OVER THE MOUNTAIN.

Like dreary prison walls
The stern grey mountains rise,
Until their topmost crags
Touch the far, gloomy skies.
One steep and narrow path
Winds up the mountain crest,
And from our valley leads
Out to the Golden West.

In that far world unknown,
Over that distant hill
May dwell the loved and lost,
Lost—yet beloved still;
I have a yearning hope,
Half longing and half pain,
That by that mountain pass
They may return again.

See, down the mountain side
The silver vapors creep;
They hide the rocky cliffs,
They hide the craggy steep,
They hide the narrow path
That comes across the hill:—
O foolish longing, cease,
O beating heart, be still!

A. A. PROCTOR.

HISTORICAL VIEW OF ANCIENT CHINA.

Its Political and Social Condition—The Feudal Monarchy in Asia.

Translated from the "Ausland."

In his last report on the new publications of European oriental scholars, Julius Mohl, the permanent Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Paris, notices with high approbation the researches of Mr. T. Plath, of Munich, which have been published in the Memoirs of the Academy of the latter city. Among them must be particularly mentioned his inquiries concerning the condition of Ancient China. A superficial historical knowledge only could make the Chinese the laughing-stock of other nations. Our knowledge of the Chinese was commonly limited to their tails, their buttons, and their ceremonial prescriptions. China became proverbial, on account of the seeming absence of all progress, but we forget that this nation possesses a civilization which dates back thousands of years; that it was everywhere surrounded by savage tribes, and that before the immigration of the Buddhists they were indebted to no foreign nation for any of their intellectual progress, as from their geographical position they were under the necessity of inventing themselves whatever they were in want of. Mr. Plath justly observes that alongside of this Chinese civilization, which is *four thousand years* old, the empires of Persia and of Rome appear rather of a transitory character.

During four thousand years China always remained a monarchy, under two different forms—a feudal monarchy in antiquity, and an absolute monarchy since Tsin-chi Hoang-ti (221 before Christ), the founder of the great wall—consequently since over 2000 years. Before the foundation of this absolute monarchy there were only three dynasties, and it is the social and political condition of China during that period which Mr. Plath has endeavored to describe. He assigns to the Emperor Yao, with whom the authentic history of China begins, the year 2357 B. C., and to the Emperor Yu, the founder of the first dynasty, the year 2205. Ancient China, therefore, fills a period of 2000 years, or just the same lapse of time as New China under the absolute monarchs.

The Chinese migrated somewhere about 3700 to 3000 B. C. from the slopes of the Kunlu to their actual abode. According to ancient accounts they are said not to have numbered more than a hundred families, which formed a rude society, having no knowledge of the use of fire, and dressed in the skins of wild beasts. These statements may be either doubted or accepted; but at the moment when authentic history begins, we find the Chinese to have already constructed canals and cultivated silkworms.

Mr. Plath's opinion, which deserves credit, is that the Chinese spread and expanded, not by means of conquest like the Romans, but rather like the North Americans, who pushed the red man more and more towards the West, with this great difference, that those who were driven in China from their original seats, were not entirely destroyed, but gradually blended and commingled with the invading conquerors. Marriages of emperors with barbarian princesses are mentioned, so that there cannot have existed an aversion against intermarriages, such as existed in ancient India.

Rome was not built up in one day, neither must it be imagined that the Chinese Empire possessed its present extent thousands of years ago. The island of Formosa was incorporated only under the Mandshou dynasty in the year 1683 of our present era. Yunnan in the South-west was conquered by the Mongols in 1255 A. D. Southern China was united with the Empire in 214 B. C., when the great Tyfing Shi-hoang conducted there 500,000 settlers. Old China comprised only the present northern and middle provinces; it had existed a thousand years before it arrived at the Yang-tse-Kiang, and another thousand years passed before it reached the South or China Sea.

At the beginning, the Chinese lived like backwoodsmen. They cleared woods, and dug canals, and drained marshes. By the seducing examples of higher well-being, they attempted to tame their wild neighbors, trusting to the wise principle:—"First to that which is right; submission will follow of itself."

The long duration of the old dynasties must necessarily astonish when compared with the many changes and final extinction of European reigning families. But in China, although monogamy was the prevailing custom, the childless husband was allowed to take a second and third wife. No doubt this caused many inconveniences by giving origin to palace and harem intrigues, and to the uncertainty of succession. This political danger which in Mahommedan countries brought about the frequent changes of dynasties, was to a great extent modified in China by the unlimited and almost divinely respected paternal power. There are in the Chinese history examples of princes who voluntarily gave themselves up to the murderers whom their own father had hired, in order not to thwart his will. In China the father always exercises the right of a father, although his son may become an emperor, and he himself be a criminal. Respect towards aged persons was always observed, and Mr. Plath lays great stress upon the fact that in the Chinese language there are particular words for distinguishing the older from the younger brother. The Prime Minister for a long time was not called otherwise than the "Old of the Empire."

The relations between the monarch and his people were completely based on the idea of the limited intellect of the subjects. Confucius, an admirer of absolute government, declared:—"The people must receive orders without being given any reasons for them." But alongside of such opinions there were others which insisted upon the respect of public opinion in cases of punishment or the election of functionaries. An intrepid Minister one day declared before the monarch:—"It is more dangerous to shut the mouth of the people than to dam up water, which then overflows and causes damages to man; in the same way, as it is more prudent to enlarge the bed of a river, so it would be better to let the people speak freely." The Emperor, with Heaven and Earth, framed the holy triad. The Chinese recognized in him not only the father of his people, but also their—*mother*. * * * * * *

The annals of ancient China begin with the Emperors Yao and Shun; for, according to Mr. Plath, the older names are to be considered as unhistorical. Yao, the first Emperor, transferred the succession to his throne and the co-regency upon his first Minister and son-in-law, Shun, who had been pointed out to him by the people as the most worthy; he left the crown to his co-regent, Yu, and only with the son of Yu, Ki, the throne became hereditary, and he must be considered as the founder of the first dynasty—the Hia. But we know very little in regard to the first and the second dynasties. It may be regarded as a proof of the high civilization of the Chinese in those days, that the Sse-Kung, or first functionary of the Empire, was designated as Minister of Public Works and Means of Communication, in particular of canals. Emperor Yu, who divided China into nine provinces, constructed great water works two thousand years before Christ! In Shantung there were plantations of mulberry trees, and every province was already classified and properly taxed, according to the quality of the soil and the development of agriculture. How recent, compared with China, does our Northern European civilization appear! Not older than the conquest of Gaul by the Romans, whose disciples its inhabitants became. Should we, then, wonder that the Chinese, whose civilization was several thousands of years older, and which, moreover, originated among themselves, looked down upon whatever was foreign as something rude and unpolished?

Feudal tenures and vassals are mentioned under the first and second dynasty, but their origin is rather obscure. Yu already convoked an assembly of the empire, whose 10,000 princes, probably only petty noblemen, assisted. We We obtain a clearer idea of its organization under the third dynasty of the Tsheu 1122 B. C. At first the number of the fiefs was very large, it is said 1773, and the fiefs were very small; for even the founder of the second dynasty possessed originally but 70 li. Later the number of the fiefs diminished and their extent increased, and in the sixth century B. C. there were only 165. Under the third dynasty the land belonging to the Emperor, or the crown-lands, amounted to 1000 Li, or about 2500 geographical square miles. The Emperor possessed the hundred-fold of the greatest vassels, the highest vassals the double of the medium, and the menium the double of the petty. Thus it seems to have been at the beginning of the Tsheu dynasty, but later all this changed; for China passed through all the inconveniences of the Holy German Empire and the modern Japan.

The Imperial domain was directly administered by the Emperor, but in the feudal tenures he had only the right to appoint a number of the highest functionaries. At first the vassals, although succeeding as heirs of their predecessors, were obliged to solicit the investiture. From time to time they had to present themselves at Court, and the Emperor, on his part, paid visits to their territories. The hierarchy of functionaries was in the good olden times very precisely determined. In the *Tsheu-li* there has been preserved to us what we may call "a State and Court Manual" of ancient China, which fills two large volumes, and of which Mr. Plath gives full extracts. The Imperial functionaries by a strange system were divided into those of Heaven, Earth, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. The Imperial household ministry were called those of Heaven because the Emperor is the son of Heaven; the financial ministry were those of Earth, because taxes are paid in this world; the ministry of public worship were called those of Spring, because the great religious festivals took place at that time of the year; the ministry of war were called those of Summer, because the military exercises were practised at that season of the year; the ministry of justice were called that of Fall, because in autumn the criminal executions were performed; and the ministry of commerce were called that of Winter, because the public works were executed at that season of the year.

It seems that in ancient China the frequentation of school was obligatory, but at present, as in the United States, it is entirely voluntary. It is probable that the higher branches of instruction in ancient aristocratic China were accessible only to the sons of functionaries, and, in general, there existed a separation according to castes. However, this point is not certain. In the times of Meng-tseu, at least, there no longer existed any restriction in regard to the public employments. The payment of the functionaries consisted in the produce of the soil, and the highest officer of a principality received only a tithe, just like the owner of a fief.

Feudal monarchies cannot be of too long duration. They soon assume other forms. In England, France, and Spain, the power of the nobility was broken by the Crown, and out of the feudal monarchy arose absolute monarchy. On the contrary, in Germany the Imperial power decayed, and the vassals became sovereigns. In Japan we observe the same process, and ancient China passed through it also under the Third of the Tsheu dynasty. Six hundred years were necessary to achieve this transition; for it began in 842, or according to others, 781 B. C. and ended in 248 with the Tsheu.

The decay of the Imperial power was not brought about by quarrels as to succession, although sometimes these occurred when no legitimate descendant existed, or when a father gave preference to a younger or a more beloved son. However, the great deference paid to paternal authority, as already observed, protected the Chinese dynasties against the worst consequences of polygamy, and, as a general rule, the son succeeded to the father or brother in the absence of direct male issue.

The decline of Imperial power began when on the one side the Crown domains, which originally were a hundred-fold the size of the largest fiefs, were more and more diminished by reckless donations, and by donations in favor of newly created nobles; and when the different vassals, by conquest or annexation of barbarian territories, increased their power. Under weak Emperors the feudal tenants rarely presented themselves for investiture. Later the more powerful vassals combined their strength, attacked the weaker ones, and took their lands from them. Finally the Emperor conferred upon one of these great feudal barons—who, by the military organization of his under vassals, was enabled to maintain an army of thirty thousand men—the guardian-ship of the empire. And when the territorial independence of the vassals had become a fact, one endeavored to devour the other, and a struggle began for hegemony. In the last period there existed but several particular States, and the question arose which of them would absorb the others. But how China arrived at her unity we do not learn from the present work of Mr. Plath, who is to devote to this interesting point a special labor, which, we hope, will soon be rendered public.

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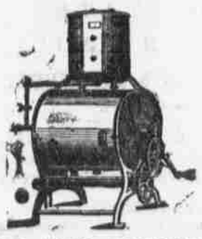

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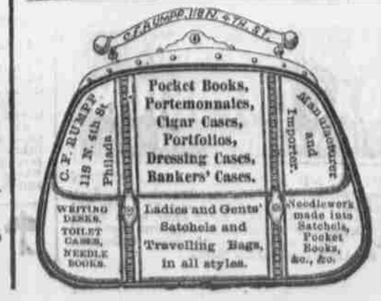

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These proposals must be indorsed "Proposals for Anthracite Coal for Steamers," that they may be distinguished from other business letters.
The offer must be for the delivery of 40,000 tons, of 2240 pounds.
The coal must be of the best Buck Mountain or Black Heath, or of a kind equal to them in all respects, for the purpose intended, which equality will be determined by a Board appointed by the Secretary of the Navy after the reception of the bids.
The name of the coal proposed to be furnished must be stated in the offer.
It is to be delivered in lumps of suitable size for naval steamers, clean, of uniform quality, selected free from impurities, unmixed, of which the contractor will be required to furnish such evidence as will be satisfactory, and be subject to such inspection as to quality and quantity as the Department may direct. The coal must, in all respects, be satisfactory to the inspector or inspectors to be appointed by the Bureau, who will have the right of peremptory rejection.
The coal is to be delivered on board vessels, at such place in the port of Philadelphia as may be designated by the Bureau, and in such quantities and at such times as, in the opinion of the Bureau, the exigencies of the service may require, commencing when the vessel is reported ready to receive cargo; furnishing, if demanded, not less than one thousand tons per day, to be distributed to each vessel, as may be directed, until the loading is completed.
Proposals will be likewise received for the delivery of 12,000 tons of the same quality of coal, to be delivered in the port of New York, on board vessels, as at Philadelphia.
In the case of failure to deliver the coal in proper quantity, of the proper quality, and at the proper time and place, the Bureau will reserve in the contract the right to purchase forthwith, at the contractor's risk and expense, that which may seem necessary to supply the deficiency.
Any demurrage or other charges to which the Navy Department may be subjected from delays in the prompt delivery of the coal by the contractors, will be deducted from their bills.
The price must be for the coal delivered on board vessels, on the terms and conditions above stated, at the contractor's risk and expense, and without extra charge of any kind.
The offer, as required by law, must be accompanied by a written guarantee, signed by one or more responsible persons, to the effect that they undertake that the bidder or bidders will, if his or their bid be accepted enter into obligation, at such time as may be prescribed by the Bureau, with good and sufficient securities, to furnish the supplies proposed.
No proposition will be considered unless accompanied by such guarantee; and the Department reserves the right to reject all the offers, if considered to be to the interest of the service to do so.
Two or more sureties each, in a sum equal to the amount specified to be paid, will be required to sign the contract, and their responsibility will be certified by the Assessor of Internal Revenue of the District.
As additional and collateral security, twenty per cent. will be withheld from the amount of all payments, which reservation is not to be paid except by authority of the Secretary of the Navy, until the contract shall have been in all respects complied with; and the remaining eighty per cent., or other amount that may be due upon each bill, will, when a proper certificate is furnished by the inspector, and the bill approved by the Bureau, be paid by such navy agents as the contractor may name, within ten days after the warrants for the same shall have been passed by the Secretary of the Treasury.
It will be stipulated in the contract that if default be made in the delivery of coal, in the quantity or quality, and at the place and time directed by the Bureau, then and in that case, the contractor and his sureties will forfeit and pay to the United States, as liquidated damages, a sum of money not exceeding twice the contract price, which may be recovered from time to time, according to the act or acts of Congress in that case provided.
Bidders whose proposals shall be accepted, and none other, will be notified, and, as early as practicable, a contract will be transmitted to them, which they will be required to execute within ten days after its receipt at the post office or navy agency named by them.
The form of offer, guarantee, and certificate is herewith given:—

FORM OF OFFER

I (or we), of ——, State of ——, hereby agree to furnish and deliver —— thousand tons of —— anthracite coal for steamers' use, at ——, at the rate of —— per ton of 2240 pounds, amounting to —— dollars, the whole in conformity with the provisions and terms of the advertisement of the 30th day of June, 1866, from the Navy Department, and hereunto appended.
Should my (or our) offer be accepted, I (or we) request to be informed at ——, and that the contract may be forwarded to ——, for signatures and certificates.
(Place.)
(Date.) (Signed) A. B.

FORM OF GUARANTEE.

We, the undersigned residents of ——, in the State of ——, and of ——, in the State of ——, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guarantee that in case the foregoing bid of —— be accepted, —— will, within ten days after the receipt of the contract at ——, execute the same, with good and sufficient sureties for the delivery of the anthracite coal proposed, in compliance with the terms of the advertisement of the 30th of June, 1866, hereto appended, and under which it was made; and in case the said —— shall fail to enter into the contract aforesaid, we guarantee to make good the difference between the offer of the said ——, and that which may be accepted.
Witness. (Signed), C. D.
(Place.) E. F.
(Date.)

FORM OF CERTIFICATE AS TO GUARANTORS

OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR OF INTERNAL REVENUE, FOR THE —— DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF ——.
Be it known, that on this —— day of ——, A. D., 18—, at my office above named, —— —— and ——, the guarantors named in the foregoing guarantee, and known to me as such, severally appeared and made oath that they are worth, respectively, above all indebtedness, the sums set against their several names as follows, viz:—
—— ——, $——.
—— ——, $——.
And I hereby certify that by the books and records in this office it appears that said parties, at the last annual assessment of internal revenue in this revenue district, to wit, on the —— day of ——, A. D., 18—, were assessed upon property and income of the following value, viz., The said —— ——, $——, the said —— ——, $——.
Witness my hand:— G. H., Assessor. (6 29 4t)

PROPOSALS FOR ENGRAVINGS OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS ACCOMPANYING THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS FOR THE YEAR 1866.
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC PRINTING, WASHINGTON, July 6, 1866.
Sealed Proposals will be received at this office until THURSDAY, the 19th day of July, 1866, at 12 o'clock, for furnishing one set of electrotype pages of the Illustrations of Machinery, etc., accompanying the Report of the Commissioner of Patents for the year 1866, with the name and address of the patentee, and the character and date of the patent on each illustration.
The drawings will be furnished on paper to the contractor, who must arrange them into pages in numerical order, as nearly as is consistent with neatness and compactness; and the execution of the work must be fully equal to that furnished for the published report for 1862, which has been adopted as the standard for the present volume. The plates are to be delivered at this office free of cost for transportation, and subject to the approval or rejection of the Superintendent of Public Printing. Bond and approved security will be required for the faithful performance of the contract.
The work will comprise about five thousand illustrations, making over seven hundred pages, measuring 4½ by 8 inches. Bidders are required to propose for the work *by the illustration*, with the understanding that, when more than one *figure* is required to illustrate an invention or design (as is sometimes the case), the whole number of figures will be estimated and paid for as a single illustration.
Awards will be made "to the lowest and best bidder for the interest of the Government, due regard being paid to the execution of the work," under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing, who reserve the right to cause any bidder to furnish a specimen plate of a design to be given him, with proof that it was made in the establishment of that bidder, and that he possesses the necessary facilities for the prompt and proper execution of the work.
Any further information that may be required will be furnished upon application to this office, or to the Commissioner of Patents.
Proposals will be addressed to "The Joint Committee on Printing," Washington, D. C., care of the undersigned, and indorsed on the envelope, "Proposals for Patent Office Report."
JOHN D. DEFREES,
7 9m wf5t Superintendent of the Public Printing.

THREE GENERAL AGENTS WANTED TO act in important locations for the New York Accidental Insurance Company. Active men of good address, apply to FRANK O. ALLEN, Branch Office, No. 418 CHESNUT Street. Apply soon. 2 21

PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO YACHTS OR SAIL BOATS.
ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, Pa., July 9, 1866.
Sealed Proposals, in duplicate, will be received at this office until FRIDAY, 12 o'clock M., July 20, 1866, for furnishing the Quartermaster's Department with two (2) Yachts or Sail Boats of from twenty-five (25) to thirty (30) tons.
These boats to be in good condition and ready for immediate use.
Bidders will state price in writing and figures.
Each bid must be guaranteed by two responsible persons, whose signature must be appended to the guarantee, and certified to as being good and sufficient security for the amount involved, by the United States District Judge, Attorney or Collector, or other public officer, otherwise the bid will not be considered.
The right is reserved to reject all bids not deemed of interest to the Government.
By order of
Brevet Brig.-Gen. GEORGE H. CROSMAN,
Assistant Quartermaster-Gen. U. S. Army.
HENRY BOWMAN,
7 9 10t Captain and Assistant Quartermaster.

PROPOSALS FOR STATIONERY.
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION, NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, June 15, 1866.
Sealed Proposals will be received at this Bureau, until 12 M., on SATURDAY, the 14th of July, proximo, for the supply of Commanders' and Navigators' Stationery at the Navy Yard, New York, for use on board vessels of the United States Navy.
Printed schedules, giving a list of the names and quantities of the articles required will be furnished on application either to the Bureau directly or to the Navigation Office, Navy Yard, New York, where samples may be seen.
No proposal will be entertained unless accompanied by evidence that the bidder is a recognized dealer in the articles to be supplied, nor unless the proposals are complete for all the articles, in kind and quality, as stated on the schedule, with the amounts properly extended and footed; and the Bureau reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids which it shall not be for the interest of the Government to accept.
Every oder must be accompanied by a written guarantee of ability to perform a contract; and sureties in the full amount will be required to sign the contract.
Proposals will be endorsed "Proposals for Stationery," and addressed to the Chief of the Bureau.
THORNTON A. JENKINS,
6 18mf8t Chief of Bureau of Navigation.

GOVERNMENT SALES.

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, No. 1139 GIRARD Street.
PHILADELPHIA, Pa., July 7, 1866.
Will be sold at Public Auction, on account of the United States, on the grounds at TWENTIETH and MORRIS Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.,
On SATURDAY,
July 14, 1866, sale commencing at 10 o'clock A. M., precisely, the Building, etc., heretofore known as the
TURNER'S LANE HOSPITAL, viz.:

9 Frame Buildings,	316 feet of ¾-inch Gas-Pipe,
1 Cooking Range,	211 feet of ½-inch Gas-Pipe,
2 Iron Cauldrons,	505 feet of ¾-inch Gas-Pipe,
3 Iron Stoves,	343 feet of ½-inch Gas-Pipe,
8 Iron Bath-Tubs,	341 feet of Galvanized Iron Water-Pipe,
1 Upright Boiler,	411 feet of Lead Pipe (assorted),
1 Hopper,	47 Gas Pendants,
2 Iron Force and Lift Pumps,	32 Pendant Arms and Burners,
1 Iron Sinks,	18 Body-Cocks,
1 Iron Wash Stand,	4 Brackets,
5 Wooden Wash-Sinks,	11 Pillar-Cocks,
2 Hydrants,	21 Stop-Cocks,
2 Water-Tanks (1850 gallons each),	31 Blob-Cocks,
2 Wooden Dressers, Counters, Shelving, Drawers, etc.,	3 Hose-Cocks,
239 feet of 1¼-inch Gas-Pipe,	11,200 Bricks in Chimneys, ranges, etc.
171 feet of 1½-inch Gas-Pipe,	
166 feet of 1-inch Gas-Pipe,	

The Frame Buildings contain about 34,590 feet of Hemlock Scantling, 17,250 feet of Flooring and Tongued boards, 66,000 feet Rough Boards.
The Buildings will be sold separately.
Terms of sale—Cash, Government funds.
A deposit of ten (10) per cent. to be paid on every accepted bid, the balance immediately after the sale.
The Iron and Lead Water-pipes to be sold by the foot "more or less," as they lie buried in the ground, to be dug up and the ground filled in by the purchaser, and by superficial measurement amount to 165 feet Gas-pipe (assorted), 524 feet 2-inch Iron Pipe, and 200 feet Lead Water-pipe.
Plans of the Buildings can be obtained, and schedule of Lots seen, upon application at this office.
The Buildings, etc., must be removed within two (2) weeks from the date of sale, and will be at the risk of the purchasers.
The Ridge Avenue Passenger Railway cars pass near the Hospital every five minutes.
By order of
Brev. Brig.-Gen. GEORGE H. CROSMAN,
Assistant Qr. M. General U. S. Army.
GEORGE R. ORME,
7 7 6t Captain and Assistant Quartermaster.

LARGE SALE OF CONDEMNED QUARTERMASTER'S STORES, CLOTHING, ETC.
CHIEF QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, DEPOT OF WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON, D. C., July 9, 1866.
Will be sold at Public Auction, on WEDNESDAY, July 18, 1866, commencing at 10 A. M., at Government Warehouse No. 4 and No. 5, situated on New York avenue, between Eighteenth and Nineteenth streets west, under the direction of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel JAMES M. MOORE, A. Q. M., United States Army,
A LOT OF UNSERVICEABLE CL