

## EDITORIALS.

## AN EMPIRE AWAKENING.

Professor Draper in his great work on the "Intellectual Development of Europe," says: "China is now passing through the last stage of civil life in the cheerlessness of Buddhism." A writer in the July-August number of the *International Review*, takes entirely opposite ground, and gives some very potent reasons for his position. It appears that the Celestial Empire is still possessed of tremendous vitality, and that to its almost boundless resources, are added the steady industry, strong tenacity, remarkable sobriety, cheerfulness, order, equanimity and general probity of its inhabitants. These offer no indications of decay, nor give any promise of the collapse of an ancient civilization, which Christian writers, generally, but improperly, brand as barbarian and unprogressive.

The popular ideas concerning China have been chiefly derived from the reports of those who have visited only the coast and ports of the Empire. But Radan, in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* warns observers not to judge a nation by its seaboard. This is a wise admonition. The habits, manners, excesses, violence and frequent depravity of maritime towns in any country, form no fair criterion of the character of the people of the interior. Reliable modern travelers who have penetrated into the heart of China, give evidence of the good qualities of its inhabitants and the resources of the country, which exhibit them in a far different light from that reflected by Professor Draper. According to their account, "China possesses bituminous and anthracite coal enough to supply the world for several thousand years. The deposits are almost untouched, are readily accessible, lie in close contact with iron, lead and tin ores, and are so situated that the extraction is exceptionally economical."

The writer in the *International* quotes from Count Kleczkowski, formerly French *charge d'affaires* at Peking, as follows:

"China has a coast line of more than a thousand leagues, admirably watered by an endless network of rivers. It produces all kinds of corn and grain, rice, tea, silk, wool, cotton, flax, hemp, sugar, indigo, tobacco. Mountains and plains contain coal and all kinds of minerals in profusion. It has absorbed and retained coin at such a rate, that it may be called the wealthiest nation of the globe."

The idea that China refuses to learn from other nations and to adopt the improvements of the present age is also fallacious. They have studied the advanced principles of mathematics known to the Caucasians. They are imitating the system of fortifications and naval armaments which they have learned, by bitter experience, to be superior to their own. They have emissaries among the foremost nations of the earth, learning everything that tends to the strength and advancement of those nations. And they acquire knowledge very readily. As the *International* writer says, "While they loath and actually despise us as an inferior kind of beings, they appreciate our methods and readily appropriate them."

China has no national debt of any consequence. Its two loans, both of recent contraction, only amount to about \$8,000,000. It is a nation of economists. Every foot of land under cultivation is made to produce to its utmost. The people are plodding, persistent workers. It has every facility for vast manufacturing industries, and the disposition to make, at home, everything needed for home use and consumption. They import their Krupp guns and Armstrong mortars, but the vessels on which they are mounted and the engines that propel them are of native construction.

Instead of China being on its last legs, it is acquiring new energy. Having burst the bonds of isolation and exclusiveness which kept it for many centuries from the ideas, evil and good, of the outside world, it is now awakening into new vitality and vigor, and preparing for the race of life with the most powerful

governments on the globe. What the effects of this will be are not as yet foreshadowed. But if China progresses during the next quarter of a century in the same ratio as has marked its growth in the recent past, conflict with the Christian Powers will not be the same child's play for the latter as in previous wars. With its immense population, now conceded to be over 400,000,000, its untold resources, its active, working, patriotic people, its acquirement of the arts and inventions of the times, its conviction of self-superiority, its wealth, tenacity, craftiness and self-denying habits, it will prove a most formidable foe for any opposing race. And in the field of human industry it is destined to play a most important part, of which the difficulties now arising on the Pacific Coast are but the first faint shadow. China is neither dying nor asleep. And the whole world will find it out in a startling manner, before many more decades have passed away.

## THE SPREAD OF SKEPTICISM.

The rationalism and materialism of Europe and America seem to be spreading to the Orient. Japan is affected with the contagion. A missionary in that country writing to the *Pacific Methodist* states his conviction that the great antagonist which Christianity will have to meet there is not Buddhism but skepticism. The young students in the higher schools are reading the works of Herbert Spencer, John Stuart Mill and Professor Draper, and Japanese newspapers advocate sentiments similar to those of the modern school of materialism.

The difficulty with the representatives of the various sections of Christendom will be their inability to cope with the arguments which these disciples of unbelief can advance, against their hydra-headed and many-sided system. It is a dead Christianity which they have to offer to the eastern nations now awakening from the dreams of heathenism. That which they present to the world is a system of unbelief, a system set forth in the Bible which they carry, and from which they pretend to derive their doctrine, churches and authority. They find it impossible to stem the tide of infidelity that is rolling in upon their established positions, held for many centuries and fortified by the traditions of ages. How then shall they meet it in countries where they have no strongholds, but where they are innovators and have no ground of vantage?

The great weakness of modern Christianity is that its own advocates have but little real faith in themselves. For some years past they have been gradually abandoning points which were once pronounced essential and throwing aside dogmas which were considered indispensable to salvation. Without a living, unswerving faith in their own hearts they can do little towards persuading or convincing others. And unless something more vital and effective than what is called Christianity arises in strength, and speaks with the Divine voice of truth, the dark clouds of unbelief and the cold mists of nineteenth century materialism will settle down upon pagan and Christian alike, and the face of the living God will be entirely shut out from the gaze of the human soul.

But that living, spiritual force which the wise of all ages have foreseen, would make itself felt through all the world in the latter time, is here. It is a potent, active reality. It will work as the true leaven. Its influence will increase as the needs of the times demand, and what people now oppose as "Mormonism," will prove the religion of the Millennial era, the faith which will ultimately unite all nations, and lead the world to that condition in which "all shall know the Lord, from the least even to the greatest."

## POPULAR PRAYING.

A Boston paper, in commenting on a prayer offered in the pulpit of a church in that "cultured" city, by the late Edward Everett said, "It was the most eloquent prayer ever addressed to a Boston audience."

At the Illinois Republican Convention, when Rev. Robert Nourse concluded his opening prayer, the *New York Times* says, "the hall rang with applause."

These sayings form a fitting comment on the public prayer *a la mode*. It is evidently addressed to the congregation rather than the Deity. Eloquence, not utility is aimed at. It is not really a petition to the Supreme Being for blessings desired and expected, but an arrangement of phrases designed for effect upon the ears of human beings. Why should not applause follow such an effort to please an audience, as much as a set oration directly spoken to them? This would be consistent enough, if it was denuded of its hypocrisy, and clearly understood to be offered simply for the delectation of the assembly.

All religious denominations are tainted with this perversion of true prayer. Considering the rebuke administered by the Savior to those who "think they shall be heard for their much speaking," it is not a little strange that the present style should be so popular among those who profess to be followers of Christ. "Ask and ye shall receive," does not appear to enter into the thoughts of the minister who "prays so beautifully," but if he directs any portion of his speech to the Deity it appears to be with the object of imparting information to the Almighty as to the extent of His power and glory, and matters of history, ancient and modern, prefixed with the words "Oh! Lord, thou knowest."

Would it not be well for every one who "comes before the throne of grace" as the mouthpiece of the congregation, to remember the manner of approaching the "Father of the spirits of all men," which was indicated by Jesus when he said, "After this manner therefore pray ye," and then gave the simple petition known throughout Christendom as "The Lord's Prayer." Ask for that which is needed. Speak for, not to the congregation. Mean what you say, or hold your tongue. Eloquentia is not objectionable, but it is non-essential, in prayer. Sincerity is the main requirement, and if that is absent, all the fine words that can be strung together, all the music that can be put into the human voice, and all the skill which the trained orator can use to thrill the human heart, will fail to reach the Eternal Father, who yet can hear the faintest whisper of the contrite spirit, and will heed even the trembling emotions of the humble soul. Consistency is a jewel, and it shines as brightly in praise and prayer as in any act of public or private life.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Potter committee have done with Mrs. Captain Jenks. Let us hope that Louisiana has no more of her kind. One is enough for the whole country.

A weed plucked before it goes to seed will prevent the growth of hundreds of its kind another season. Now is a good time to sense this fact and show sense by pulling and hoeing.

Sunstrokes are frequent in New York with the thermometer marking at its highest 93° in the shade. It stood at 92° this afternoon in the shade of the walls of this office, but we hear of no sunstrokes in the streets of Salt Lake.

This is the way the *New York Herald* quotes Shakespeare: "There is a Providence which shapes our ends rough, hew them as we will." Those who have had a finger or a toe cut off should know whether or not this reading is right, that is if they can see the point.

University College, London, England, will, next October, open classes in all subjects of instruction within the Faculties of Arts, Laws and Science for both male and female students. Some of the classes will be mixed, in others the sexes will be separated. This is a big step forward for woman's rights in Great Britain.

Niagara, the mighty and the beautiful, is to be utilized. A company, with a capital of a million dollars, will divert the water in such a way that it will fall into upright pipes, and the force of the

immense compression of air will be used through other pipes to run machinery, in Buffalo. Beauty, without utility has little charm for the average American heart.

An exchange says: "It is the confession of a widower, who has been thrice married, that the first wife cures a man's romance, the second teaches him humility, and the third makes him a philosopher." Three wives at once, then, would tend to make a man practical, humble, and philosophically, all very excellent and desirable qualities.

According to the *Pacific Rural Press*, black walnut trees grow in the Sierras. An old mountaineer, while chasing a bear in a cañon on the south side of King's River, discovered a beautiful grove of trees under which were a number of nuts. On inspection they were pronounced to be black walnuts. Wild walnuts are an unexpected and heretofore an unknown production in the Sierras.

A telegram has been received at Portland, from Canyon City, Oregon, dated June 29, stating that the scouting party, on the south fork of John Day River, was surrounded by Indians, who were also pouring into the valley, and the militia was not strong enough to protect the citizens. Troops and arms are required at once. The Indians at Warm Spring Agency are reported likely to join the hostiles.

Rev. Joseph Cook, the Boston theological orator while lecturing at Madison, Wisconsin, recently declared that, "The hypothesis of paucigenesis involves several untenable subsidiary hypotheses." This is all true, no doubt, but if Cook will keep up this style he ought to distribute copies of a glossary of words used in the lecture every time he holds forth outside of Boston.

The great attraction for the glorious Fourth in Salt Lake City will be the concert in the large Tabernacle. The full choir and a number of the best musicians in the Territory will perform, and the price of admission is placed within the reach of all. It will be a grand and enjoyable affair. The proceeds will aid in finishing the New Tabernacle. Employment will be benefited with doing good.

A simple insecticide is recommended by a writer in the *Gardener's Chronicle*. It is to syringe plants infected with bug and scale with water diluted in the proportion of one wineglass full of paraffin oil to four gallons of water. The oil and water must be kept thoroughly mixed with the syringe—one charge into the can and one on the plant. While it is said not to injure the young leaves in the least, it is certain death to the insects.

Ex-United States Marshal George R. Maxwell, who arrived last evening, succeeded in obtaining the allowance of his claim against the Government before the adjournment of Congress. There are several accounts here growing unavoidably out of the peculiar circumstances of his former official position, which we understand he will endeavor to settle as far as possible. The General evidently wants to do the "square thing," and there is no doubt that those who hold claims will meet him in the spirit of fairness.

A dispute arose a short time ago as to the paternity of the half breeds among the Indians. We believe it has been decided in favor of the army; that is that civilians rather than soldiers are chargeable with the peculiar feature of Christian civilization which shows such results. Taking the Standing Rock agency as a standard, Gen. Terry proved that out of eight y-six illegitimate half breeds there, the paternity of only six was traceable to the army. The "superior race" has many ways of showing its superiority to the degraded Indian.

The "Mormons" are often twitted about the smallness of their numbers when compared with the forty millions of the United States, and their insignificance when contrasted with the hosts of Christendom. It has been recently estimated that the Buddhists form at least 40 per cent. of the whole population of the earth. Buddhism is the most successful of all existing religions. If popularity is to be the rule, and he minority must yield to the majority on religious questions, the Christians should all turn Buddhists at once.

We learn from the *Ave Maria*, a Roman Catholic journal, that Thomas Ewing Sherman has gone to England to enter the novitiate of the Society of Jesus. He is 22 years of age, and the son of General Sherman, Commander-in-chief of the United States army. He commenced his studies at Notre Dame, Indiana, and graduated at the Jesuit University of Georgetown, D.C. He afterwards studied law, but the effect of early impressions in youth is exhibited in the step he has now taken. Parents, be careful about the tuition of your children. "As the twig is bent the tree's inclined."

One by one the mediums fall. The latest "spiritual" victim to muscular skepticism is a Mrs. Pickering. After distracting New England with the wonderful materializations, for about six months, she accepted the invitation of a wealthy believer, to give a private seance in his house, at Lowell. In the course of the usual exhibition the indispensable Indian princess was introduced, who, while dancing about to the music of the piano, was seized by a doubting Thomas who held on so tightly that the spirit cried out in Mrs. Pickering's voice, "John, help me!" John was Mr. Pickering, who knocked the skeptic down. But the game was up and the medium, on being searched, was found to have concealed on her person, the masks and other stock in trade of her class. She will have to seek new scenes for her "manifestations." All such arrant swindlers should be prosecuted for obtaining money under false pretenses.

## KANAB STAKE CONFERENCE.

Minutes of the Kanab Stake Quarterly Conference, held at Kanab, on Saturday and Sunday, June 8th and 9th, 1878.

Saturday, 8th, 10 a. m.

Present on the stand: L. John Nuttall, President of the Stake, Bishop W. D. Johnson, Jr., Thomas Chamberlain, H. B. M. Jolley, Jas. Leithead, Sixtus E. Johnson, Thomas W. Smith, and other officers of the Stake.

Usual opening exercises. President Nuttall referred to his labors at Salt Lake City, during the past eight months, in assisting the auditing committee of the Church, corrected many false rumors that were spread abroad pertaining to the estate of our late Pres. Brigham Young. Spoke of the manifest improvements among the people in the payment of tithing and offerings, and their desire to build Temples. He congratulated the people of the Stake regarding the many improvements they had made during the past winter and spring; also the good results derived from the organization of our young men and young ladies improvement associations.

Elder Levi Stewart followed with a few remarks of general interest.

2 p. m.

Bishop W. D. Johnson, Jr., spoke in a very encouraging manner of the Saints of the Kanab Ward. They had built some 1,700 rods of fence, enclosed about 1,100 acres of land, completed about our miles of water ditch, and made other valuable public improvements. The Young Men's and Young Ladies' Societies were in a flourishing condition, as also the Sunday and day schools, the Saints felt well, and a spirit of peace prevailed.

Bishops Thomas Chamberlain, of Orderville; Sixtus E. Johnson, of Johnson; James Leithead, of Glendale; H. B. M. Jolley, of Mount Carmel; Thomas Smith of Pahria, also reported their several Wards as being in excellent condition, the people manifesting an increased disposition to improve in every respect.

Pres. Nuttall expressed his pleasure in hearing the reports of the Bishops and gave some excellent instructions. He counseled the young to refrain from the use of tobacco and to read and study the works of the Church.

Sunday, 10 a. m.

President Nuttall gave pointed instruction to the Bishops in regard to the receiving and disbursing of the tithing and offerings throughout the several Stakes. He spoke earnestly in regard to the stock interest in this part of the country, and of the necessity of a unity of