

JULY 25, 1900.

The fate of the foreigners in Peking is still shrouded in mystery. Nobody believes though that one is left to tell the shocking tale. Probably the whole will not be known till the allied armies fight their way to Peking, and from all appearances this will require several months. The allied armies last Friday, 7,000 strong, stormed Tien Tsin, a fortified city defended by 20,000 Chinamen armed with modern rifles and ordnance. The allied armies were driven back with the loss of 253 killed and several hundred wounded. The colonel of the Ninth United States infantry and several captains were killed. The Chinese were led by European officers, their artillery was splendidly served, and they fought like devils. The next day the allied armies charged again and drove the Chinese from the city and took possession. Troops to the number of 80,000, including 11,000 Americans, are flying on the wings of the wind to the relief of the force at Tien Tsin. The nations of Europe as well as our own are breathing nothing but threats of vengeance against China and, while war has not been formally declared, a state of war actually exists. The outlook to us seems black and threatening. The Chinese are full of fight and are well armed. They are innumerable as the sands of the seashore. The pacification of their country will be the most tremendous military task ever undertaken—a gigantic task that would make even a Caesar or a Napoleon halt and hesitate.

William McKinley needs only to be brought face to face with a great crisis in order to demonstrate the fatal weakness of his character and of his political methods. The developments in the Orient are fast proving him to be not a statesman, but a slick politician. At present the vital question in Washington is: "Shall an extra session of Congress be called?" The chief executive hesitates as to the course to pursue. The exigencies of the situation are perfectly apparent. The lives of American citizens are being sacrificed in China, and William McKinley hesitates to call Congress in extra session for fear that among other legislation that might be passed would be the anti-trust bill now hanging fire in the Senate. The passage of this bill would alienate the large corporations from the Republican party, and they would no longer contribute to its campaign fund. William McKinley is to-day balancing the lives and honor of the American women subject to Chinese depredations against the contributions of large corporations for campaign purposes, and at the present time the contributions weigh the heavier.

When we entered upon the war with Spain few of our people would have thought at all favorably of a proposition that we try to enforce our sovereignty upon 7,500,000 Asiatics, 7,000 miles away, at a cost to us of \$100,000,000 and uncounted lives annually. To-day few would approve the United States joining in the struggle for bits of Chinese property and risking the clash of arms with European nations that always menaces those engaged in the spoilation of China. But the spirit of imperialism grows fast among the authorities who reap its profits. A president who defends as the plain dictate of destiny and duty that which he but a few weeks earlier described as criminal aggression may speedily find excuse for joining in the raid on China. A president who could ignore the consti-

tution by declaring war on the Filipinos without Congressional act may embolden us with Russia if he thinks there be profit in it. If we are to avoid imperialism and all its inevitable and hateful results, let us strike the evil at its roots—in the McKinley administration to-day.

The Great Wall of China.
Emperor William of Germany declared a few days ago that he "would not rest until the German flag floats from the walls of Peking."

The walls of Peking are, of course, a part of the Great Wall of China. There is a singular impertinence, not to say colossal chock, in this jaunty threat of the war lord of an empire of mushroom growth—not yet thirty years old—and including less than one eighth the population of China, to plant his conquering banner on the greatest military work ever constructed.

The Great Wall of China was built in ten years, and was finished 265 years before the birth of Christ. Twenty-one centuries have had scarcely any effect upon it. It is as enduring as the Pyramids. Equipped with modern artillery and manned with soldiers armed and drilled in the modern manner, it would be as impregnable as the day it was finished.

The projecting masses of stone and brick which form its huge buttresses are alone estimated to contain more material than all the dwelling houses in Great Britain. Careful calculation long ago demonstrated that the Chinese wall contains material more than sufficient to cover the entire circumference of the earth on two of its circles with two walls each six feet high and two feet thick. It is nearly fifteen hundred miles long, and is carried over the highest mountains, the deepest valleys, across wide rivers, and over all manner of natural obstacles. It is a greater wonder than any of the so-called "Seven Wonders of the World." It surpasses not only by its immensity, but by the ingenuity of its engineering devices and its marvellous stability every other effort of human labor.

When we remember that this vast achievement in science and art was accomplished twenty-one centuries ago, we ought to blush for the arrogance of the nations of Europe—mere youngsters by comparison—who talk of the Chinese and assume to deal with them as barbarians and heathen who need to be taught civilization.

At the National Capital.
Regular correspondence.

WASHINGTON, July 23, 1900.—Mr. McKinley is again performing his specialty—the wobbling act. He heard the criticism of the country of his absence from his post and rushed back to Washington, everybody supposed to do something. There has been cabinet meetings and cabinet dinners, but that is all. Nothing has been done that had not been decided upon before Mr. McKinley pulled himself away from the enticing rockers on that Canton porch. Although it is the general opinion in Washington that Congress should be called in extra session to handle the Chinese business, Mr. McKinley and his advisers decided that no extra session should be called until the urgency became more pressing. Because the allied forces in China have won a temporary success, at an awful cost of life, including many Americans, and the Chinese have sent a message saying that the foreign ministers in Peking are alive, which, by the way, isn't believed by anybody outside of members of the administration, Mr. McKinley will wobble a while longer.

The plain truth is that Mr. McKinley is afraid to do anything until he gets a plainer tip on what public sentiment wants this government to do. Men interested in syndicates which have big concessions in China are urging him to send a big army to China so that he can be in a position to prevent the breaking up of the Chinese empire, which would mean the end of their concessions, while Republican politicians are cautioning

him to feel his way carefully, because a mistake will make his defeat for re-election more certain than it now apparently is. He can't get more men in the army without authority from Congress, and he is afraid to take any more men from General MacArthur, who has already been made to send men from the Philippines against his vigorous protest. Consequently unless there is an extra session of Congress the total American force in China will not exceed 12,000, and several thousand of them can not be got there before the 1st of September, no matter how badly they may be needed. Meanwhile, Mr. McKinley has gone back to Canton to wobble at leisure until public opinion shows him what to do.

There are reasons to believe that a decidedly interesting talk took place in the dining room of Secretary Gage's suburban residence, where Mr. McKinley, all the members of the cabinet who are in Washington, and Gen. Leonard Wood, military governor of Cuba, were guests. The subject was Cuba and its probable future relations toward the United States. General Wood is in Washington for the purpose of receiving instructions as to the methods of electing delegates to the proposed Cuban constitutional convention, which it has been hinted in inside administration circles may start the annexation ball to rolling by adopting an annexation resolution or declaring in favor of it. If such is the administration programme, the arrangements for the election of delegates to the convention will be such as to insure a majority of annexationists. General Wood will talk about everything else in Cuba, but as soon as you say annexation he is as mum as a clam.

The Chinese minister in Washington is about as slick as the slickest of his race, and he seems able to make Secretary Hay accept any old story that he chooses to tell him. His latest, which Mr. Hay thought important enough to repeat at a cabinet meeting, is that the reason the foreign ministers in Peking have not communicated with their governments is that they are hid in the houses of Chinese friends and are afraid that any attempt to send messages would put the mob onto their hiding places. The Chinese minister's success in stuffing the members of the administration may encourage him to remain in this country and go into the gold brick business if his government gets knocked out at home. The wires have been kept hot getting word to such Republicans as Representative Hull, of Iowa, chairman of the House Military Committee, who has been publicly advocating the calling of an extra session of Congress, to take the other tack and fall in behind Mr. McKinley in opposition to an extra session.

Communications received by the Chinese minister indicate considerable alarm among the Chinese residents of our large cities. They fear that Americans will try to avenge the murder of Americans in China by massacring them. It is, of course, a groundless fear.

Political Notes.
One complaint against Governor McSweeney is that since he became governor he has appointed certain newspaper men to various positions in his gift. We can not see that he has done anything against public policy or good morals in making these appointments. The newspaper men of South Carolina are the best informed people in the State. If they would expose all the ignorance that comes before them in their business the world would be astonished. There is nothing in the laws or the constitution to prohibit the appointment of editors. The matter is within the discretion of the governor.—Abbeville Medium.

The Fairfax Enterprise, published and edited by Mrs. Virginia D. Young, one of the most talented ladies in the South, in a recent issue referring to the action of Governor McSweeney in refusing to pardon Pons, the bigamist, says that it should "entitle him to the gratitude of women all over the State and country. The punishment for Pons' crime was less than the average inflicted on the negro who steals a hog or runs away with

somebody else's horse. Yet even for such a light sentence the governor's pardoning power was invoked. All honor to Governor McSweeney that he refused the unworthy overtures made to him to let this man go free, who had done what he could to bring shame on an innocent and pure minded daughter of South Carolina."

The Yorkville correspondent of the Greenville News sends that paper the remarkable information that Hon. W. B. deLoach was the only avowed Prohibition candidate for the Legislature in York county, and that he will be, or is as good as, elected. Mr. deLoach may be elected, but it will not be because he is a Prohibitionist, and if he runs as a Prohibitionist he will not poll anything like the vote he would otherwise. The Prohibitionists make a good deal of noise, but there is not in reality such more than a hatful of these visionaries in York county.—Yorkville Yeoman.

New Railroad for Wainsboro.
The State.

Friday afternoon the Secretary of State granted a charter to the Wainsboro and Camden Railroad company, which proposes to build a line from Wainsboro to Camden, at which point connection will be made with the main line of the Seaboard Air Line. The capital stock is not to be less than \$300,000 nor more than \$1,000,000. The directors are to be Thomas K. Elliott, Thos. H. Kitchin, J. E. McDonald and W. R. Elliott. The officers are T. K. Elliott, president; T. H. Kitchin, secretary and treasurer; J. E. McDonald, attorney, and C. S. Dwight, chief engineer. The required amount of the capital stock has been subscribed and paid in. It is said that at an early date steps will be taken for the holding of an election in Wainsboro on the question of that town subscribing \$50,000 to the capital of the new road. It is the purpose of the company to build the new road at the earliest possible moment.

Local Items.

There will be preaching in the Fort Mill Methodist church on next Sunday morning and evening at the usual hours.

A part of the material of which the bridge is to be built across Catawba river by the county has arrived and a force of hands is now employed in moving it to the site of the bridge.

Unless something is done to prevent persons who anticipate boarding southbound passenger trains in this place from running across the tracks near the front of moving trains it is only a matter of time until someone will be struck by a locomotive and either killed or seriously hurt. Should such an accident occur, no blame would attach to the railroad company, for it would be the result of carelessness on the part of the person injured.

Anyone in need of undressed Lumber would find it to their interest to call on T. M. Hughes.

Executrix's Notice.
All persons indebted to the estate of Lewis R. Wilson, deceased, are hereby notified to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and all those who have claims against the estate will present them properly authenticated.
THEODOCIA KISER, Executrix.

A FEW SPECIALTIES.

- Nice line Tooth Brushes, 5 to 20 cts.
- Tooth Powder, nice quality, in any quantity.
- Toilet Soaps, best line in town.
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- Bedbug Poison, guaranteed effect.
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- Carbon Disulphide will destroy weevils and every living germ in wheat. The best time to use it is right after threshing. You have made a nice crop of wheat and we warn you to the proper precaution to save it.

W. B. ARDREY & CO.

P. S. If your chickens have cholera, we can cure it.

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One hundred and fifty pairs of Ladies', Misses', and Childrens' Low-cut Shoes Must be Sold.

These Shoes are worth from \$1 to \$2 a pair, but we now offer them to you at 50 cents, 75 cents, and \$1, or rather we are selling them at about HALF the WHOLESALE COST. Come at once and get choice, as they will not last long.

Everybody can afford to buy a pair at these prices, so lay aside your heavy shoes and buy a pair of Slippers and be comfortable during this hot weather.

Miscellaneous Bargains.

We have just received another lot of WHITE LAWNS, at 7 1-2, 10, and 12 1-2 cents. Also a lot of Ladies' Nice UNDERVESTS. Boy's and Childrens' OVERALLS at 25 cents per pair. Mens' Light SUMMER SUITS from \$1.50 to \$2.

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We look especially after the shipping trade and below quote very close figures. Will be glad to have your orders. Terms cash with order.
Corn, per gallon, in jug (boxed), \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.
All first-class goods at \$1.75 and \$2 VERY OLD.
Ryes from \$1.50 to \$2, \$2.50 and \$3.50 per gallon.
Gins from \$1.50 to \$2, and \$2.50.
Genuine Imported "Pish Gin" at \$3 per gallon.
Apple Brandy, \$2.25 per gallon.
Peach Brandy \$2.50 per gallon.
No charge for jug and box on above, and no charge at these prices for Kegs when wanted in such quantities.
Let us have your orders and oblige.
W. H. HOOVER.

Fresh Meat AND Fresh Ice.

Yes; Ira G. Smythe & Son will keep constantly on hand a supply of Meats and Ice. Comparatively speaking, we have been unavoidably out of the business for two months, but we hope to be able in the future, by close attention to business and fair dealing with our patrons, to furnish them with both Meat and Ice in season, and merit a liberal share of the public patronage.
Orders for Sunday Ice received Saturday, and Ice delivered from 7 to 9 a. m. Sundays. Call on No. 27 any time you need Beef or Ice.

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