

THE CELESTIAL EMPIRE.

Vivid Description of Its Present Condition by a Distinguished Englishman.

Mr. Archibald Little, F. R. C. S., a life-long resident of China, and the author of 'Through the Yangtse,' and many important magazine-articles dealing with a people and a problem which have vastly deepened in international interest during the last decade, and Mrs. Little author of 'Intimate China,' and 'A marriage in China,' are able to throw a flood of light upon the objective life of the East: Indeed, their information is copious and intimate, and their willingness to illuminate the subject so ready and courteous that it would be difficult to compress within a limited space an appreciation of a subject which is now engaging the attention of all the great powers.

Mr. Little has lived for over forty years in China. He speaks the language like a native. He served under the late General Gordon in the Taiping rebellion. He has been at the head of great commercial concerns, and is now on his way to China as the representative of a great syndicate with Lord Rothschild at the head of it, whose object is the development of gold mining in the great Province of Szechuan, which has a population of forty million souls. He thoroughly understands the Chinese temperament. He has entered into their thought. He at once admires and sympathizes with a character which, in some respects, is like the Anglo-Saxon—conservative and yet not stagnant; cautious, but not slothful; not willing, perhaps, to accept modifications and yet susceptible to such if properly directed and inspired.

Mr. Little is clearly of the opinion that the policy of England in China, must be an energetic one if the former is to retain her influence. Mr. Little said so to Mr. Chamberlain and to Lord Curzon before the latter left for India.

"Not to Lord Salisbury," added Mr. Little smilingly; "the latter is quite detached, and forms his own opinions."

"Russia has taken Manchuria, with a population of twenty million people, and at this moment she has an army of Cossacks there, ready to march on Peking, which is quite helpless. Indeed, the Russian troops are within a week's march of Peking, but then they have the railway and would not need to march. The pretense is that the Cossacks are needed to guard the men working on the Railway; in reality Russia is following out a vast design; which aims at nothing less than the subjugation of the whole of Asia. That is her way. The sentiment of the Czar are pacific enough, but he is surrounded by a bad gang. I remember when there was only one Russian in China. He was a spy. After him came others. There are now hundreds of them all over the country. Russia is afraid of England at the present, but she means to fight her when she is able. It may be in Asia, it may be India, in which taxation has been increased owing to the desires of Russia making it necessary for England to keep strong guards on the north west frontier; but it will come. At present Russia is at once poor and corrupt. She cannot borrow any more money in Europe. Neither France nor Germany will lend, and she can get nothing in England, because the Rothschilds are down on the treatment which Russia accords to the Jews. There is nothing at this moment to hinder Russia occupying the whole of China, for the Chinese themselves are perfectly helpless, and England, so long at least as Lord Salisbury is in power, will not go to war. What we want in this matter is the support of the United States. I do not mean the material support, as I told them in New York the other day, when I addressed the Chamber of Commerce, but the moral support of the United States. America does two thirds of the trade with Manchuria in shirtings; she does not yet interfere with us in the finer cotton products. The interests of the United States are at stake. Russia, owing to her poverty and corruption, has no home market, and looks to China, the great remaining market of the world. Lord Salisbury, in connection with the co-called agreement between Russia and England, said he would be glad of the assurance that preferential rates would not obtain with regard to goods entering Manchuria by the Russian railway, but that assurance was never given. It is the object of Russia to establish preferential rates and to keep out the products of every other country."

As to reforms in China from within, Mr. Little mentioned that while he was in London the head of the Chinese legation told him that they would chop the head off the great reformer, Chung Wei Hwan, when they caught him.

"You must understand that this reformer led the best men in the country—the viceroys, the educated men, and obtained the fear of the Emperor. They were not rebels at all. But the Empress Dowager cut their heads off as you know, and she is supreme in the palace, which is four miles square, and supreme in the army of ten thousand men in Peking, which is the only government armed force and which oversees a population which has been disarmed for the last three hundred years."

Mr. and Mrs. Little are stopping at the Windsor Hotel, which they leave tomorrow for Vancouver. Mrs. Little has been interested in the position of Chinese women, and was one of the first to start a society, whose object was to abolish foot binding. This has been most successful—many of the leading officials having given their adhesion to its aims, while Chung Wei Hwan heartily endorsed the idea, and his daughter carried out the reform in her own person and wrote in favor of it. The binding process commences when the girl is five years old. At first the object is to get the toes under the foot; after that the whole front part of the foot, is bent until it almost meets the heel. There must, in fact, only be the space of a silver dollar between the two when the bandaging is complete. The bandaging is carried out once a week. After each bandaging the girl is made to walk across the room—an exquisite agony—to promote circulation, otherwise mortification would at once set in. It does set in, in many cases, and the doctors know that the toes, that the whole foot, not infrequently falls off."

Mrs. Little mentioned the case of a lady who called upon her at Chung Kung, in the west of China, in which Mr. and Mrs. Little are especially interested, and whose foot, by actual measurement, was exactly, from great toe to heel, the length of her thumb.

"But you can never walk upon your feet," Mrs. Little said, incredulously. The little lady stood up and minced across the room, but with great difficulty. The practice of feet binding, has been in existence for a

thousand years. It is thought a point of great elegance to have small feet. The society, however, is doing good work, and the thoughtful Chinese women will compare favorably with that of the women of other countries. They are honest, well conducted and are the advisers of their husbands. They are not so downtrodden as he has been made to appear. No doubt a wealthy man can have as many women in his household as he can afford to buy. He must only have one wife, indeed; but the limit to the concubines will be the limit to his means. At the same time, the concubines cannot be cast aside, as women can in European countries. They must be maintained and their children provided for, and if a man did cast aside one of his concubines, he would be regarded as disgraced man.

"We must not approach the Chinese with narrow views," said Mrs. Little, "and I would say this especially to missionaries, many of whom I know, and who are doing I believe, good work. There must be for missionary work, a full mental equipment, the largest sympathy and a most tolerant spirit. A man may be a good man even if he does not say his prayers as I say mine. I heard one lady missionary say that it was a wickedness to smoke, and said it to my husband, too. Now, it may be stupid to smoke; it may be stupid for me to eat bon-bons; but when you consider that every man and woman, almost, in China, smokes, you can see that that attitude on the part of the missionary was not conducive to success in dealing with the people."

Mr. Little heartily endorsed the work of the Society for the Propagation of Christian and General Knowledge, which circulated valuable literature gratis amongst the people.

Funeral of the Late Judge Palmer.

Fernhill received all that was mortal of the late Judge A. L. Palmer this afternoon the obsequies both at the home, Queen Square, and graveside being particularly impressive. Citizens regardless of class or creed turned out in large numbers to add their silent tribute of respect to that of the community in memory of the able minded and patriotic citizen who after being spared many years to make the professional world the better for his having lived in it, is called away with a long record of earnest toil left behind. The Law Society were among the mourners.

Rev John Read of Centenary church was the officiating clergyman and at the house a select choir rendered several appropriate hymns with especial feeling.

The pallbearers were: His Honor Judge King, Judge McLeod, Mr. H. A. Austin, Dr. R. F. Quigley, Mr. Geo. Gilbert and DeWolfe Spurr Esq.

Following is an incomplete list of the floral tributes placed upon the coffin:—Crescent of cream and white roses, carnations, and ferns—from Mr and Mrs. Philip Palmer.

Large ivy wreath with white ribbon, on which was inscribed the following quotation "One who never turned his back, but marched breast forward \* \* \* Held, we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better," from the Law Society.

Bouquet of harrissi, lilies, roses, etc, and tied with white ribbon from Miss Leslie Bent.

Bouquet of heliotrope, swansonia and ferns and tied with heliotrope ribbon from Mr. Charles Harding.

The Queen As She Is Now.

Rumours are continuously in circulation regarding the health of Queen Victoria, and every now and then the most source or other. In view of these conflicting accounts it is interesting to read from M. A. P. that:

Her majesty was never in all her life better in body and mind than she is at the present moment. Her powers of walking have, it is true, in a great measure failed, but otherwise she is as strong as ever she was. The reports with regard to the state of her eyesight are much exaggerated. At her age it is impossible to expect that the eyes will be as strong as when she was a young woman; but the fact remains that she can not do a great deal of writing or of reading. But no complicated operation is necessary or thought of and even now the Queen writes most of her private and family letters with her own hand. The most remarkable thing about Her Majesty is the wonderful manner in which she has preserved the full freshness and readiness of her mind and her memory. Her intellect is undoubtedly as clear and strong, and her memory is as retentive as it was fifty years ago. Sometimes she

astonishes even those who know her well by the minuteness of her knowledge with regard to any individuality prominent in any department of national life. But what is even more remarkable is Her Majesty's close acquaintance with the movements of the modern world outside those avowed classes. She watches, for instance, with great interest every new departure either in literature or journalism. Mention to her any man or woman of letter and she will immediately prove to you that she knows a great deal not only about their works and tenderness, but about themselves personally, their character, adventures, personalities. There are some people who picture Her Majesty living in seclusion and isolation of spirit, as well as of existence, and either ignorant of all that goes on outside certain small circles or indifferent to them. This is to entirely mistake her character and her conception of her duties. She thinks herself bound to be keenly alive to every thing that goes on; to move with as well as to watch the times; she never thinks of allowing her mind to rust or grow narrow or intolerant or unwilling to accept new ideas. In fact in the highest sense of both terms the Queen is a new woman as well as an old woman.

DIED OF "YELLOW JACK.—Oder W. Armstrong of Musquash was in the city today on his way to Boston where he goes to inter the remains of his brother, Capt. David Armstrong, a former St. John man. Capt. Armstrong who commanded the barque Kamberino, now discharging at Boston contracted an attack of yellow fever on the passage from Santos to the Hub. When he arrived at Boston he was in a critical condition. The ship was at once quarantined and all precautions taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The measures were successful and no other cases are reported. Capt. Armstrong died yesterday. He was 47 years of age and leaves a widow and three children all of whom reside at Musquash. The remains will be interred in Boston as the health regulations will not allow of their being brought to Canada.

BRIDE 17, GROOM 42.—Rural church weddings are ever pretty to witness, the whole some-ness of the atmosphere the abundant foliage bright blue sky and twittering birds combined with all that is quaint and unconventional in the sacred edifice, making such occasions especially delightful, and particularly to those who are wont to gaze upon a city nuptial event within church walls, where the formality and the stuff social aspect robs the knotting of much of its sentiment. The quiet little marrying at the Catholic Chapel, Chapel Grove, yesterday morning was not only interesting as most weddings are interesting but the fact of the bride being but 17 years old and her spouse 42, added not a little to the curiosity of the large congregation. Just before the mass celebrated by Father Feeny the sturdy soil tiller and his little French sweetheart were made man and wife. The couple appeared like parent and child, but cupid never ceases to display his freaky nature. Gowned as the society papers are pleased to term it, in black silk with lavender hat, and white shoes and stockings

the youthful wife elect won the hearts of all by her girlishness and exceptional beauty. The groom stood for a good sample of a New Brunswick husbandman and received his share of the congratulations. Both will live in a cosy little country home and no longer will the factory of Moss Glen with its prosy workaday life hold the fair bit of humanity which our farmer friend now calls wife.

REAL GENUINE BLOOMERS.—The usual pious aspect of a St. John Sabbath, that day when hundreds are engaged in manual labor, and upon which it is unlawful to eat in the local park, was greatly ruffled yesterday when a very American American and his lady friend, perhaps his wife, whirled about the principal streets on a tandem bicycle which strange to say was unmistakably intended for a couple of the dominating sex; not as most tandems are, for a lady and gentleman. However the fair one with the stylish Rough Rider hat and indispensable long quill overcame the obstacle in the make-up of the bicycle by appearing in real genuine bloomers. A tiny skirt about the consistency of what the lady like dressmaker calls a "Spanish flounce" fluttered in the breeze far above these startling garments, or rather garment. Citizens, their wives and children stood aghast on their way to church as the unique wheeling woman pedaled by. Somebody, it is said, tipped the pair not to go near the park.

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**TIME TABLE.**  
Commencing Monday, June 19th, 1899, Trains will run daily, as follows (Sundays excepted)

STATION.	Ex-press	Acco	Ex-press	STATION.	Ex-press	Acco	Ex-press
LOUISBURG	6 00		3 30	SYDNEY	8 40*	3 00	5 10†
CATALONE	6 12		3 42	GRAND LAKE	8 50	3 16	5 22
MIRA	6 20		3 50	OLD TANK SIDING	8 56	3 25	5 27
HOMEVILLE	6 29		3 59	GARDNER	9 00	3 30	5 31
MORIEN	6 45		4 15	DOMINION	9 06	3 41	5 37
MORIEN JUNCTION			4 06	BRIDGEPORT	9 11	3 54	5 42
GLACE BAY	7 00	1 00	4 20	GLACE BAY	9 16	4 00	5 47
BRIDGEPORT	7 05	1 06	4 25	MORIEN JUNCTION	9 26		
DOMINION	7 10	1 25	4 30				6 00
GARDNER	7 15	1 32	4 35				6 25
OLD TANK SIDING	7 19	1 37	4 39				6 34
GRAND LAKE	7 25	1 45	4 45				6 42
SYDNEY	7 40	2 00	5 00				6 54

\*Time for Old Tank and Grand Lake Sidings given for the guidance of employes only.  
\*A. M., †P. M.  
P. L. NAISMITH, Supt.