF THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

The empress dowager will probably now deny all connection with the Boxers, but there is no doubt that she is at the bottom of the great growth of the society. I heard last night of an interview which she had with a certain named Wang shortly before the outbreak of the war. Censors are appointed by the Chinese government to move around secretly through the different provinces and report on all that is going on. They are imperial spies, whose business it is to keep track of the wrongdoings of officials and to gather information as to the feelings of the people concerning them and the government.

This man Wang had been spying about through Chihli and the empress

dowager sent for him. When he appeared she said: "What do you think of the Boxers in Chihli? Are they well organized, and can they be depended upon to join the troops in fighting the foreign devils when the time comes?"

To this Wang replied: "I am certain of it, your majesty. The members of the society are taught to protect to the death your heavenly dynasty and to wipe the devils from the face of the earth. As for myself and all of my family, we have joined the society, and had the power I would gladly lead the van of the avenging army."

As the empress dowager heard this she nodded her head in approval. Then, after thinking a moment, she remarked:

"Ah, it is a grand society, but I am afraid that with no experienced men at its head the Boxers may not easily get us into trouble with the Yang-kuei-tze (foreign devils) before everything is ready. You must have some responsible leaders in Chihli and Shantung to control them." With this the audience terminated, but the next day, by imperial orders, Wang was given a high position in Peking. He was elevated from a sixth-grade official to a fourth-grade metropolitan post, and that one of great importance.

Although since the Tsin Tsin massacre Chinese officials have been forbidden to refer to foreigners as devils, in the above interview the empress herself is said to have done so, speaking contemptuously of them as "Yang-kuei-tze."

WHY THE CHINESE FAVOR THE RUSSIANS.

The bulk of the missionaries come from Great Britain and the United States, and the massacres are another evidence that the highest officials with, or despite us Anglo-Saxons and are looking for the Russians to help them out of their troubles. They evidently did not think Russia would be involved in the war for before its outbreak the relations between Russia and China were very close. Indeed, it is now whispered that Russia will receive Manchuria in the settlement of peace, and that there is an understanding to this effect with the Chinese leaders.

I heard a story here which illustrates the real feeling of the empress dowager and her party as to England and America. It was descriptive of a meeting of the grand council in Peking when France was demanding a share of southern China. Gen. Yung Lu advised that the government ask Great Britain to interfere, saying that the United States and Japan would join with Great Britain if Russia and France threatened reprisals. To this Kank Yi replied:

"We don't want anything to do with Great Britain, Japan and the United States. We have a score to settle with the English for the sack of the Yuen-ming-yuen (summer) place. We want to get even with Japan for the seizure of Formosa, and we want to punish the United States for treating the Chinese who go there and to the Philippines no better than dogs. As to Russia, we have nothing against her. She is our friend, and if France joins with her, although we have a grudge against France, we will be just that much the stronger. I am for keeping in the closest friendship with Russia,

Some Famous Chinese Who Have Helped Cause the War.—The Empress Dowager and the Boxers—Why the Chinese Dislike England, Japan and the United States and Favor of Russians—Li Hung Chang Compared to Benedict Arnold—Queer Stories About Foreigners—Crushed Eyes for Medicine and Photographic Material—A New Way of Spreading the Plague—The Hog Cartoons and Boxer Tracts—A Sample War Song—All Foreigners to Be Driven Out by 1903.

If she is with us we can defy the world. If we have only Russia to help us Great Britain will cover into the back-ground."

This speech was applauded by Prince Chung, Prince Tuan, Chao Shu-chiao and the rest of the council, including the empress dowager, who nodded her head vigorously in approval.

LI HUNG CHANG CALLED THE BENEVOLENT ARNOLD OF CHINA.

The sympathy of Li Hung Chang with Russia is well known throughout the empire. It is whispered by some of the Chinese that he is in the pay of the Russian government, and he has even been accused of being false to China. An evidence of this was displayed some months ago in a Chinese school near Chee Foo. The school was taught by an American girl, and it had among its students many sons of mandarin and influential Chinese representing some of the best families of the empire. The teacher has her own methods of instruction, and in her English classes she often tells stories to the meaning of new words in the minds of her pupils. A few weeks before the war broke out the word traitor came up. She described what "traitor" meant, illustrating it by Benedict Arnold. A day or so after this she asked her scholars if they could deliver the word traitor and give an example of the same. One bright boy, the son of a mandarin, at once raised his hand. He was told to speak, and he said:

"A traitor is a man who sells his own honor and that of his own country for gold, and the greatest example of a traitor that we know of here is Li Hung Chang."

"Yes," broke in another boy, "exactly," "he has sold out our country to the Russians."

And a third said:

"I wish I were near him that I might kill him."

These boys probably represented the feelings of their fathers.

WHY THE OFFICIALS OPPOSE THE MISSIONARIES.

The high officials of China realize that the missionaries are their enemies. They know their corrupt practices cannot endure with the western civilization, and they fear to lose their jobs. They have been at the bottom of nearly every riot of the past. They pretend to be the friends of the foreigners, but the blue books of the empire sold in the government shops are full of all sorts of lies written to stir up the common people against the missionaries. In some such books are descriptions of how the foreigners scoop out the eyes of Chinese for medicine and photographic materials. The Chinese think that their eyes have different qualities from ours, and that the missionaries are here as eye collectors. In one of the anti-missionary cartoons distributed some time ago, two blood-thirsty villains in foreign clothes are pictured in the act of cutting out the eyes of a dead Chinaman, while another missionary stands by and looks on with a successful eye he has just captured.

HOW ONE CHINESE SAVED HIS EYES.

I have before me this print. I have

also gotten a translation of a tract which was circulated all over China, entitled "The Death Blow to Corrupt Doctors."

The latter shows how and why the eyes are stolen, stating that foreigners are means to extract silver from lead by means of them, and also that when spread over a glass they will record the magic pictures (photographs) which the Christians prize. In this work there is an extract from the public records, showing how one Chinese scholar, cheated, a missionary and saved his eyes. It is as follows:

In the reign of the Emperor Wan Lie a foreigner named Pa-ta-Li came into Chekiang and began to persuade men to join the Christian sect, and great numbers were converted by him. Now, there was a certain military undergraduate, named Wang Wen-shu, an athlete, who, hearing that when any one who joined this sect died they secretly took out his eyes, had a desire to test the matter. So for some days he ate nothing, and word was sent to the priest that he was about to die. The priest came, and, sure enough, he had a little knife in his hand. Coming toward the matter, he was about to cut out Wang's eyes, when he sprang like a sudden, beat him and drove him out of his house and cut off his head and destroyed his image of Jesus. When this affair came to be known in the capital the emperor rewarded him liberally.

SOME BOXER SUPERSTITIONS.

Another story the Boxers are spreading is that the foreigners have a medicine which, if rubbed on the palm of the hand and held up before the face of a Chinese, will hypnotize him and make him the slave of the foreigner.

They say this medicine is made out of the eyes of infants and young children, and that the missionaries steal them for that purpose. I have often seen when going through an interior Chinese town a Chinese mother put her hand over the eyes of her child or hide its head in a shawl until I had passed out of sight. The massacre at Tien Tsin in 1870, in which more than a score of the French Sisters of Charity were treated almost as badly as our missionary girls are being treated now, was caused by a rumor that these nuns were kidnapping children for their eyes. It is on the crushed theory that the Chinaman does not like to be photographed. When his face is recorded on the photographic plate he believes the mysterious eye mixture with which it is covered catches hold of his soul, and that the owner of the plate can cause him all sorts of evil thereafter. I have had Chinese try to break my camera after I had photographed them, and have several times had narrow escapes in using it.

FOREIGNERS ACCUSED OF SPREADING THE PLAGUE.

Another queer story comes probably from the fleas which carry the bubonic plague. It is stated in some of the interior provinces that the foreigners are now buying lice at two or three cash each and giving them poison. After this it is said they scatter the lice abroad among the people. They believe that a house thus poisoned has a fatal bite and that it also communi-

cates the disease to its descendants. Any one who has traveled in China knows that the masses are infested with lice, and this story has had a powerful effect.

A FOREIGN MEDICINE FACTORY.

Stories of this kind are sometimes illustrated with cuts. For instance, I saw in a Chinese magazine an illustrated description of how the foreigners make medicine. In one cut men in American clothes were bending over great cauldrons in which the heads and legs of men were boiling. Beside the cauldrons were baskets and tubs filled with Chinese humans cut in pieces. In another cut foreigners were grinding up the bones and flesh, and in a third a supposed missionary was shoveling the ghastly stuff upon the scales for weighing. In another room the medicine was being packed up by straight-eyed white women in foreign dress.

THE HOG CARTOONS.

Some of the worst cartoons which have been distributed are those representing the missionaries as goats and pigs. The "Chinese character" which represents the word Jesus, and that which represents hog are substantially the same, and one of the nicknames for the Christian religion in the provinces of the upper Yangtze is "the religion of the crucified hog." A few years ago millions of copies of colored cartoons, picturing a hog fastened to a cross with Chinese bowmen shooting arrows into it, were distributed all over China. For a similar reason they call us pig-goat-devils, the character for foreigner and for pig and goat being much the same. I have before me a cartoon in which a Chinese executioner is cutting off the goat heads of foreigners. The bodies are like those of ordinary men, but the heads are goat heads. Other cartoons represent pictures of hell, in which the Buddhist devils are sawing the pigs and goats into pieces and torturing them in other ways.

These cartoons are printed in red, purple and green. Each is about half the size of an ordinary newspaper page. They have been made by the millions and have been carried boats and canoes all over China. Each bears Chinese characters about its edges denouncing the foreigners, and telling lies about many of which are too vile for publication.

BOXER TRACTS.

It is impossible to conceive the extent of the present circulation of Boxer tracts. It is considered a merit to distribute them, and \$50,000 of one issue were recently sent out by a club of eight men.

These tracts are incendiary in the extreme. They incite the Chinese to rise and sweep the foreigners from the face of the earth. One tract has an illustration of a new sword which has been especially made for the massacre of Protestants and Romanists. Every family, rich and poor, is commanded to join in the butchery and to divide the flesh of the Christians among themselves—a cat, or two and a half pounds, to each man. They are instructed to boil the flesh and offer it in sacrifice to their gods, their ancestors and their parents.

ONE OF THEIR WAR SONGS.

I have copies of a number of the incendiary songs, but I give a translation of only one, entitled "Choo-Choo-Choo-Choo."

"To forgive men is virtuous. To forgive pigs is sinful. To injure men is to be robbers. To injure pigs is to be heroes. Say it out! Save men, save to the utmost; Kill pigs, kill to the last. Seize the Christians! Fine I'll chop them. Fat meat."

Fresh blood; Take seats, Feast, friends, Coarse skin, big bones; My teeth grind small. Talk of blaphes, All make chops."

ANGELS TO HELP THE BOXERS.

In most of the placards which are now being distributed it is stated that the heavenly powers are sending down multitudes of spirits to help the Chinese drive out the foreigners. These spirits are supposed to enter the bodies of the Boxers, and until it was actually tested every Boxer thought that this possession rendered him invulnerable and invincible. One, for instance, to prove that he could not be killed, took a revolver and shot himself in the breast. Unfortunately the bullet missed the spirit and killed the man. Another is said to have put six shots into himself and remained unharmed. The placards state that the war is a heavenly dispute, and that it will take three years before the foreigners are driven out of China. There are to be no more foreigners after 1903.

One of the worst features in the teaching of the children. Companies of child Boxers have been organized in nearly every town and district, and they may be seen going through the evolutions of the society. They are boys and girls between ten and twenty years of age. They are taught that the only salvation of China is to get rid of the foreigners and that the Lord is to aid them.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

It Happened in a Drug Store.

"One day last winter a lady came to my drug store and asked for a brand of cough medicine that I did not have in stock," says Mr. C. R. Grandin, the popular druggist of Ontario, N. Y. She was disappointed and was to know what cough preparation I could recommend. I said to her that I could freely recommend Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and that she could give it a fair trial if she did not find it worth the money to bring back the bottle and I would refund the price paid. In the course of a day or two the lady came back in company with a friend in need of a cough medicine and advised me to buy a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. I consider that a very good recommendation for the remedy. The remedy is its great popularity and extensive sale in a large measure to the personal recommendations of people who have been cured by its use.

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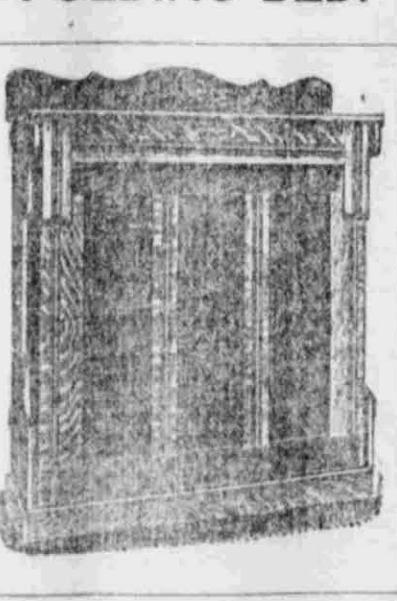
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