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## THE CHILD AND THE STARS.

BY J. E. CARPENTER, ESQ.

"They tell me, dear father, each gem in the sky

That sparkles at night is a star;  
But why do they dwell in those regions so high,  
And shed their cold lustre so far?

I know that the sun makes the blossoms to spring,

That it gives to the flow'rets their birth;  
But what are the stars? do they nothing but fling  
Their cold rays of light upon earth?

"My child it is said that yon stars in the sky

Are worlds that are fashioned like this,  
Where the souls of the good and the gentle  
who die,

Assemble together in bliss;  
And the rays that they shed o'er the earth is  
the light

Of His glory whose throne is above,  
That tell us, who dwell in these regions of  
night,

How great is His goodness and love!"

"Then, father, why still press your hand to  
your brow?

Why still are your cheeks pale with care?  
If all that was gentle be dwelling there now,  
Dear mother, I know must be there."

"Thou chidest me well," said the father with  
pain,

"Thy wisdom is greater by far;  
We may mourn for the lost, but we should  
not complain

While we gaze on each beautiful star."

## CONDITION OF LABORERS IN CHINA.

In the Democratic Review for November we find a paper from the late Alexander H. Everett, on the Condition of China, with reference to the Malthusian theory of the influence of a dense Population upon the Rewards of Labor or Rate of Wages. Mr. Everett, whose communication is dated at Macao, April 30, presents some facts respecting the condition of China that are interesting and valuable.

The statements of the population of this empire, which have long been before the public, rest on official enumerations, regularly taken, or corrected, every year. The whole empire is divided for administrative purposes into provinces, and these, again, into departments and smaller districts, the lowest of which are composed of ten families—all, from the province to the decades having their appropriate heads. The head of each district of ten families is required to keep a tablet, upon which is entered the number of the persons in each of the families composing his district, under the two general heads of able-bodied men, or tax-payers, and mouths—or women and children. Once in every year the government of each province collects these tablets and makes a return of the population, founded upon them, to the Board of Revenue or Treasury Department, at Peking. Here they are put in order and employed for the various purposes, such as military service, taxation, &c., for which such a return is wanted. The result is published from time to time, by authority, and thus possesses all the certainty that can well belong to the subject.

Pauther, the celebrated French orientalist, in a work published in 1841, gives in detail a large proportion of the returns of the population in 1812. The total number at that time, according to Pauther, was 361,693,177. This Mr. Everett believes to be a far more carefully made up and consequently more reliable estimate of the population of China, than we have of any other country on the globe except the

United States. The population is supposed to have doubled between 1712 and 1794.—Between 1794 and 1812 it is supposed to have increased 30,000,000. The total population at present Mr. E. estimates in round numbers at 370,000,000. This immense mass is distributed in different degrees of density over a territory, the extent of which has been variously stated. Mr. J. Q. Adams, in his lecture on China, reckons it in round numbers at seven millions of square miles—including, of course, Chinese Tartary. Balbi, perhaps the highest authority, and who, in this case, has the endorsement of Humboldt, states it to be 5,350,000. This would give, for the whole empire, a density of about seventy to the square mile. Much the greater part of the population is however, concentrated in China proper, which includes 1,297,000 square miles, or 830,719,630 English acres. On that territory the population stands to the geographical extent in the ratio 257 to the square mile. This is not higher than the average ratio in the thickly peopled parts of Europe. In some parts of the Netherlands for example, the ratio is 275; in England about 225; in the Grand-duchy of Lucca, 250. In the province of Yoochau, in China proper, the average is as low as 74, which is rather lower than it is in the State of Massachusetts; while in Cae-Lee, the most populous of all and the one which includes Peking, the averages rises to 664. In the province of Kwantung (Canton) it is stated at 264.

Mr. E. shows, conclusively we think, that many of the statements which have formed the basis of opinion in respect to the condition of the Laborers of China are exceedingly loose and inaccurate, and therefore unworthy of confidence; and to these statements and speculations he opposes facts gathered during his residence in the country. We quote from his observations as follows:

The wages usually paid to domestic servants in China are five dollars a month. I am also informed on good authority, and find it stated in a well-written article in the Chinese Repository, now before me, that the wages paid to servants by foreigners here, are about the same with those which they receive from their own countrymen. It appears, from the same authority, that the wages of a labourer in the field or the workshop, are generally one mace a day. Porters, menials, and other mere labourers, get about the same. One mace a day may, therefore, be assumed as the average rate of the reward of mere daily labourers in China. A mace is the tenth part of a tael, and about the seventh part of a Spanish dollar, or from fourteen to fifteen cents.

Persons of the description here mentioned, can be boarded at from a dollar to a dollar and a half a month. Mine are boarded at \$1 50. Their food, as thus provided, is not, as Father Premare describes that of the poor Chinese in general, "a little spoonful of rice," nor their drink the "insipid water in which it was boiled." They have for their \$1 50 the month, as much rice as they can eat three times a day. This is the great staple of food with all classes, from the Emperor downward; In addition to this, they have fish, fowls and pork in abundance; beef and mutton are scarce and dear. They have also an ample supply of vegetables and fruits—such as oranges and bananas. For drink they have tea at discretion at all hours. This is the universal beverage throughout the empire. Mr. Brown, a missionary clergyman, who keeps a school for Chinese boys at Hong Kong, in which there are from twenty to thirty pupils, boards them at the rate of a dollar a month, in the manner described above.

The average cost of rice is about one and a half taels the pearl, (132 lbs.) or a cent a pound; and a pound of rice is as much as a

man can eat in a day. The daily labourer receives, therefore, in his mace, an amount of money equivalent in value to the daily subsistence of fourteen or fifteen men. If he be the head of a family composed of four or five persons, he has at his disposal, after providing for his and their subsistence, the means of subsistence for nine or ten persons, to be employed in providing himself and family with clothes, lodging, books and other necessaries and comforts. These are all to be had at the most moderate rates. "A common labourer," says the authority I just quoted, "can live for \$2 25 a month, including clothes and rent; but \$3 is nearer the average. Cotton clothing costs from \$4 to \$5 a year."

Such are the facts in reference to the condition of the working classes in China. The account of a labourer of the lowest class with the world stands, on an average, nearly as follows:

Annual income at \$5 the month,	\$60
Board, clothes and rent at \$2 25 the month,	27
Surplus to be employed in supporting a family, books, luxuries and savings,	33

The correctness of the statements given is for the most part, within my own knowledge; and where they rest on evidence, the authority is unquestionable. You will judge for yourself how far they are consistent with the theory of "object wretchedness." From a view of these statements, as well as what I see around me, in the actual condition of the people, I should say on the contrary that the working population of China are better fed, better clothed, better lodged, on the whole happier, and even higher in the scale of intellectual and moral culture than perhaps any other on the globe. I doubt whether even in New England, where the money price of labour is so much higher, either the labourer or the small cultivator enjoy so many of the comforts of life as the Chinese. Certainly the half starved and over worked wretches that crowd the factories, mines and work-houses of England, and pass from one to the other of these establishments with every oscillation in the ever varying scale of prices, cannot pretend to an equality with him.

## Amsterdam.

We find the following interesting letter, descriptive of Amsterdam, its manners and customs, in the Daily News:

I again take the liberty of trespassing on your time and patience by writing you from this truly wonderful and interesting city, which is the principal one of Holland. It is situated at the confluence of the river Amstel and the arm of the Zuyder-Zee; its population is about 212,000. The whole city, its houses, canals and sluices are founded upon piles, which gave occasion for a celebrated writer, to say, "that he had reached a city whose inhabitants, like crows, lived on the tops of trees." The houses are generally six stories high, and built of brick, with their gable ends facing the street. In the wealthy part of the city they are very handsome, and far exceed any we have with us. The various canals which intersect the town in all directions, are said to divide it into ninety-five islands, and are traversed by no less than two hundred and ninety bridges; they are generally three or four feet deep, half filled with mud and half with water. Every barge or vessel that passes along, stirs up the mud and leaves its track accompanied by anything else than a pleasant smell. Mud machines I found busy at work, cleaning the mud out, which is sold to the farmers as manure.

One of the first things one will notice after arriving in "Deutchland," are the little mirrors (spions,) projecting in front of the windows of almost every house. They consist of

two pieces of looking glass, placed at an angle of 46 deg. to each other, one reflecting up, and the other down the street. By means of this contrivance a lady may see all that passes in the street, without the trouble of going to the window, to be subject to the 'vulgar gaze.' Another singular thing I'll mention, and that is a kind of hackney coach, called "sleepkoets," which is the body of a coach mounted on a sledge, drawn by one horse; the driver walks along side, holding in his hand a piece of greasy rag, which he contrives to drop under the runners at intervals, to make the coach slip easy. All heavy loads are carried on sleds; instead of grease they use water. Our guide told us that a police regulation restricts the use of wheels for fear lest the rattling of heavy loads over the stones should shake or injure the foundation of buildings.

Holland may be considered in many respects the most wonderful country under the sun, and as far as my experience goes, is certainly unlike any I've ever seen. The laws of nature here seem to be reversed. The sea is much higher than the land, the lowest ground being twenty-four feet below high water, and when the tide is driven high by the wind, is thirty. In no other country does the keel of ships float above the houses, and no where else does the "frog croaking from among bulrushes look down on the swallow on the house top." The immense dykes which are placed along the coast to keep the land from being overflowed, are well worth seeing. Having spent a day in viewing these stupendous works, my opinion may be relied on with some degree of certainty: most of them are planted with trees, and their spreading and interlacing roots assist greatly in binding the earth together. The base is of masonry and protected by vast heaps of stones, (brought from Norway,) and by rows of piles driven in the ground to form a breakwater against the fury of the waves.

The upper part is covered with turf, and at some places to the height of forty feet. The very spot on which we stood gave way in 1717, and 1560 persons were drowned. In no other country I am sure, could such an immense work have been accomplished, but when we consider that eight cents is the amount a labourer receives for a day's work, it will not be strange to realize the fact.

We found the manners and customs of the Dutch to differ widely from any thing we have with us. They have in every district a distinct costume peculiar to itself; in some the ladies wear a gold band across the front of the head, extending down over the temple, and the others have a horse-shoe of silver, in the end of which is a gold machine like the spring of a sofa, projecting in front. The former are called Friesland, and the ornament they wear is decidedly an improvement to their good looks; the latter are called North Holland, and their ornament is decidedly the reverse.

Fuel being very scarce and high, (coal being worth \$1 per 100 lbs.) very little steam is used. Wind is the power they depend on most. Taking a stroll through the streets, yesterday afternoon, and finding ourselves near a large wind-mill, we went in and were very politely shown how the machinery worked, by its owner; from its top we counted ninety-six in and about the city. It might be supposed that the universal flatness and the absence of elevations which other countries are supplied with, would leave this at the mercy of every blast that blows to sweep every thing before it. So far from this being the case, not a breath is allowed to pass without, as it were, paying a toll by turning a wind-mill.

There are only thirty Jewish families resident in Dublin. The Jews' Conversion Society estimate that, within the last twenty-years 16,000 Israelites have embraced the Christian faith.