

THESE ARE THE BOXERS WHO HAVE SET THE WHOLE CIVILIZED WORLD TO FIGHTING



ROSS

GIVING HIM POINTERS



THE WORLD'S EYES ARE ON HIM

A Chinese View. By Shan Mun.

OUT of the awful opium war grew the beginning of the Boxers. Before that there had been peace in China. Missionaries of all churches had lived within the walls of the Imperial City and had taught religion and science with the free consent and even assistance of the rulers.

China is so vast a country, so big beyond the comprehension of Americans. The central government is almost unknown to whole provinces. Here the people spend their lives in happy innocence of the troubles that sweep round over the rest of the world, kindled, fanned and borne about by the telegraph, newspapers and steamers.

The society of Boxers was intended originally to induce the people to take up warlike drill, that they might be able to defend themselves.

Flower worship and the study of philosophical poems have been all of the amusements of the Southern Chinese. In the north, there has always been more athletic spirit and devotion to sports, and it is there that the Boxers have their greatest power.

The Cantonese and all of the southern Chinese generally are not members of any of the Triad societies, most of which were organized over a hundred years ago. To America the Chinese look for justice; the Americans are cosmopolitan. They have within their own country the most wonderful school in the world. The people of every race gathered together where all can be compared side by side. It is this opportunity for the proper study of mankind that gives the Americans

BOXER IN FULL REGALIA



AWAITING THE DECISION

PHOTOS BY ALISKY

WHO does not see that henceforth every year European commerce, European activity, although actually gaining greater force, and European connections, although actually becoming more intimate, will nevertheless ultimately sink in importance; while the Pacific Ocean, its shores, its islands and the vast regions beyond, will become the chief theater of events in the world's great hereafter?

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

A FEW months ago few looked at China as anything more than a curious spot on the map. Now it is the center of all the world, and the Boxers are the most wonderful thing in it.

It is the swell thing in China to belong to the Boxers. A good costume and outfit of weapons costs \$50, gold. The Boxers do not box so much, but they drill like this: Eight hours a day, as hard as they can go it.

Their drill with the weapons takes the place of the various exercises which the Turkeys go through or the drills of our cadet corps. In drilling with the big knives they swing and brandish them very much as we do Indian clubs.

With the knives swinging round their heads in everchanging circles, they whirl and dance upon their feet in the same way that an expert fencer does.

Parts of the drill are gone through standing on one leg only, the other held poised high in the air. That is to give them good balance.



EIGHT HOURS A DAY OF THIS

Through it all they give careful attention to the expressions on their faces. At ordinary times it is considered good form to keep the face in immobile repose, not indulging in facial expressions such as frowns and smiles. That is very vulgar from a Chinese point of view.

Boxer drill puts a different face upon them. The command is then like the Italian order, "Faccio ferocce" ("Look fierce").

They do it, too—perfect image for the devil to copy after, sometimes. All those things help. The Chinese say "You cannot win a woman with frowns nor a battle with smiles." The first part we all know is true. Ask some soldier about the other, or perhaps he can tell you about both; soldier boys think of everything.

There are few members of the great Chinese patriotic order here in San Francisco, the Boxers in China being largely in the Manchurian and Tartar regions of the north, while the Chinese in California are nearly all from Canton and vicinity. Among them the reformers have a large following.

While neither of these societies is revolutionary or rebellious, they by no means agree with each other or with the present Government.

That august adjunct to the sun, moon and stars does not believe in doing anything. It is well satisfied with itself, and thinks the majesty of its presence sufficient defense against the assaults of the nations.

The Boxers on the contrary, see that it is necessary to do something to save

the empire, and that the doing must be very presently. Their remedy is to return to the methods which have preserved them already through a geological age or so; to preserve themselves just as they would fruit, by shutting off outside communication and keeping sweet. Old ways are best, they say. They are the conservatives of China.

The radicals are represented by the Po Wong Woey, or society for assisting the Emperor. They are the most progressive and traveled people of China, who foresee that China must fall in line with the procession, build railroads, public works, steamers and have telegraphs and free newspapers. They are led by Kang Yu Wei, who is much favored by the English-speaking people in China.

Who is the head of the great Boxer

READY FOR THE ASSAULT.

movement is a secret that none can guess, but it is supposed to be a certain eunuch who is in great favor in the Palace of the Forbidden City at Peking for many Boxers have been seen drilling beneath its walls. This drill, shown in the pictures, old and young, though it be, is what ten million men are doing in China to-day.

One hundred hundred thousand men—that makes ten million—practicing the Boxer drill. There may not be so many, in the guess of some military men. Perhaps there will be another guess coming.

Those ten million Boxers believe in China for the Chinese. They have kept China for themselves through fifty hundred years. Through the times when Tamerlane, Alexander and Caesar were conquering the world. They are sure that China can be kept together for awhile yet.

There are not enough bullets cast to kill them all, for it takes ever so many pounds of lead to kill a man at long range. Besides a Chinaman is not afraid of death. They always say when threatened: "Aull, you killy me. I no care." And they do not either.

Life with the Chinese is as they say, "Lai tak yi, hui tak yi." "Easy come and easy go." One man dropped out of the 60,000,000 does not leave as much vacancy as the hole caused by pulling a needle out of a mill pond.

The population of China increases so rapidly that their army would be replenished faster than all of the arts of war could deplete it.

The wealth of the nation in ready money is enormous. Their credit is inexhaustible, for they have no national debt.

The wealth of color and the elaborated ornamentation of the costumes worn by Boxers on dress parade is only suggested by the photographs. The material is all of small metal mirrors representing the "eyes" of Buddha which flash in the sun.

Their weapons are numerous as the sticks of a golfer, and like the golfer player, they have an attendant who bears their arms for them.

Their swords and knives are their special pride and are of the greatest interest.



METHOD OF EXECUTION

est. Prominent among them is the curved sword which seems to be common to all Asia, varying from the single arched scimitar of the Turk to the wiggly kris of the Sulu Islander, which seems to have been modeled after a crawling snake.

their broad understanding of foreign affairs and strange conditions. It has been accounted an honor to belong to the organization; in its ranks there are members of most of the best families of China.