THE PRESIDENCY.

Grant and Colfax Ratification Meeting at the Cooper Institute.

The Chicago Ticket and Platform Enthusiastically Endorsed.

A republican mass ratification meeting was held last evening at the Cooper Institute, called together under the auspices of the Grant Campaign Club for the purpose of ratifying the ticket of the party in the coming Presidential campaign and the platform adopted at the Chicago Convention on the 20th instant. The large hall of the building was densely crammed by a most enthusiastic assemblage, unanimous to a man in favor of the ticket nominating General Grant for President and Speaker Schuyler Colfax for Vice President, and for the platform of the party upon which the candidates and the party present themselves before the country.

The platform of the hall was crowded almost up to the very rostrum, a considerable number of ladies occupying front seats. In the body of the hall, also, there was a very fair representation of ladies, who seemed to enjoy most heartily the speeches, the music and the glee songs which interspersed and varied the proceedings.

At the back of the platform, occupying the centre thereof, was a very fine likeness of the republican candidate for the Presidency, General Grant. Over the picture, and extending across the whole body of the hall, were tastefully draped Union flags, with smaller flags and shields in great profusion. Right over the General was the motto.

"I Demand an Unconditional Surrender."
CORINTH—RICHMOND.

On the right was the motto—

"We Propose to Move on the Enemy's Works."
FORT DONELSON—PITTSBURG LANDING—SHILOH.

On the left was another motto, as follows:—

"I will fight it out on this line, if it takes all summer."
CHATTANOOGA—VICKSBURG.

Right over the rostrum was a beautiful gas jet presenting the words:—

GRANT AND COLFAX.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. CHARLES S. SPENCER, the chairman of the Grant Club, who presided on the occasion. He briefly reviewed the action of the club since its formation four years ago, then organized to support the nomination of the Baltimore Convention. To-night they met to ratify the nomination of General Grant for the Presidency and Schuyler Colfax for the Vice Presidency of the United States. With such candidates and with such a platform as had been presented to the country the Union republican party of the country must triumph over its opponents outside its organization and over all recreants and traitors within it. (Cheers.)

A band of music stationed on the right of the platform in the body of the hall then played a national air.

General JOHN COCHRANE, being called upon, made a report of the proceedings of the National Convention at Chicago, where, he said, the name of Grant as the nominee of the republican party for next President of the United States was received with rapturous applause, as was also that of Mr. Colfax, at the final ballot for the Vice Presidency.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were then read, submitted and adopted by acclamation:—

Resolved, That we heartily ratify the nominations of the National Republican Convention at Chicago; that in Ulysses S. Grant we hail the great soldier, unselfish patriot and profound statesman, whose courage and wisdom led the country safely through the perils of the rebellion, and will lead it with equal safety out of all its present dangers; that in Schuyler Colfax we recognize an experienced and upright champion of the people, who is worthy of the entire confidence of every citizen, without regard to sectional considerations or past political relationships.

Resolved, That the reconstruction of the rebel States, on the basis of equal suffrage for all loyal men, will alone give peace and prosperity so long distracted and disturbed, and should be carried forward with energy to a speedy consummation.

Resolved, That we cordially approve the policy of paying the public debt according to the spirit and the letter of the contract, and that in the hands of Grant and Colfax the credit of the nation shall never be impaired.

Resolved, That the rights of naturalized Americans in foreign countries are just as sacred as those of the native born, and that the next administration will sustain and protect the one with the same resolution and fidelity as the other.

Resolved, That, notwithstanding the enthusiastic satisfaction with which the nominations of Grant and Colfax have been received by the people generally, it is indispensable to our success that all those who desire the speedy restoration of harmony and prosperity throughout the country, should unite in one great co-operative effort to secure the triumph of our cause at the polls; that enthusiasm must not be allowed to take the place of earnest work during the campaign, nor must the signal excellence of our candidates and the patriotic soundness of our principles bring that false security which relaxes effort before every available vote is deposited in the ballot box.

Resolved, That we shall find opposing us those men, and only those, who refused to give a dollar or a man to the government in the hour of its extremity, whose last national utterance was that the war for national existence was a failure, and whose long possession of power culminated in the greatest and most wicked rebellion known to the history of civilized man.

The glee club then stood forward and sung a patriotic song, which was loudly applauded by the audience.

Mr. Horace Greeley was the next speaker, who held forth some half hour to the intense amusement of a considerable portion of the more irreverend members of the audience, who had located themselves at the rear and flanks of the main body of the gathering.

Music by the band followed.

The CHAIRMAN then announced that he had received a message stating that General Sickles had just arrived at his hotel and would be present at the meeting almost immediately. (Applause.) The Chairman then introduced the next speaker, CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW. He said that seldom was so great a ticket presented to the suffrages of the people. The noblest captain of the age headed that ticket. For the first time in seven years the banner of South Carolina, wrapped in the Union flag, faces an audience in the Cooper Institute. (Cheers.) True nationality only existed in the equality of all men, without regard to race or color. (Cheers and hisses, and cries of "Put out the geese; we want to convict such men." Laughter.) The day will come when those who hiss will be ashamed that they were ever afraid they would be surpassed by the negro. (Cries of "Hit him again.") I will not hit him again, because he has no friends. (Great laughter.) The national republican party say we owe that allegiance to governments. Dynasties shall be changed by the will and wish of the man, and when naturalized under the flag the nation shall protect him and the guns of the republic shall rescue him if his life is in peril. (Applause.) U. S. Grant was nominated for months before the Chicago Convention had met, and they had only to inscribe his name on their banner. (Applause.) When he was nominated there arose applause which will bear the banner of the republic triumphant over all the enemies of the people. The challenge thrown out is "match him." That challenge is borne over the country, and it shouts in the ears of Tammany "match him." To-day Grant stands matchless among the sons of men. The greatest captain of the day, he is the greatest orator also; he sums up Donelson in the few words, "We propose to move on the enemy's works." At Vicksburg he confines himself to the words "unconditional surrender." He meets the reverses of the Wilderness by the order, "Onward along the entire line." He gives to Sheridan in the valley that most concise and laconic order, "Go in." At Appomattox Court House he proves himself a statesman by extending the forgiving hand of a soldier to a fallen foe. (Applause.) "Match him!" No, fellow citizens, you cannot match him. (Applause.) Over the Convention that will meet here on the 4th of July Horatio Seymour will preside, and he will speak with never a hope, with never an encouragement, with never a patriotic word, but with doubt, with distrust, with calumny and with fear, he will prophesy anarchy, rebellion, revolution, with bankruptcy, and with ruin; but the wires that will bear abroad this false prophet's warnings of evil will also bear with it responses from village, from hamlet and city, the gatherings of the people to celebrate the nation's birthday, with the assurance that in spite of him (Seymour) and such as he—through Grant and Colfax and the national republican Union—the republican party will live forever. All this time Johnson has stood in the way of peace, of reconstruction and of union. The records of General Grant are the triumphant pages of American history and of a redeemed republic. The republican party desiring to complete the glorious work—to restore, reunite and regenerate the republic—asks of you, through Grant and Colfax, its candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, the privilege of completing the great work it has begun. (Cheering and applause.)

Music by the band, followed by singing by the Union Glee Club, "While we were putting down rebellion."

The CHAIRMAN then announced the next speaker—

Captain JACK JACKMAN, of California, a delegate to the Chicago Convention, who spoke but a few words and closed with the assurance that California would roll up a majority of some 15,000 for Grant and Colfax.

Music by the band.

The next speaker was

L. H. CHANDLER, of Virginia, also a delegate at the Chicago Convention, who addressed the meeting at considerable length and with great effect, eliciting hearty applause throughout his remarks.

Major JAMES HAGGERTY, who was frequently and loudly called for, was the next speaker. He reviewed the action of the party during the last eight years that it had been in the ascendancy, spoke of the benefits it had conferred upon the country, upon the American name and upon humanity by the victories it had achieved, the clemency it had evinced to a defeated and traitorous foe and in the abolition of slavery throughout the land. (Applause.)

A letter was then read from Governor Hawley, of Connecticut, Chairman of the Chicago Convention, regretting that severe indisposition prevented him from being present at the meeting.

It was also announced by the Chairman that a deputation who had gone to escort General Sickles from his hotel to the meeting had returned and reported that General Sickles, who was most anxious to be present and to address them, had, after a long journey, and late fatigues, been suddenly incapacitated from attending.

The Glee Club then sung another song and the great Grant and Colfax ratification meeting dispersed.

Grant Ratification Meeting in Nashville.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 27, 1868.

An enthusiastic Grant ratification meeting was held at the Capitol to-night. The ablest speaker was Langston, the Ohio colored orator.

THE CHINESE EMBASSY.

Their Movements Yesterday—Mr. Burlingame is Breakfasted—Visit of the Ministers Chih and Sun and Their Attaches to the Cooper Institute—The Founder in His Glory—Geographical Society—Chinese Maps, Topographical and General—The Astor Library, its Halls, Alcoves and Chinese Text Books—A Ride Down Broadway and Visit to a Jeweller's Establishment—Diamonds, Pearls, Corals, Silver and Gold, Bronzes and Delight—Homeward and Rice with Chopsticks.

Our friends of the Chinese embassy were abroad yesterday, gorgeously attired in the rich stuffs which their cunning artists on their clumsy looms weave for princely wear and mandarin dignity. There are many things which a Chinese gentleman—graduate of the Imperial College at Pekin, with a red button on his hat and a horizontal branch of peacock feathers attached thereto, with flowing garments hanging from his shoulders—loves, and chiefest of the many are sunshine, ease, magnificence and a good dinner. Yesterday was glorious. The sun shone resplendently. The air was warm, but not unexhilarating, and in the "grand dome of the heavens" a cloud of dire import was nowhere to be seen. Beautiful days are fete days, with bipeds clothed as were never Solomon or the lilies of the field; and *Messieurs les Chinois*, from Pekin's marble halls and saffron flags with sprawling dragons, are no exceptions to the rule. But to begin at the beginning—and we are not of those who plunge *media res* into a subject—we shall here say that not alone are these representatives of the Mantchou dynasty, to the country born, recognized by our citizens. Mr. Anson Burlingame is everywhere regarded with respect and interest by gentlemen of culture, with minds of sufficient breadth and scope to comprehend the magnitude of the relations which, through his instrumentality, may be developed in the political as well as the commercial future of the civilizations and peoples of the Caucasian and Mongolian races in their interchanges of thought and labor. Not only does that respectable body of old fogies who compose the Chamber of Commerce look upon this embassy as one pregnant with results of vast magnitude, but those who are distinguished for their jurisprudence and statesmanlike qualities of mind take our distinguished and world honored countryman by the hand and bid him God speed in his undertaking, which, in its origin and composition, is without precedent in the annals of diplomacy.

MR. BURLINGAME BREAKFASTED.

Yesterday morning, accompanied by his first secretary, Mr. Brown, Hon. Anson Burlingame met at the breakfast table of David Dudley Field a select number of gentlemen, among whom may be named Marshall O. Roberts, Moses Taylor, ex-Mayor Opdyke, Judges Daly and Blatchford, Mr. Vanderpoel, Mr. Stouton, Mr. Cowdery and Mr. Bristed. The breakfast was pleasantly discussed, as were the prospects of China's future as a member of the family of nations—as a Power which was stepping out of its exclusiveness and was girding up its loins preparatory to joining in the march of progress which characterizes the generations of the nineteenth century. Mr. Burlingame enlarged somewhat upon his policy, speaking, however, as a private gentleman entrusted with important powers; and the wisdom of the course he intended to adopt in behalf of China and civilization when officially received by the nations to which he was accredited, was warmly responded to by the gentlemen who were present at Mr. Field's table.

THE COOPER INSTITUTE VISITED.

At half-past one o'clock four carriages, in which were seated Mr. Burlingame and secretaries, mandarins Chih and Sün, and the attachés—interpreters to the mission—drove up to the northern end of the Institute, where, on alighting, they were warmly received by Peter Cooper, on whose genial face were smiles as luminous as ever brightened up the broad, flat features of his Excellency Chih, to whom Peter immediately fastened, taking that brilliant statesman and sage-like ponderer of the "sacred books," under his wing. Tajen Chih, on being informed that the cordial gentleman on whose arm he leant was President of the Citizens' Association and Regulator-General of Municipal Taxes and County Expenditures, immediately put off his joyous look, made a low bow, and then putting his spectacles in closer proximity to his eyes, remarked to himself in the court dialect, "What a great man; am I to be thus honored with the support and acquaintance of a President of the Blood and Regulator of the Taxes! Of course the gentleman from Pekin could not but follow the embodiment of the Citizens' Association from cellar to roof of the building he has dedicated to politics, the American Institute, the Farmers' Club and the one hundred and one other contrivances which "diversify" knowledge within its walls. Peter, with Mandarin Chih upon his left arm, walked through the long corridor southward, and on passing the door where the philosopher H. G. occasionally holds forth on the best manner of raising turnips and making manure, the President of the C. A. reverently removed his white hat with the hand attached to the disengaged arm and solemnly said, as he stretched it forth, slowly and majestically, to his companion of the imperial court of Pekin, "That is the room where the farmers of this city meet!"

Poor *tajen* Chih, comprehending not one word of this comprehensive remark of President P. C., of the Citizens' Association, but supposing it was some place sacred to the Americanee gods, bowed lowly, reverently, deferentially—bowed until his long, stiff, black cue stuck out at an angle of forty-five degrees to the horizon. This simple act of the "great man" proved beyond question that if orthodox in his belief of Joss he was not "hide bound," and he and his followers were prepared to do honor to even Petrus Coopperius' graven image.

From the door of the Farmers' Club the venerable maker of glue conducted his companion, the first Chinese Minister, to the reading room, those following being Messrs. Burlingame, Sun, Brown, Fung-yee, Du Chong, *et hoc genus omne*, where the first object presented to the admiring gaze of the awe-stricken Orients was a large picture known as the "Mechanics of New York," in which the President of the Citizens' Association stood or sat prominently in the foreground. His Excellency Chih immediately discerned the striking likeness between the face on the canvass and that adorning the neck and shoulders of his cicerone, and thereupon the cicerone smiled—benignantly, broadly, lovingly, but not gwei lagerly. When the picture had been discussed in the purest Chinese the gentlemen of the embassy were conducted to the northern end of the hall, where hung, in a frame of magnificent proportions, many square inches of cloth on which some ambitious artist had attempted to portray the very benevolent features, smiles, spectacles, gray hair and dress coat of the great man who wrote letters to the Legislature on the state of the tax market. Of course when Peter in the flesh, with the little finger of his dexter hand pointing toward Peter in the pigments of the ambitious artist, Chih, mandarin and minister; Sun, minister and mandarin, and their followers, the interpreters, all with one accord (except one, and he resorted to his fan) raised their hands and illuminated their faces with smiles and whispered untranslatable words in the court dialect as it is spoken by the refined classes residing within the shadow of the imperial palace, and many complimentary things to the face on the canvass, wherent the ince of the original smiled and looked precisely as that on the cloth smiled and looked, only a little more so, thereby showing the superiority of art over nature.

CHINESE CHARTS AND MAPS.

The venerable Petrus C., with elated heart and buoyant step, in turn conducted the Ministers, Occident and Orient, and their attachés to the rooms of the Geographical Society, where they inspected maps, geographical and topographical, replete with Chinese illustrations in the written language; also maps published in Europe and this country, which seemed to greatly please the company. Mr. Secretary Brown, who is conversant with Chinese, addressed the mandarins in their native tongue in explanation of these, and from what we could glean they seemed to regard the outlines and situations of the chief rivers and mountains on the charts as being correctly placed. Minister Chih ran his fingers over the country through which the Amoor is traced, and while so doing remarked to Mr. Brown that he had visited the region, and the course of the river he regarded as it was thereon indicated. He added that the territory of China had, at no remote period of time, extended far to the north and west of its present boundaries. The secretary then remarked that the name of the Amoor in Mantchou was Santaleen, or lene, and its signification was "black dragon." A topographical plan of the city of Pekin and a map of China, of the year 1690, were presented for inspection. Messieurs the mandarins, proud of their chief town of Chi-li, declared the topographical sketch quite acceptable, while Fung-yee privately informed us, with a shrug that a Parisian would have imitated on the instant had he seen it, that he looked upon the 1690 A. D. affair of not the slightest moment.

From the rooms of the Geographical Society the members of the embassy were conducted to the art galleries, where young ladies are taugh to draw, paint and make images of clay and plaster of Paris. Here the Ministers were greatly edified with the pictures—the fruit pieces particularly, the work of the pupils—which were suspended from the wall in elaborately gilt frames. One piece particularly pleased Chih. It represented a watermelon cut in two and some other vegetables pleasant to the taste. These the venerable mandarin, for the moment forgetting that he P. of the Citizens' Association was at his elbow, spoke of in full Chinese with delight, and informed his followers that even in this far off land those rich vegetable productions, which it had pleased Buddha to plant in their sacred soil, were to be found—clearly demonstrating that even the *hos* Yankee might be regarded as a friend, if not a "man and a brother."

ON THE ROOF.

Many other curious and useful things were presented to the Embassy at the Cooper Institute, and when finally its members were planted on its roof, and could thence look far and near upon the magnificent city at their feet and the great towns beyond the rivers—could even discern Communipaw—their vocabulary failed them. Their silence was expressive. They yesterday saw what but few Gothamites have had the pleasure of looking at from a height, their beautiful island with its magnificent storehouses and stately mansions and two-horse railroad cars. Peter here looked paternally and fraternally at his guests, and was satisfied with the price of glue, the influence excited by the Citizens' Association and the purity of the last Legislature at Albany, notwithstanding the fact that it had passed the tax bill; yea, he was even then and there prepared to forgive the world and embrace Tajen Chih, of the province of Chi-li, China, and call him his friend, if he insisted on it, before all mankind. When Herr Peter Kueper saw all these things he felt he had lived not in vain and that blanc mange and jellies of all flavors were important items in the commerce of luxury.

DOWN BELOW.

From the roof a rapid change of base was made by the large-hearted founder of the institute to the Hades of the building. Flights succeeded flights of steps in the descent. Peter as cicerone to the Embassy eventually landed in the grand hall where the republican pow-wows are held and there dilated largely on the beauties of that particular apartment, informing those who were conversant with the language of Shakspeare, Dr. Johnson and Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., that there were thirty-three hundred seats in the auditorium; and when the place was crammed and jammed several hundreds more of the sovereigns could be comfortably packed away without serious danger to the foundations or the corner stone.

The Embassy, satisfied that the Cooper Institute was really a fine affair and its founder a man of sentiment and capacity, ascended to the surface of the earth and gravely at the doorway bowed a farewell to their smiling friend Minister Chih, as he shook his hand, took occasion to remove with a "wiper," doubtless manufactured by some genius in Pekin, a tear from the left corner of his right eye, and then, hastily turning his back upon his friend, hastened to his carriage, where he immediately hid himself behind its cushions; and, *Petrus Copertus*, what become of him? He certainly did not accompany the Embassy to

THE ASTOR LIBRARY.

The literary gentlemen of the party were well pleased on looking at the vast accumulations of books which were piled on the shelves in the alcoves of the north and south halls. Every part of the place was inspected with an intelligent eye, and Fungyee remarked in excellent English that it would be very pleasant to live there, demanding if the gentlemen who were industriously poring over the volumes in their hands were priests or scholars and if they had yet been examined. Before these comprehensive questions could be satisfactorily answered one of the gentlemanly assistants stated that there were Chinese lexicons and text books at hand, and if it would please the visitors he would be most happy to exhibit them. The invitation was accepted by Mr. Brown in behalf of the embassy, who were thereupon conducted to an alcove in the south library, where the treasures were duly inspected. There being but little further of interest to detain the company, the Ministers and their attachés, in the order of their rank, entered their names upon the register in the chirography peculiar to them and retired to their carriages, which rapidly whirled them to the establishment of Tiffany & Co., on Broadway.

DIAMONDS, EMERALDS, PEARLS AND GLITTER.

On entering the store of the firm our friends of the province of Chi-li were for a moment abashed at the wealth, in precious stones and in gold and silver, which flashed upon them.

Chih and Sun, evidently excellent judges of articles of vertu and bijoutry, were really amazed at the exhibition to them of ornaments of valuations which, even in these days of extravagance, seem incredible, and which of course, would not be kept for sale if there was no market for them. A peacock of gold, sprinkled with diamonds; a breastpin and earrings that were worth thousands; a diamond chain for the neck and bosom, understood to be marked at $45,000 in gold; finger rings with stones, that were held at $4,000 and $7,500; emeralds of various values, from $100 to $2,000 and $3,000; coral necklaces of enormous figures, were successively presented for the inspection of the ministers, and when they had tired looking at them—and they spent fully half an hour criticising a coral necklace, which they admitted surpassed anything they had ever beheld, even on gala occasions at the court of their imperial master, on the persons of princes of the highest rank—they were invited to examine the statuettes in bronze on the upper floor. With these they were greatly pleased, remarking that they had never looked upon works so exquisite. One of the gentlemen stated that in China they were acquainted with the art of casting in metals, particularly of copper and zinc and copper and copper and tin, and had reason to be proud of their advances in this respect, but acknowledged that these were far beyond their reach. They were informed that the figures were made in France and had taken prizes at the Exposition. Several statuettes in marble attracted their attention, as also a mechanical toy which represented a canary bird whistling and clocks of Swiss manufacture, which called the hours with the voice of the cuckoo.

It was the intention originally of the gentlemen of the Embassy to have visited other establishments of importance on Broadway, but they remained so much longer than they had anticpated they would at Tiffany's that they concluded, on re-entering their carriages, to drive directly to the Westminster, where they arrived at about five o'clock.

They immediately retired to remove their gorgeous apparel, perform their customary lavations and metaphorically roll up their sleeves for the serious, yet pleasant, business of the day—the discussion of rice, chow-chow, the display of chop sticks and the deglutition of *cha* (*i. e.*, tea) and maccaroni soup when the solids had been duly masticated and deliberately swallowed.

At a late hour last night the Embassy retired for repose like good Buddhists, strong in their impeccability, at rest "with all the world and the rest of mankind." *Vale!*

PARADE OF THE SEVENTH REGIMENT.

The Seventh regiment parades to-day in the new full dress uniform. This is the first occasion since 1861 that this favorite regiment has appeared in holiday attire, and it is expected that this circumstance will contribute to the interest always manifested in its public appearance. The new uniform is the same as that worn before the war, which has not been materially changed or modified since the organization of the regiment half a century ago. In honor of the occasion the band will number one hundred performers beside the thirty drummers in the drum corps, being the largest number of musicians that has ever appeared in the streets of New York in a single body. On account of the failure of the contractor to supply the members with the new white belts it is not probable that the regiment will parade more than five or six hundred men in the ranks.

The roll call of companies is at three o'clock. Regimental line will form in Lafayette place at half-past three o'clock P. M. The regiment will then proceed down Broadway to the City Hall, where it will be reviewed by his Honor Mayor Hoffman, the Common Council and the Board of Supervisors. The review completed, the route of the regiment will be up Broadway to Union square, through Fourteenth street and Irving place to Sixteenth street and through Sixteenth street to the open space on the north side of Union square, which has been selected as the most available place for the review of the regiment, at half-past five P. M., by Hon. Anson Burlingame and the two chief mandarins of the Chinese embassy. The regiment passes through Irving place in order that the inferior officers and attendants of the Chinese embassy may have an opportunity of seeing the regiment from the balcony and windows of the Westminster Hotel. Only eight of the Chinese of the highest rank will accompany Mr. Burlingame and the two mandarins to Union square to the review. After a full review the regiment will be exercised in the manual of arms. The route of the regiment after leaving Union square will be up Fourth avenue to Twenty-third street and Madison avenue to Twenty-sixth sixth street, down Fifth avenue to Fourteenth street and through Fourteenth street and Broadway to the Seventh Regiment armory.

The following correspondence in regard to the parade will explain itself:—

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT N. G. S. N. Y.,
NEW YORK, May 26, 1868.

HON. ANSON BURLINGAME, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for China:—

SIR—I have the honor to respectfully invite you and your associates of the Chinese Embassy to review this regiment on Thursday, May 28, at half-past five o'clock.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
EMMONS CLARK,
Colonel Commanding Seventh regiment N. G. S. N. Y.

WESTMINSTER HOTEL, May 27, 1868.

SIR—I have the honor to state, in reply to your letter of yesterday's date, that it gives myself and my associates great pleasure to accept your courteous invitation to review your distinguished corps, the Seventh New York regiment, to-morrow (Thursday) afternoon, at half-past five o'clock.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient, humble servant,
ANSON BURLINGAME.

Col. EMMONS CLARK, Commanding Seventh New York regiment.

CHINA AND THE CHINESE.

Impending Social and Religious Revolution—Official Discountenance of Idolatry—Proselytism and Diplomacy as Agents of Progress—Street Cries and Familiar Things.

A world within a world, not a portion of a world in its relation to the whole, was the position held by three hundred millions of the inhabitants of the world to the remaining seven hundred millions at the beginning of the present century. Fifty years have worked wonders, but not wonders so stupendous as will be wrought by the succeeding fifty or even by the next succeeding twenty-five. In fact, should the social and religious regeneration of the inhabitants of this hitherto middle world proceed in the same ratio for a quarter of a century or little more, the twentieth century will open with the vast East in full fellowship with the great brotherhood of commercial nations. The opening of railroad facilities for transportation from the Pacific slope to New York and the banding of the earth with hoops of electric telegraph are among the causes which are hereafter to operate in this revolution of the East, by making it a part of the great nervous system of commerce and intelligence of which New York must form the practical brain or centre—the great ganglion, a single thrill of which is to be felt and appreciated throughout the utmost borders of the great human economy of the planet.

One of the causes which have operated to produce this great though comparatively silent revolution has been the creation of missions in various parts of the Middle Kingdom, the intimate commingling of missionaries with the natives and the silent proselytism of large numbers of the latter. The great difficulty in the way was at first and still is, not the tenacity with which the natives cling to their religion or religions—for there are several systems at present extant—but their tenacious hold of certain popular superstitions. The basis of the religion or religions of the people has been from time immemorial a polytheism similar to the theogonies of Egypt, Greece and Rome. Out of this has been developed a vast upper growth of religious fungi in the form of idolatrous practices and superstitions of the weirdest coloring imaginable, and strangely enough, while the people at large have no very high reverence for the religion itself or for its theories, they are thoroughly imbued with its practices. Idolatry has fostered a false science to that extent that all the common phenomena of nature are habitually attributed to superstitious causes.

The five-clawed dragon, also the emblem of royalty, is as well the giver of rain and the father of storms. A weird, supernatural creation, the dragon never appears in full body to mortals. Sometimes his tail is observed in the rain clouds; sometimes his ponderous two-horned head peeps out from the midst of thunder clouds; sometimes his fierce bellow is heard in the firmament, and then falls the rain in gusts, and sometimes he whips the clouds, his ministers, with lash of lightning; but the monster never exhibits himself totally. His image appears on the royal ensign, and can be appropriated by no other mortal except with profanity—though certain of the Mandarins are permitted the emblem of the four-clawed dragon, the Emperor having the advantage in celestiality by just a single claw. The phœnix, also an Egyptian emblem, is the emblem of the queen, and represents the female principle of Godhood. In this may be traced some resemblance to Egyptian superstition—the emblem being, as Dr. Gustav Seyffarth has abundantly demonstrated, of astronomical origin, and representing the transit of Mercury. It is just worthy of passing note, also, that in both cases the legend is the same, and that the classical idea of the bird phœnix is the same as that of the Eastern nations, and was undoubtedly of Oriental origin. In the Middle Kingdom the phœnix is a marriage emblem, and usually appears upon documents of purpose similar to the marriage certificate.

In the ancestral worship, and especially in fungshuy, as in the countless superstitious observances that enter into the very framework of society, has been presented the principal obstacle to the rapid spread of the religious revolution set on foot by the missionaries of the several denominations. Even as late as 1840 government opposition had not been withdrawn, and the missionaries were compelled to limit their operations to the several factories in which some few natives were employed. In 1842, however, permission was extended to the missionaries to extend their operations, and since then proselytism has been rapid, and in 1844 the number of missionaries actively engaged in this field was thirty-seven, distributed as follows:—

At Hong Kong	13	At Macao	3
At Amoy	7	At Canton	2
At Bangkok	3	At Singapore	1
At Shanghae	2	At Rhio	1
At Ningpo	2	At Malacca	2
Total			37

In 1846 this number had been augmented to forty-three. The regular system pursued embodied the fundamental principles of all lasting proselytism. Besides the dissemination of religious instruction, schools were founded and the sub-structure of the different civilization of the Indo-European races was made an agent for the promulgation of the tenets of theology. Dispensaries were also founded, and the medical system of Europe was for the first time brought into direct comparison with the clumsy and unscientific system of native physicians. By this threefold agency the foundation of the superstructure which is yet to metamorphose the customs, manners and modes of thought common to the natives into consistent parts of a great and national civilization was laid, and through it progress was rendered comparatively easy. For twenty years progress was not rapid, the natives stubbornly resisting the new order of things and clinging with peculiar tenacity to their ancient habits; but since 1865 the work has progressed with wonderful rapidity. The comparative statistics of 1867 and 1868 will serve to illustrate this subject with exceeding lucidness. On date of September 30, 1867, the mission at Ningpo presented the following table:—

Missionaries	30
Stations and out-stations	51
Sacred edifices	22
Temporary edifices to accommodate congregations	54
Native clergymen ordained	4
Communicants	778

Six months after, at the opening of the month of April, 1868, the number of communicants was 900. At the same date five native schoolmasters were engaged in the several schools connected with the mission. The number of native communicants was 130; the number of natives who had been baptized within six months was 169; the number of natives under preparation for baptism was thirteen; the number of natives confirmed within a single week was seventy-nine, and two stations had been added to the list. There is every prospect, in fact, that in the course of the next ten years a native ministry will have been organized throughout the greater part of the empire, with schools under the tuition of native instructors.

In January, 1868, an event occurred which may be interpreted as a premonition of the climax of the religious and social revolution which has been going on for the past twenty years, the Emperor issuing an edict in compliance with a memorial from several high Mandarins, which embodied highly important features. By this edict the rebuilding of temples of idolatry which had fallen into decay was prohibited, as also were any repairs in the case of those slightly damaged. An exception in favor of the temples of Confutsee was made; but by the terms of the document Taouism and Buddhism were effectually blotted from the national calendar, with all their round of superstitious observances. In another province, of which Sooshaw is the capital, a proclamation has also been put forth by the authorities prohibiting the people under penalty from worshipping at the temples or burning incense, candles and silver paper before the idols therein erected. By the terms of the proclamation the offender was threatened with a penalty for any violation of the order, the priests being also visited in a similar manner for permitting it. The reason assigned for this issuance is that the priests have been in the habit of eking out their priestly profits and perquisites by stealing the candles after they have been lighted and selling them, though this has been the case for centuries and cannot have been discovered within the past year or so.

Another proclamation has been lately posted up by the mandarins of Kashung, in the province of Shekiang, forbidding any interference with the missionaries in the pursuit of their purpose of founding schools and mission stations. If carried into effect, as late advices demonstrate that they have been, the result of these imperial edicts and proclamations by the mandarins is obvious enough. They mean that the death *coup* is to be given to idolatry and that the religion propagated by the missionaries, fully tolerated by treaty and countenanced by the high mandarins, is to take its place as the religion of the country. The worship of Confutsee and of ancestors is thus the only thing left to the great mass of the people and the barriers to its progress having been removed by imperial edicts and mandarin proclamations the religious revolution approximates to a climax and will, within half a century, sweep idolatry, with all its weird monsters and weirder superstitions, out of existence. Already the seeds of this revolution, quiet but tremendous in its results, have been sown, and already they have sprung up and are beginning to permeate the framework of society with the leaven of a new and more progressive civilization, of which the present embassy, headed by Mr. Burlingame, is one of the first unequivocal symptoms.

There have been other results, however. Within the past six years, by order of the Emperor and under the countenance of the imperial government, an American geologist has been employed to survey the coalfields of the empire. The result has been a demonstration of the fact that these Eastern coalfields are of great extent and among the most valuable in the world—a fact which adds materially to the admitted resources of the country and to its possible commercial importance. During the same period also Wheaton's "Treatise on International Law" has been translated by Mr. Martin, an American missionary, and has been adopted as a national text book in the native colleges. The first grant of a submarine telegraph ever made by the Emperor has been made to Mr. Burlingame since his residence in Pekin, and connects the treaty ports from Canton to Tien-tsin. By the agency of this telegraph the trade of the empire has been increased from $82,000,000 to $300,000,000 within the past four years. Another result—a symptom of the great progress which this gradual revolution has made in the imperial dominions—was the creation of a university for the cultivation of the sciences in the west in 1866, when, under the special patronage of the Emperor, a commission was sent to Europe to gather materials and collect information relative to the organization of the great European universities. Last of all comes the Burlingame mission to the treaty Powers of the West, which fitly caps the climax and really marks an era in Eastern civilization. This revolution, religious, social, commercial and diplomatic, has been so slow of motion that few except its most immediate observers are able to trace any successive steps in its progress. It has been a revolution, however, and, though comparatively noiseless in its operations, has wrought upon a more gigantic scale than any ever recorded in history. In 1807 the first missionary entered the Celestial dominions and settled at Canton; in 1813 another followed, and so on year after year until there were some seventy-five within its limits. Among the principal cities the distribution of these has been as follows:—

Canton	3	Penang	2
Shanghae	2	Amoy	10
Hong Kong	15	Ningpo	3
Macao	6		

The distribution elsewhere has accorded pretty nearly with these figures, though many of the missionaries were at first itinerants and had as many as a dozen stations to take care of.

To recur, however, to another subject, of less importance though of more curious interest. The subjoined collection of street cries has been made by a resident in Hankow and a person of more minute observation than the general class, and, as they cannot be found in the hackneyed books of travel, will be new to all readers. They are all cries of pedlers and workmen, somewhat similar to itinerant scissor grinders and menders of windows who perambulate this metropolis of the New World:—

P'o hai hwan t'aung is called out by men carrying two large baskets, out of one of which they deliver sweetmeats for old shoes, put into the other.

P'o san hwan c'shean is the cry of those who collect broken umbrellas.

Hwan wan is called by sellers of crockery for old clothes, &c.

Poo wan is the call of those patient menders of broken dishes and bowls.

P'o toong lan sheeh hwan s'hean, is cried by buyers of old copper and broken pewter.

P'o lan sow se hwan c'hean is called out by collectors of old head ornaments.

Mo shean tsz' tsan taw is the cry of scissor grinders and knife-setters. Their knives, having very little steel, are sharpened by scraping with a hard bar of iron.

Poo-san, means to mend umbrellas.

Quai-tsz', quai-to, saw-shee, sai-tsz', shwah-tsow, are chopsticks, rests for ditto, strainers, sieves and small brushes, all used in the cooking of rice and cried by one person.

Ta-hoong t'ow sen, peh tsz'-hwa, is only heard at the passing of the year. These red cords and cypress boughs, ornamented with flowers, are used in the worship of the cookery-god, and other deities worshipped at this time.

Tien fung-tean-lah-tai are the clay candlesticks which are set, with lighted tapers, at the doorway of every dwelling in the empire, at the moment of the break of New Year's Day, and used to propitiate heaven and other auspicious influences. It is thought that by thus worshipping the gods at the first occasion of passing over the threshold of the family dwelling for the new year all favorable influences may be hoped to attend every future occasion of exit.

Tsaw-mee sa is another cry at the end of the year. The crier sells the sand which is used in heating rice, nuts and other things consumed at this period.

These will answer as a happy supplement to the collection of proverbs and curses, besides affording some insight into the particular organization and subdivision of the class of itinerants known as pedlers and supposed to be of Yankee invention.

AMUSEMENTS.

PIKE'S OPERA HOUSE.—"The Poor Strollers"—a drama in three acts, by Mr. Watts Phillips, of the sensation order, but falling far below even the most mediocre of this class of plays in lack of interest and startling situations—was produced for the first time in this city at this establishment last evening to a "beggarly account of empty benches," there being not many more than four hundred persons in the whole house. The piece was nicely mounted, the actors well up in their parts, and for a first performance run exceedingly smooth and with but few hitches; but from some cause or other it failed to elicit from the phlegmatic few who witnessed it any genuine or hearty recognition of applause. It was, in fact, a miserable failure and devoid of almost every essential requisite that generally contributes to make such plays successful, and should be withdrawn from the boards at the earliest possible moment. True, it has its heavy villain who commits a double murder, an exquisite walking gentleman who plays the lover, a strolling actor and dancing girl, and a landlord's clerk, who is sometimes very comical; but notwithstanding these ingredients, it lacks wit, interest and vivaciousness in the dialogue, and is sadly deficient in situation and denouement, and last evening—owing to no fault of the actors—was received by the audience with a very faint effort at approval. The cast could not have been better, embracing such well known names as Messrs. Boniface, Rankin, Hall and Dyott, with Miss Kate Newton and Miss Melville sustaining the leading female parts, each of whom did her best to save this beautiful domestic drama from perdition. The plot of the play is simple, and is but another illustration of virtue triumphant and vice defeated. The scene opens in France, where we first make the acquaintance of the two strollers, Pierre Leroux (Mr. G. C. Boniface) and his daughter Maria (Miss Kate Newton), who is always about to sing or dance and never accomplishes either feat. Pierre Leroux robs a travelling Englishman, Michael Cassedy (Mr. Geo. C. Parkes, of £1,000 and a will, both of which he afterwards sews in the lining of his vest, where his daughter afterwards discovers them, in one of her womanly, inquisitive moods, and has them returned to their rightful owner, Walter Cassedy (Mr. M. C. Daly), who has all along been her lover, and afterwards gains her father's consent to their union. William Lanson (Mr. McKee Rankin), a clerk in the employ of Michael Cassedy