

CHINESE AND BARBARIANS.

Ignorance of Foreign Races and Conditions is Widespread in China

Says a writer in the Peking and Tientsin Times: "Chinese ignorance is one of the hardest things for the foreigner who is not a Chinese student to comprehend. Those who lay themselves out to study the people and their language are not long, no doubt, in discovering the solidity of the brick wall which Chinese 'absence of knowledge' represents. The ordinary resident or casual visitor who only comes in contact perhaps with the English-speaking official or intelligent, well-paid clerk and confidential servant, cannot realize the absolute inability of the Chinese people en masse to distinguish between nationalities, or to grasp what other nations really are.

Japan they know, and Russia they know, for both lie within sight and hearing, so to speak, but the Straits Settlements and beyond are the islands of the southern sea, and European countries and people merely the barbarian tribes which rebel. Of course this ignorance is daily diminishing, thanks both to the missionary and government schools, but it is still sufficiently broad-based and likely to remain so for many years—to render intangible movements at all times desirable.

The same of America has become very familiar through the boycott propaganda, but no idea exists as to what or where America is, neither is any clear distinction made between America and South Africa, and only the other day we heard that by the people generally the boycott placards were understood as signifying that "some foreign country" had ill-treated the Chinese.

DAILY WATCH BIG RED BALL

Employees of Chicago City Hall Much Interested in a New Diversion

City hall employees have a new diversion since the destruction of the old city building, reports the Chicago Daily News. It is watching the big red ball which every noon makes a quick and sensational slide down a 39 foot high on top of the Masonic temple. Every day two or three minutes before noon the shining globe is hoisted to the top of the pole, and at the stroke of 12 drops. At the same minute the hands of 100 or more watches in the city hall are switched to indicate exact midday.

It has been only since the old county building was razed that the workers in the city hall could see the time ball as the skyscraper nearly three blocks away. Now department heads, stenographers, clerks and chemists all through the city building engage daily in watching the ball's performance and setting their watches by its fall. To see the sphere let loose is an event to the day and the windows from which good views are obtainable are crowded each noon as the station platform of a Montana village on the crest of a transcontinental flyer.

PROBATION THEN MARRIAGE

Surprising Departure in Matrimonial Alliance Instituted in Texas

In Texas, where people do surprising and original things, the institution of marriage after probation has been introduced, says the New York Mail. The thing was started by a rich farmer who advertised for a wife, but who said that the applicant should serve as his housekeeper for a certain length of time in order that he should have a chance to prove her ability and temper. It happened that the farmer was satisfied with his first applicant and married the lady after a brief period of housekeeping probation.

It is to be hoped that the pair will be happy ever after. But the real test is after their "probation" began next after they were married. Marriage in an institution for which success is mere housekeeping is no test at all. An excellent housekeeper may make a very poor wife and a good employer does not always make a good husband.

Braseries of Paris.

"There was a time," says Le Petit Parisien, "when the braseries constituted the rendezvous of all the artists, writers and politicians of Paris. It was so during the last years of the second empire and the first years of the third republic. There is now no literary braserie. Here and there some of the 'failures' of the artistic past, try to continue the tradition of art at the braserie. But it is a sad custom which has had its day."

Plant Fertilizers.

Nitrogen is so vital to the growth of plants that large sums are expended for fertilizers rich in that element. So far chemistry has done nothing effective in the way of obtaining nitrogen from the atmosphere. It is calculated that the nitrogen in the air weighs no less than 4,000,000,000,000,000 tons.

GERMANY'S SAILING SHIPS.

Navy Said to Be in Need of More Sailors and May Pay Large Subsidies

Consul Pittman, writing from Hamburg on the suggested subsidy for the German sailing fleet, quotes a recent report by the Commercial association of Oldenburg. He says in part: "Steamships nowadays take hold of cargoes formerly reserved for sailing ships, such as nitrates, logwood, pitchpine and grain from California and Australia. This is due to the keen competition, making it often impossible for sailing vessels to cover expenses.

German steamships and sailing craft were equal in tonnage in 1889, since which time the former fleet has increased 138 per cent., while the latter has decreased 38 per cent. Briggs have almost disappeared, barks and three-masted schooners have decreased, while large four-masted and full-rigged ships have maintained their position.

The German government has become actively interested in the reviving of the empire's ship sailing trade, because of the rapid development of their navy and the great need of seamen. Sailing vessels are the only practical schools for deckhands. The government also desires to preserve and promote the small ship-building yards, which are declining.

It is proposed to make an appropriation in Germany of 35.7 cents per day and capita for training men on small sailing vessels. For 2,335 men this would require only \$250,000 for a 10-months' service, and would relieve many a poor skipper, payments being \$107 to \$214 per small vessel.

An extension to the larger sailing craft would require \$1,067,240 per annum, increase the fleet of German sailing vessels, which would be manned annually 2,000 young men entrance to the mariner's career.

TO TWIST A BILL IN TWO.

Would Require More Strength Than Lies in the Average Man's Fingers.

"The paper that is used by the government in its currency is manufactured by a secret process and has characteristics with which the average man is not familiar," says a Minneapolis man.

"Recently I was in a small Minnesota town and witnessed an incident that demonstrates this. A well-to-do farmer living in the vicinity came in to the bank to transact some business. In the course of the conversation the cashier began twisting a \$5 bill. The farmer watched him with interest and finally asked the man back of the counter if he wasn't afraid of tearing the bill.

"Here is an easy way for you to earn money," said the cashier. "Here is a \$1,000 bill and I will give it to you if you will twist the bill in two. You are simply to twist it and not tear it."

"The farmer seemed dumfounded at first. He was overawed at the thought of mutilating a \$1,000 bill. Upon further assurance by the officer of the bank he timidly took the money and started twisting it in the middle. He tugged away for some time without being able to twist the bill in two. Finally he gave up and he was certainly a surprised farmer. It is impossible to twist a bill in two, so firm and elastic is the paper used."

DEADLY QUICKSILVER MINES

Workers Are Effected by the Fumes of the Mercury and Soon Die.

Europe's chief quicksilver mines are at the Spanish town Almaden, which is an Arabic word, meaning "the mine of quicksilver." These mines were formerly worked by the Iberians, and after them by the ancient Romans. Between 1645 and 1843 the Spanish government employed galley slaves in them, for working in these mines is occupation that soon ends in death. The fumes of the mercury produce constant salivation, and the system becomes permeated with the metal. The annual yield of mercury is 1,500,000 pounds, to procure which 4,000 men are engaged in this unhealthy employment.

After Almaden as a producer of quicksilver comes Idria an Austrian town, 28 miles from Trieste. These mines also were once worked by criminals, who, owing to the terrible qualities of the mineral, expired after about two years' service.

There are now nearly 500 miners engaged in the work at Idria. They are induced to enter the mines by high pay. A pension is allowed when they are disabled, and provision is made for their widows and children.

The Idea! A Fargo woman rang up the police station and asked in a voice of anxiety: "Is my husband there? He was drinking a trifle yesterday and he hasn't been seen since. I was afraid that you might have locked him up." "No, he isn't here, I am sorry to say," replied the courteous policeman, and he is still wondering what on earth she got so mad about. —Minneapolis Tribune.

HE DID TOO MUCH WORK.

Old Hand Meets with an Objection That is Startlingly Unique.

"They're overloading the workers on dictionaries as well as in other callings," said a man who for years has been writing definitions. "The younger men are doing the work, and the old fellows, the men of ripe experience, trained in the earlier school of accuracy, are being shoved to the wall.

"I have held down good jobs on several encyclopedias and dictionaries, among the latter being the Century and the Standard. In those offices I was one of the youngest staff workers, with any number of learned gray beards ahead of me. Now, at 54, I am the patriarch of the office, and the staff is made up of young fellows, masters and doctors of arts of sciences, just out of college.

"They like easier hours, and don't believe in crowding too much work into them, either. I am used to a longer and a fuller day.

"The other day the boss came to me and said: 'Mr. Soandso, aren't you doing too much work? You turn in more than any other man in the office.'

"I was dumfounded, but managed to ask if anything wrong had been found in the work itself, for I have always prided myself upon my pains-taking accuracy.

"Well, no," the chief admitted. "I haven't found any error so far, but I fear for the quality of your work when the quantity so far exceeds the requirement. You're doing twice as much as our best workers. It's all right to be sure, but—

COMETS RETIRE TAIL FIRST

Information of Interest Regarding the Movements of the Stellar Swarms.

If you are 45 years old, you can claim to have passed right through the tail of a comet, says an authority. As a matter of fact, twice during last century—namely, in 1819, and 1861—did this earth of our whirl through the tails of comets (one in each of the years named), and so slight was the damage done that no one realized what had happened until some time afterwards.

We have collided with several meteoric swarms without serious result. The collision of 1833 was the most remarkable. The whole sky appeared to be raining stars, thousands of meteorites being visible at once, many of them far brighter than Venus, and leaving long, brilliant trails.

The earth's atmosphere protects us from any real danger from these visitations. Solid bodies rushing at an enormous rate through space are immediately fused and dissipated as gases when they first come in contact with our atmosphere, the friction thus set up resulting in incalculable heat.

About three periodic comets appear every year, as well as a similar number of unexpected comets. Encke's comes most frequently, appearing three years.

A comet's head consists of a swarm of meteors, but its tail is its fascinating part. It is repelled by the sun, for as a comet approaches the sun its tail follows, while it recedes from the sun tail first.

TEMPTATIONS OF A VALET.

Assailed by Inducements to Increase the Size of His Master's Tailor Bill.

"Us valets has our temptations sir," he said, relates the New York Press. "Only yesterday, when I went to pay Mr. Henry's tailor bill, you ought to have heard what the manager said to me.

"He says, says he, handling me a \$5 note: 'Why, he says, this here bill ain't hard big enough for a man of Mr. Henry's position,' he says, 'the truth is that you don't brush your master's clothes hard enough.'

"No," says I. "No," says he. "And now, he says, 'I'll put you up to a wrinkle that'll put \$50 a year in your pocket if you use it right.'

"Then he brought from his office a stick all roughened on the end.

"Scrub this here rough stick," he says, "over the elbows of your master's coat," he says, "and now, and then touch up his 'trousers about the knees a bit. It'll do wonders, used right. It ought to double his annual bill, and, if it does, there's \$50 a year in it for you."

"I took the stick," said the valet, "but I ain't never used it, sir."

Simpleton Museum.

A museum will be one of the features of the opening of the Simpleton fetes in May. It concludes a section devoted to weapons with which murderous crimes have been committed by the Italian workmen during the boring operations. Specimens of rare workmanship, highly tempered daggers, hatchets, hammers, guns and pistols of all kinds, bombs, and an instrument to strangle persons are found in this collection of relics.

Grateful to Signor Marconi. "Here's a wireless message," announced the business manager, "from a man who desires to take our entire 'Help Wanted' department for to-day's issue.

"Where is he?" inquired the managing editor. "On a capsized boat about four miles out in the Atlantic ocean." —Pittsburg Post.

WANTED FURTHER ORDERS.

Color of Mustaches to Be Raised Was the Question of Importance.

Senator Tillman was arranging a political leader of overbearing arbitrary methods, says the Milwaukee Sentinel.

"He goes too far," said the senator. "He is like the militia captain they used to have in Concord.

"This man came to Concord with a war record, and got a captain's appointment in the militia.

"He was a martinet. The first day he review his company he examined every hair on their heads, every button on their coats. It was an ordeal for them.

"On the whole, the captain was pleased with his inspection. One thing dissatisfied him, though. His men all had clean-shaven upper lips. Some had side whiskers, some had mutton chops, some had goatees, some had patriotic chin beards. There was not one who had a mustache.

"The captain complimented his company in a short speech, and concluded by saying:

"Only one thing is lacking to make a crack, martial-looking company of you—mustaches. I want every man Jack of you to raise mustaches."

"At this order the men looked at one another, and a young farmer stepping out from the ranks, saluted and said:

"What color will you have them, sir?"

HE CERTAINLY WAS MEAN.

Made His Brag So Strong He Embarrassed the Credulous Operator.

There is an exceedingly glib young girl working in a Denver branch telegraph office, says the Post of that city. She is new at the business, having telegraphed less than a month. The other day a young man approached her desk and expressed a desire to know how the instruments worked. With a noticeable air of superior knowledge the girl explained in detail. Then she sent a message.

When she had finished the young man handed her a paper bearing something he had written.

"What will it cost to send that message?" he asked.

She looked at it and blushed. It was a reproduction of the message she had just sent. He had copied it from the instruments.

"So you are an operator, too, eh?" she said.

"My dear little girl," replied the youth without cracking a smile, "I am Mr. Morse, the man who invented telegraphy." Then he left.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Number of Pages Printed Increases Largely with the Passing Years.

At the beginning of the last century the printing ordered by congress in the conduct of legislative business was practically all that was required by the government, writes W. S. Rossiter, in Atlantic, Congressional printing, moreover, was limited to bills, reports, claims and journals. No exact comparison, therefore, is possible between that period and our own, since modern conditions bear no resemblance to those of a century ago.

A comparison, however, for different years through the century, of aggregate pages issued, at least roughly illustrates the rapid expansion of official requirement. The total number of printed pages of all classes published by the federal government in 1880 was 4,582; in 1820, 6,518; in 1840, 19,331; in 1860, 42,007; in 1880, 72,171. After 1880 the use of printed matter of all classes increased at a prodigious rate, and, according to the report of the public printer, the total number of pages of all classes of printing in 1900 amounted to 312,834.

English Women Retrograding.

A writer in the Standard of London boldly asserts that the intellectual level of English women has been lowered in the last 50 or 60 years and bases his conclusion on a statement that English women nowadays read only the lighter forms of literature. They read French novels and plays generally. Their grandmothers, he declares, used to read Scott's poems and romances, and they also read history for its own sake. Such girls now would regularly read Freeman, Froude, Carlyle and Stubbs.

New Use for Bunton Plasters.

A smart, up-to-date young woman asked the drug clerk for a box of bunton plasters. It caused one to look with curiosity at her feet. They were straight and slim in the smartest of styles. "That is a new trick," the drug clerk explained when she had taken her unembarrassed way to the street. "A ready-made tie or one of those new low pumps is likely to slip up and down at the heel or bind the ankle, so that it chafes either way. Some lady genius stuck a bunton plaster in the back of her shoe and the trouble was all over." —N. Y. Sun.

Not to Be Taken In So Easily.

He—Can you explain to me the difference between "shall" and "will"? For example, if I say, "Will you marry me?" should you reply, "I shall" or "I will"? She (replied)—I should reply, "I won't." —Sundry Stories.

TERRIBLE WINTER AT SEA.

Disasters to Ships During Past Season Cost Underwriters Millions.

New York.—Although last winter was remarkable for its mildness ashore, conditions on the seven seas have been exactly the reverse, the losses to the underwriters through disasters to ships aggregating several millions during the last four months. Speaking of the losses at sea, A. A. Raven, president of the board of New York Underwriters, said the other day:

"The Atlantic Mutual Insurance company, of which I am president, has had an unprecedentedly large number of losses this last winter, especially during the last two months. I think, however, the English companies have been hit harder than any others, and perhaps the Germans next. There are only a few distinctly American companies, but they've all suffered severely.

"The figures of the underwriters indicate a loss of about \$4,000,000 for the winter of 1907-08. The lumber carriers have been the heaviest losers, and next to them come the coal carriers. One of the veteran steamship men who discussed the stormy times at sea was Capt. Publicover, of the steamship Earl of Aberdeen, who lost his deckload while crossing the bay of Fundy in a gale the first of last month.

"The average landsman," said Capt. Publicover, "has no idea what this winter has been at sea. It's not only the hardships which officers and crews have suffered, but look at the losses of cargo and the damage to hulls and rigging. Why, the whole coast, from the gulf of St. Lawrence to New York, is lined with floating lumber, spars, rigging and wreckage. If the boatsman and jersam from Marblehead to Montauk alone could be gathered up and sold for junk it would make a man rich."

BANDIT WILL TOUR WORLD.

Terror of Hungarian Peasantry in Former Times to Go on Exhibition.

Buda Pesth.—Josi Csanaver, who 25 years ago was the terror and plume of Hungary, has arranged to tour the world under the management of a showman.

His deeds were celebrated in song and a whole romantic folklore was built up around this wild son of the mountains, who never hurt a woman or a poor man, but boldly attacked the castles of the rich and spent his booty in relief of distress.

He was finally caught and condemned to imprisonment for life. Once in prison he behaved with exemplary correctness, and during the 22 years he was in confinement earned the good will and even affection of all with whom he was brought in contact.

It was at the request of a bishop at last that the emperor gave him a free pardon and remitted the rest of his sentence on February 21. He changed his convict's dress for the same robber costume he put off so long ago and entered once again into the life of the world. But he found he could not live on his fame without showing himself and decided on a showman's tour.

GERMAN LINE IS FASTEST.

Average Better Time Than Competing Transatlantic Mail Steamers.

Berlin.—The superior speed of the German transatlantic mail steamers is shown in the official report on mail services between Great Britain and the United States for the year ending June 30, 1905.

The North German Lloyd steamers Kaiser Wilhelm II., Kronprinz Wilhelm and Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse made nine, ten and eleven trips, respectively, by which time the mails between New York and London averaged 149.5, 150.9 and 152.5 hours. The fastest time was 144 hours.

The Deutschland made eight mail deliveries, its average time being 150.6 hours. Its quickest delivery was 147.2 hours. The Cunard line steamers are a day longer. The Campania, which made the best time, averaged 167.4 hours. Its slowest time was 163.4 hours.

The White Star line steamer Oceanic tied the Cunard line's fastest time, but the other White Star steamers are far slower. The Philadelphia was the fastest of the American line, and averaged 177.6 hours.

Wealthiest Negro Farmer.

Cody Bryant enjoys the distinction of being the wealthiest negro farmer in Georgia. Bryant's estate, which he has accumulated without receiving outside aid within the last quarter of a century, is reputed to be worth between \$50,000 and \$100,000. He owns unencumbered nearly 2,000 acres of the finest farming land in middle Georgia, much of it being valued at \$50 an acre. In addition to his extensive land holdings Bryant has large sums invested in various enterprises in his section. Bryant runs about 60 plows on his various farms in Jasper county.

The First Alcohol.

A scientist says that when people were cave-dwellers their diet consisted entirely of roots and fruits and that it is not unnatural to suppose that the food was often stored away, in course of time the fruit fermented, the sugar in it was turned into pure alcohol and the cave-dwellers drank it and got to like it. This was the beginning of the use of alcohol.

IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES

Medicine Man in Africa Has Many Strange Patients Thrust Upon Him.

The visit of a real medicine man is a grand time for the natives of the small villages in the territory near the Congo Free State in Africa. Not only do the natives demand medical aid for themselves, but they are quick to see that what helps them ought to help their domestic animals. The author of "On the Border of Pigmy Land" gives some amusing experiences with patients.

"One day, while dispensing medicine, an unusual shuffling and pushing seemed to be going on in the doorway. I walked round to find out the cause, and saw a cow being pushed by force toward me. The herdman explained that it was very sick with indigestion. In order to get quickly rid of this undesirable patient I mixed up some castor oil with salt, and ordered it to be administered in one hour's time.

"I rather regretted this afterward, for very soon another veterinary case was brought in for treatment. This time it was our faithful Maskat donkey, suffering terribly from the plague of flies that generally appear in the dry season. The poor creature's legs were absolutely raw, and it had almost lost the power of standing.

"After the donkey boy had applied antiseptic washing and ointment I tried to fix on bandages, but donkey's legs were evidently never made the right shape for that. I could not get the bandages to stick. Mr. Fisher suggested suitable, so I set to work on a pair, and when the donkey was put into them he looked most distinguished.

"The people gathered round in numbers to see it, and exclaimed: 'What honor the European gives his animal!' There were several spectators who were not jotted so magnificently, and as I was afraid of giving the impression of extravagant waste I explained to them the necessities of it.

"The donkey did not take kindly to his first pair of trousers. Perhaps they did not fit well, at all events, he kicked them to pieces in two days. A second pair was made on a modified scale, and whether or not the owner had cultivated more civilized instincts it is not easy to affirm, but they remained intact until they were no longer needed and the donkey was able to run about and be up to his usual pranks again."

WISDOM OF THE FATHER.

Advices Son Against Mistake That Is Made by Many Young Men.

The young man who had some home-fetched wisdom and happy in the knowledge that his employer had valuably raised his salary, relates the Detroit Free Press.

"Coming back, dad," said the boy, "I know the work and they can't get along without me.

"My boy," said the father, who knew the world well, "I am proud of your success. I am proud of your independence. I am proud of you. But I know once did. Don't go the way that you are independent.

"This friend I speak of was a valuable man and a better one. If things were a little better enough money to be made his employer for an increase. The employer willingly granted it. The raise came so easy that the man began to think that he was indispensable. He can't get along without me," he said to himself. "Three months later he asked for another raise.

"You're coming pretty strong, aren't you?" said the employer, in surprise. "I raised you only three months ago."

"I know," said the man, "but Jones wants me to work for him. He offers me more money, and if you want me you'll have to boost my pay."

"The employer knew that the man was clever and granted the demand. Two months afterwards the man went back for a third raise.

"You'll have to raise me again," said he. "I am making all this money for you, and if you want me you'll have to give me more. You can't get along without me and I must have the money to stay."

"The employer thought a minute and said:

"On, in that case, of course, you'd have to get along," said the man.

"Then, my friend," said the employer, "we'll just consider you as dead."

"Now, my boy, work hard and make yourself valuable to your employer, but don't get the idea that the world can't get along without you. It can and you may find out to your sorrow that it is very willing to."

Education in Mexico.

A national educational congress is to be held in Mexico this year at the call of the government. It will discuss putting all the schools under federal control. A proposal they are under the control of the various states; in some of which they are poor and in others good. The little state of Jalisco, for instance, is one of the most advanced in the world in its school laws. In addition to compulsory free education the state pays the expenses of university students who peer to attend overseas.

Great Advantage.

Yea! Why is an office on a corner worth so much more than one in the middle of the block? Crismonback—On the corner you have the advantage of seeing creditors coming in more directions.—Yonkers statesman.