

THE STRANGE ARMY OF CHINA

Its Strength and Weakness—The Antiquated Weapons and Curious Fancies of the Celestial Warriors—How the Army Is Divided.

IF ANY doubt were entertained that affairs in China had reached a tolerably acute stage, it must have been swept away by the published declarations of the emperor dowager when she inaugurated her new policy of opposition to the encroachments of the foreign powers. According to the imperial decree: "The viceroys and gov-

to sell arms and furnish military instructors to a semibarbarous people. And, further than that, the United States may lay claim to the doubtful distinction of having been the birthplace of the man who first taught the Chinese the advantages of discipline and how to handle modern weapons. This man was Frederick Townsend

career was well commenced, Gordon perished bravely fighting, years afterward, at Kharum, but the Chinese coadjutor of these two foreigners, to whom China owed so much, crafty old Li Hung Chang, who was then viceroy of the province and who ably seconded their efforts, is still alive and scheming. He is the one man in power in

ability to shoot well, to beat the gong and to turn somersaults, all of which are inexpressibly terrifying to the outside barbarians."

The "outside barbarians." It must be borne in mind, are ourselves and the foreign soldiery on the soil of China, and it may be at least open to argument if the "terrifying tactics" of the Chinese have yet had any great effect. The great reliance of the empire seems to be in their "barbarians," who are composed of the descendants of those brave soldiers who subjugated China nearly three centuries ago and who have the honor of guarding the person of the emperor and the 21 gates of the Forbidden City. But to show of what material the crack corps of the "old army" was composed it is only necessary to mention that this body is armed chiefly with bows and arrows, except on great occasions, when the men wear swords and carry lances or halberds.

is very much like that known in the United States army as the "Texas grip."

The artillerymen differ from the infantry in one feature, and that is they have no guns, believing their guns make sufficient noise to frighten away the enemy. But, although powder is said to be a Chinese invention and their use of cannon very ancient, the Celestials seem to have made no progress since these were invented. During the opium war, as it was called, their sides laughing at the cannon balls that came rolling out of their guns and scarcely ever reached the mark they aimed at, but dropped, spent, only a few yards away.

They still use that antiquated piece of ordnance known as the "jingall," which is a small swivel rudely mounted, and an English officer mentions one cannon that he saw which had been split in firing and was still in service, being bound up with strips of bamboo tied on with strings. None of the Chinese cannon has any sights, and even those supplied by Europeans were most of them deprived of such appliances, and the consequence is that the artillery practice is extremely poor.

There is, however, one adjunct to the artillery which cannot be overlooked or treated with indifference, and

"foreign devil" and make him fall in his tracks. If he doesn't fall, they seem very much surprised, and if he still persists in advancing upon them they are dead certain to take to their heels and run.

The Chinaman is a shrewd merchant and trader, says an Englishman who has lived with them for years, but no soldier. Indeed, he has a profound contempt for the soldierly calling if he be a merchant or official, and if in the uniform of a soldier, is as cowardly as a gun shy dog.

"Cheating is universal," says a German official in China. "Chinese officers regard the post of superintendent of the camp as a speculation. The accoutrements and training of the soldiers are different in every province. In one province the men are exercised with antiquated lances, halberds and pikes; in another with Martini rifles and in another with the German model 88. In one year Krupp guns are ordered, in the next Armstrongs and the next Nordenfledts. The guns are brought out, remain lying about somewhere, and in a short time are in such a state that it is impossible to use them. The officials are secretly glad of the opportunity to buy new weapons, as they make a profit on the transaction. Like all other officials in China, they have to make their living by embezzlement. They obtain their positions by the favor of high officials and disappear with the fall of their patrons, without receiving a pension or further employment."

There is always a screw loose somewhere in Chinese affairs, as was shown in the Japo-Chinese war of 1894-5. While Japan was prepared at every point and hurled her masses of trained troops against the demoralized Chinese with terrible results, China, on the contrary, was never in condition to fight. "The Chinese squadron hugged the ports or hid in estuaries, lacking competent officers to fight the ships and

chief, and it was supposed to be guided by the war council sitting at Tien-tsin.

The pay of all the soldiers was in arrears, and the majority fought sullenly only on compulsion, and from the very first pitched battle at Ping-yang, in Korea, where the Chinese lost 16,000 men, to the last engagement at Niuchuang, the Japanese had them constantly on the run. The Chinese did not win a single victory, and yet both the officers and the rank and file fought with consummate bravery—up to a certain point. In the first fight the finest body of troops Li Hung Chang possessed, his 5,000 trained Manchus, stood their ground against overwhelming odds and fought till every man was slain. Several commanders, both of land and naval forces, were beheaded for cowardice, and several others committed suicide in anticipation of such a fate befalling them. It cannot be denied that the Chinese have courage, but it is of a very peculiar kind.

It is more than doubtful if the Chinese learned anything of value from their dear bought experience in the Japo-Chinese war. It is said that their armies were defeated until the last battle was fought, and yet the war had lasted more than six months. After it was over one of the most learned members of the court argued that since the modern arms, repeating rifles and the like, had been so ineffective in the hands of the Chinese and Manchus soldiers, they should all be armed with the antique jingalls, bows and arrows, "with which they had conquered their enemies of old."

The Chinese navy was practically destroyed or captured during the last war and now numbers hardly more than 100 vessels of all classes. The army, however, was not appreciably reduced, for the gaps in its ranks were quickly filled by drafts from the surplus millions of China's population. So spasmodic attempts have been made to bring it up to European standards, by the introduction of foreign officers and tactics, by the purchase abroad of immense supplies of ammunition, guns and armament of all descriptions. But it is one thing to lead a horse to water and quite another to make it drink.

There are great arsenals, as at Shanghai and Nankin, naval and military academies, factories for the manufacture of black and smokeless powder. There are European instructors in military and naval tactics, students who have studied abroad and hundreds of cadets who are studying at home under foreign and native professors; yet, despite all this, there is something in the Chinese character that absolutely precludes the acquisition or retention of technical information necessary to naval or military success. The Chinese engineer may learn how to run the engines of a warship and the gunner how to calculate the range of a cannon, but the chances are that the former will run a vessel of his own instead of the enemy's fleet and the latter be unable to hit anywhere near the object of his aim.

The Chinese army is numerically vast and imposing. First of all, there are the "Eight Banners," containing some 300,000 men, mainly descendants of the Manchus fighters and conquerors, the entire force subdivided into three groups of Manchus, Mongols and Chinese. With them the profession of war is hereditary, and from their ranks are drawn the "Tigers" and the Imperial guard, while perhaps 40,000 are scattered in garrison along the Manchurian frontier.

The great national army, called the "Ying Ping" or the "Green Camps," is also known as the "Five Camps," because split into five distinct parts, further subdivided into 15 corps, one for each province, at the orders of the governor general or viceroy. On paper this army has a strength of 600,000 men, with about one-third available in time of war. But only a small portion is armed with modern weapons and has an up to date organization.

Added to these are the "mercenary troops" which can be called out if needed, and the Mongolian cavalry, to the number of about 200,000 nominal, but not more than 20,000 actual. The total figures show a land army of about 300,000 men on a peace footing and of upward of 1,000,000 on a war basis. But, as a whole, the army is ineffective, according to Lord Berosford, who has made a study of it, lacking cohesion, unity and discipline, and chiefly armed with weapons long since obsolete.

The drill is hardly more than a mere physical exercise; there is no adequate equipment of medical service, transport or commissariat.

There is no coherent body of men entitled to the name of an army, the entire force is so divided into separate groups or camps scattered throughout the various provinces. The finest corps is that known as the Tien-tsin contingent, the pet of Li Hung Chang, which is equipped with repeating rifles, Krupp guns and all modern accessories, besides having had the benefit of superior drill and (at least on paper) better pay—about \$4 per month, against less than half that amount received by soldiers in the Banner army.

It has been declared that the Tartar soldier never surrenders, even in the face of absolute and overwhelming defeat; that he will kill his wife and children and burn himself alive in his home, leaving nothing but a heap of ashes for the victors. It is a capital offense for a Chinese soldier to offer to fall in any important mission entrusted to him, so that if an officer, outside of his salary and awards, is sure of one thing officially from imperial sources it is promotion or decapitation.

In conclusion, while the Chinese army appears most formidable at a superficial glance, still, as has been shown in the preceding columns, its organic weakness more than compensates for its vast numerical superiority over the allied army of invasion. But if it is conjoined to the millions of an enraged populace there will be danger in the mere massing of the multitudes, which will dash upon the invaders like ocean waves against a rock.

CHANNING A. BARTOW.

A YOUNG ARCHITECT'S TRIUMPH.
Hart Wood, a 19-year-old lad of Deseret, has been awarded the prize offered for the accepted design of a gateway for the city park, his plans having been considered superior to those of a dozen well known architects of long experience and training who participated in the competition. Young Wood has been studying only for a year and a half, but has long shown a talent for drawing. He will enter the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

sure the best returns. Both Mississippi and Texas have made a profit out of the convict farms, and the farms have been free from hardships and cruelties. The people of Worcester, Mass., are discussing plans for a proposed celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Bancroft, the historian, which even took place in that city, on Oct. 8, 1890.



A GROUP OF HALBERDIERS



A CHINESE ARCHER



A MODERN SOLDIER

CHINESE SOLDIERS AT GUN DRILL



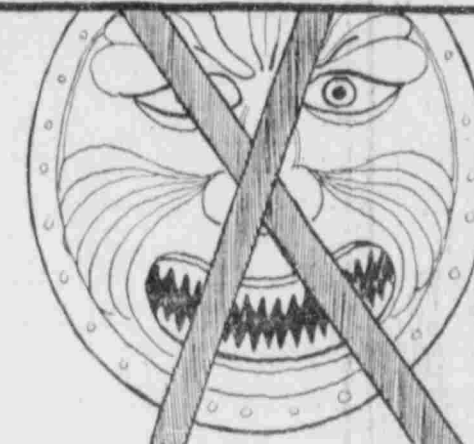
ARTILLERISTS TRAINED BY EUROPEANS



AN ANTIQUATED JINGALL



INSPECTING THE TIGER GUARDS



IMPERIAL TROOPS IN SHAM FIGHT

ernors are instructed to resist by force of arms any aggressions by foreign governments and to declare war upon any power attempting to take possession of territory within their jurisdiction. Let no one think of making peace, but let each strive to preserve from destruction and spoliation his ancestral homes and graves from the ruthless hands of the invader."

The crux of this situation may be expressed in a single sentence: "Down with the 'fan-kuwai'—down with the white faced dog!" This hatred of foreigners is ingrained, and nothing on earth seems likely to avail to remove it so long as the millions who inhabit China are steeped in ignorance and superstition. Example and exposition are alike wasted upon these people. The only argument they can understand is force, and the problem to be solved by the powers is how to apply that force, for the Chinese, as individuals and collectively, are insensible to an ordinary chastisement; they have been brought up on deeds of cruelty until torture and death have no terrors, and neither threats of dismemberment as a nation nor of extinction as a people can move them.

The strength of China lies in its masses; its weakness in its army. Numerically strong, with its 400,000,000 people compressed within comparatively restricted boundaries, China is yet structurally weak, depending as it does upon an artificial system of militarism which is rotten to the core. This last uprising, which now threatens the partition of China and to precipitate grave international complications, was not of the army, but of the masses. The military stood idly by while diplomacy smoothed the way for the foreign acquisition of coastal territory, but eventually the masses were aroused, and the government, nothing loath to have a club to be used against the intruders on occasion, secretly encouraged the Boxers in their uprising. But a Chinese mob, once started, is not easy to quell, and it soon appeared that the government, if not actually siding with the popular movement, was unable to check it.

If the Chinese forces should develop unexpected strength, the powers may console themselves as best they can with the reflection that this is the outcome of that suicidal policy by which so called civilized nations are permitted

Ward, a native of Salem, Mass., who as a soldier of fortune drifted into China during the Taiping rebellion, when it seemed likely that the great empire was in process of disintegration. He threw himself into the breach not from patriotic, but mercenary motives. He offered to take a city for so much money and the loot, and he drilled a rabble of Chinese ruffians into one of the best disciplined corps the world had seen.

When he came upon the scene, in 1859, the great rebellion had been raging about ten years and seemed wholly beyond the government's control. He gave it the first real check, as city after city fell before the onslaught of his soldiers, who were the offshoots of Shanghai docks and offered by deserters from the British navy. "Chinese Ward" became the most prominent man in China at that time; he married a mandarin's daughter, was created a general of the imperial army, and before his death, from wounds received in service, he was made a mandarin of the highest button, receiving the decorations of the "yellow jacket and double peacock feather."

After his death the Chinese buried him in the sacred Confucian cemetery, erected a temple in his honor, and the Yankee sailor was enshrined among the protective deities of the Chinese pantheon."

And well he might have been, for he had done more for China in a military sense than all the gods they ever worshipped from the times of the great Confucius down to the day of his advent. He had taken a mob of sheeplike Chinamen and hammered it into that magnificent corps which earned under him the title of the "ever victorious army," and later under the leadership of his successor, "Chinese Gordon," who merely took the material Ward provided and consummated the work he had begun.

Ward died of his wounds before his

China, this same Li Hung Chang, who accepted the lesson Ward and Gordon taught him and his countrymen and who did not forget its purport. All the rest seem to have forgotten that the only needs of the Chinese soldier were gallant leadership, purpose, drill and example to make him the best of fighting machines. Ward's soldiers would follow him anywhere; they performed prodigies of valor, and in the face of certain death by torture or decapitation if captured.

The status of the Chinese army before the advent of Ward, Gordon and Li Hung Chang may be inferred from the military tactics employed only 15 years ago. At that time the governor of a province asserted that, while his soldiers ran very swiftly (an accomplishment they often put in practice), they also excelled in gong beating and trumpet blowing. This was said in all seriousness, for one of their ancient military maxims is that "the chief point in offensive or defensive movements is to frighten the enemy, and to this end the faces painted on the shields are of the greatest value; and next to these is the

chantmen, kill and plunder and he themselves back into the mountain fastnesses. These gangs exist throughout China, and their practices are winked at by the local officials, who profit by the crimes.

In China, 12½ miles from the village of Lion-Chek, there is a mountain of alum, which, in addition to being a natural curiosity, is a source of wealth for the inhabitants of the country, who dig from it yearly tons of alum.

After many weary months of darkness Signor Crispi, Italy's aged statesman, is able to see, owing to the removal of a cataract from each eye.

The records of the famous class of 1828 have just been deposited in the Harvard library. They were kept by the Rev. Samuel May for 70 years and

that is the "stinkpot," a small earthen jar filled with sulphur and other nauseous combustibles. When at close quarters, the "stinkpot" is lighted and thrown into the ranks of the enemy, and as it produces an effect that might result from the burning of more than a million matches under one's nose the enemy is temporarily disabled—that is, if he stops long enough to sniff the fumes.

If their bows and arrows fall them, the Chinese of the "old army" have their matchlocks, then their jingalls and cannon, and as a last resort their "stinkpots," gongs, torpedoes and firecrackers. It doesn't matter what, so long as a big noise is raised and a big dust and stench evoked to terrify the

skillful engineers to develop speed, while the coal supply was all short."

The whole burden of that war fell upon Li Hung Chang, who, knowing the state of unpreparedness his country was in, tried in vain to avert the disaster. When the war began, he appealed without effect to the other viceroys and governors for assistance, who selfishly left him to his fate. His army was nominally strong, but the Japanese army was four times stronger; his fleet was superior in material to his opponents, but inferior in naval science, organization and seamanship and was crippled by the resignation of all the Scotch and English engineers on the breaking out of the war; the army in the field had no commander in

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

Chinese iron is becoming a serious rival to the American and English product in Japan, and is now sold at about \$5 per ton cheaper than that which is imported from Great Britain.

The word compound, which is frequently used in dispatches from China, means an inclosure. In "t country

and in Japan it is customary to build high brick walls around factories, business houses, banks and residences for protection, and these are known as compounds.

The waterways of the Chinese empire are infested with pirates and bandits who swoop down upon inoffensive mer-

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include the biographies of James Freeman Clarke, O. W. Holmes, Benjamin R. Curtis and others, as written by the subjects themselves.

The Germans are said to be making knives, pinushons, matchboxes and other knickknacks out of their native woods to be sent to England for sale after the Boer war is over. The finished articles are inscribed, "Made of wood

grown at Ladysmith." "The Modder," "Belmont," "Grasspan," "Kimberley," "Mafeking," and even "Pretoria."

The states of Texas, Mississippi and Georgia have recently abandoned the system of hiring out convicts on farms, especially in raising cotton. This form of employment has been found to work the least injury to free labor and to as-