

CHAT WITH GOODNOW.

Consul General at Shanghai Defends Chinese Officials.

SAYS SHENG WAS FRIENDLY TO US.

Famous Chinese Financier Was in Danger of Assassination For His Proforeign Views—Words of Praise For Li Hung Chang—How He Saved Foreigners' Lives.

Enjoying, as he does, an unusually close personal relationship with many of the most prominent men of affairs in the Chinese empire, and being directly and diplomatically associated with them, there is probably no one in the United States today more thoroughly and interestingly acquainted with conditions in the celestial kingdom than Mr. John Goodnow, the American consul general at Shanghai. Mr. Goodnow is not alone well versed in matters of state in China, but he has made a study of the Chinese character and has gained a keen insight into it. He has also had occasion to judge many of the officials, whose views and actions, he declares, have been grossly misrepresented in the dispatches sent to the United States by correspondents.

It will be remembered that during the nervous days when Peking was entirely cut off from the outside world the man who came in for the blackest



CHANG CHIH-TUNG.

of adjectives the world over was Sheng, the imperial director of telegraphs and railways. On the other hand, Consul General Goodnow, who was in communication with that official almost daily, holds him in highest regard. Mr. Goodnow goes further and declares that while Sheng was being bitterly attacked by the foreign press he was actually in danger of being assassinated for the proforeign views he so liberally expressed. Mr. Goodnow has a leave of absence covering 60 days, but expects to return to his post some time before the expiration of that period.

"Despite the reports to the contrary," said Mr. Goodnow the other morning when interviewed on the subject by a reporter of the Washington Star, "there was never any immediate danger of an outbreak in Shanghai. There was, however, a seriously tense feeling existing during the days Peking was a closed chapter. We were 7,000 foreigners, including women and children, in the midst of three-quarters of a million Chinese. The foreigners felt a little uneasy, but did not manifest it in any way. The Chinese, numberless though they were, also had a secret fear of the foreign settlement. Such a feeling sometimes leads to trouble, but nothing came of it in this instance, happily.

"The foreigners drove out among the Chinese daily just as if nothing had happened in the north. My reception the 4th of last July was attended, as usual, by all the Chinese officials, and everything passed off without the slightest embarrassment or annoyance on the part of any one.

"Li Hung Chang came to Shanghai early in August. Those who saw him during his visit to the United States several years ago would be surprised at the feebleness which has overtaken the distinguished old man. He is now about 78 years of age and never walks out without the assistance of two coolies, one on either arm. He still carries the cane given him by Mrs. Grant. It was used by President Grant, and Li takes great care of it. His once tall, erect stature is now stooped, but mentally he is as keen, as astute as ever, and that meant he is one of the most brilliant of minds in the world's affairs today.

"My last visit to Li was a most pleasant one. We had learned in Shanghai that eight English missionaries were imprisoned in Chih-li province, of which Li was viceroy. The Britains were in desperate straits, we were told, and nothing short of the speediest action could save them. The English consul general, it so happened, was not on the best of terms with Li. Li was asked to intercede. I asked Li to telegraph immediately to Chih-li that he would hold the captors of the Englishmen personally responsible with their heads if anything befell the missionaries. Li sent the telegram gladly. The condition of the missionaries was at once relieved and in due time they were sent to Tien-tsin. So my last impression of Li was that he had saved the lives of eight white men.

"This was my last interview with Li, and, by the way, it was the consultation which led to the wild story telegraphed to the United States to the effect that the American government had made a bargain with Li whereby he was to be escorted to Peking with an American guard and warships and afforded all protection. Such a matter was never discussed between us. Diplomatic courtesies prevented my saying anything at the time as to the purport of my visit with the eminent viceroy. So you see how erroneously history is sometimes made."

Speaking of the much maligned Sheng, Mr. Goodnow said:

erned in the welfare of the Chinese empire and who has the most at stake in Sheng Tzjen, the last name or title being pronounced 'Darren'. In Chinese pronunciation the T has a sound nearly like D, and the J has the sound of R. Sheng is the son-in-law of Li Hung Chang and is the viceroy's financial adviser. He is director general of railways and telegraphs, is president of the Chinese Merchants' Steam Navigation company, operating many lines of steamers; owns large cotton mills and, in short, has more to do with the semi-foreign enterprises than any other man in the empire. He represents the great investment of Chinese money in enterprises imported from the west. He is the man upon whom all Chinese business people lean and is sort of an official financial adviser to the entire empire as well as to his distinguished father-in-law.

"Sheng is a man of about 50 years of age, strong in physique and able of brain. He is and has always been particularly friendly toward all Americans and during the trouble of last summer was distinctly pro-American. He was so free in expressing his views to that end that there was constant fear of his assassination by order of the anti-foreign leaders. Some of the papers of the world attacked Sheng most bitterly and accused him of lying and suppressing the dreadful news of wholesale massacre in Peking. It may be true that Sheng did not tell us all he knew, but subsequent events have proved that what information he did give out was correct in almost every detail. He is a man I think very, very highly of.

"Another man of whom I would speak in highest terms is the viceroy of Nanking, Liu Kun-Yi. At the time of the Taiping rebellion Liu was a clerk in a lumber yard in Hankow. In Hunan province, most powerful and warlike province of the time, Liu raised a company for the imperial government and came, through a series of well defined military successes, to be one of the most prominent generals in the army. In China military rank also carries civil rank, so at the close of the rebellion Liu was a civil governor, although he had never held an office before that time. He was governor for about a year. For the last 35 years he has ruled as viceroy. He is now about 80 years old.

"Liu was viceroy at Canton when General Grant visited the city. Liu remembers the general very well indeed. He entertained Nellie Grant at his home and she had an opportunity of observing the domestic conditions of a mandarin's household better than any other American woman perhaps. Liu is a pro-American, indeed, and does not hesitate to express himself as such on all and any occasion. Liu and Sheng are the greatest factors in the friendliness that is felt toward foreigners in China today.

"Chang Chih-Tung, viceroy of Hankow, is another excellent man. He is about 65 years of age and has been viceroy for a long period. He is a prominent reformer and has written many books on Chinese affairs. He is known as one of the greatest living exponents of the doctrines of Confucius. Those men I have mentioned, together with the viceroys of Fu-Kow and Szechuen provinces, held quiet 16 out of 19 provinces in China and prevented the spread of the Boxer movement. They are the men to whom all honor and consideration are due. They took the course not through any special love for the foreigners, but through an enlightened view of the best interests of their country.

"I endeavored to have the correspondents in Shanghai meet these men and talk with them in regard to the crisis at Peking and vicinity. But the newspaper men did not seem anxious to do so. I asked them why it was, and they replied that the people of the United States knew no one in China other than Li Hung Chang, and it was not their place to hunt up a new character to write about and from whom an expression of views would have little weight with their readers. It was because the correspondents did not know the men about whom they finally came to write that so many misrepresentations resulted."

Mr. Goodnow is satisfied that if the course laid down by the United States is followed peace terms may speedily be arranged with justice to all.

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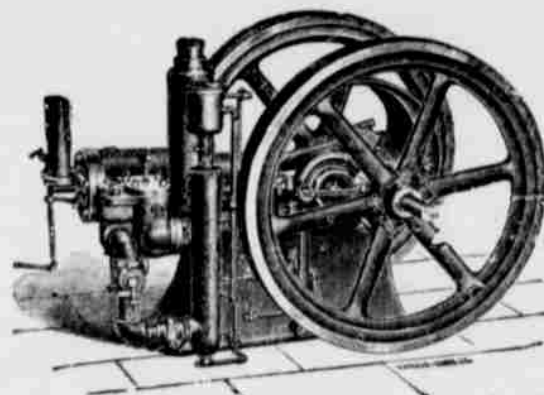
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Waiting For His Term.

"Speaking of drinking as a cause for headaches," said an old practitioner, "reminds me of a trip I took several years ago with a special train full of western physicians going to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association in Philadelphia.

"On such occasions as this, with perhaps 150 physicians congregated in a special train, a good many manufacturers of wines, liquors and carbonated waters are anxious for the opportunity of putting bottled goods on ice, with a representative in charge to see that samples are dispensed at just the right temperature.

"On this particular occasion I remember that one firm dealing in mineral waters made his bid. He recognized that it was not his deal, and he started through the train, beginning at the rear end of the baggage car. With a profound bow to all present he said:

"Good night, gentlemen, good night, but I'll see you in the morning!"

"He went through the train with that, making the bit of the whole trip. My greatest wonder at it, too, has been that it has not been seized upon as an illustrated advertisement for his house."—Chicago Tribune.

His Only Real Pleasure.

"What good does your money do you, Mr. Armour?" a friend once asked P. D. Armour, according to the Washington Star.

"That is a question," Mr. Armour replied, "I often ask myself. I was raised a butcher boy. I learned to love work for work's sake. I must get up early now, as I have done all my life, and when 9 o'clock comes, no matter what's going on at home, I must get to bed. And here I am. Yes; I have large means, as you say, but I can't sleep as much as yonder clerk, I can't sleep as much, and I can hardly wear any more clothes than he. The only real pleasure I can get out of life that yonder clerk with his limited means cannot get is the giving now and then to some deserving fellow without a soul knowing it \$500 or \$1,000, giving him a fresh start upward without making the gift a hurt to him. That's the only real pleasure I get out of life. And as to possessions, the only thing I sometimes feel I really own are my two boys and my good name. Take everything else from me, leave me them, and I would yet be rich. I wouldn't care a snap for the rest. We would soon together make enough to keep the wolf a long way from our door."

Kokomo, Ind., Aug. 10, 1899.

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Dear sir—For the past ten years I was troubled with my stomach. About four years ago was taken down with rheumatism; was not able to do a day's work for three years. All medicine seemed of no benefit to me. A year ago I was advised to take Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. I truly believe I would have died but for this medicine. My rheumatism is entirely gone and my stomach is in a good condition. It has saved my life and I can not recommend it too highly.

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3 bulls.

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