

INTERESTING LETTER,

From Lafayette Boy Giving Account of His Trip to Peking With Notes on Chinese Peculiarities.

The following interesting letter from R. W. Mouton on board the U. S. flagship Ohio at Yokohama, Japan, will, we are sure, be read with pleasure:

MY TRIP TO PEKING.

The night of Sept. 10, 1905, was calm and moonlight when a merry party of officers and enlisted men, at 10:30 left the flagship Ohio, which was anchored about fifteen miles off Taku, for a visit to Tientsin and Peking. It was necessary to start at a somewhat unusual hour in order to get over the bar while the tide was high. After three hours steaming we reached Tongku, having passed, on our way up the Pei-ho river, the location of the Chinese forts which were so successfully attacked, taken, and afterwards destroyed by the allied forces, during the Boxer uprising in 1900. Leaving Tongku at about 3 a. m. the 11th we were soon speeding across the level plain at a rate of more than forty miles an hour, arriving in Tientsin in sixty minutes. The railroad seemed in excellent condition and all accommodations were most comfortable. We were informed that the rails over which we traveled were from America; the engine pulling our train, from the Baldwin locomotive works of Philadelphia, the cars from St. Louis, and the bridges along the route from Pittsburg. Tientsin, thirty miles from the mouth of the Pei-ho river, and 86 from Peking, is a city of about a million inhabitants. The foreign settlement is the most up-to-date place in the far east, having clean, well paved and lighted streets, an excellent sewerage system, and buildings, parks and pleasure resorts, which would be a credit to any city of Europe or America. The Germans, British, French, Italians, Russians, Austrians, and Japanese have concessions, and each country seems to be trying to surpass the other in the matter of public and private improvements. There are a number of excellent hotels, the principal one of which, like in Shanghai, bears the name of that erstwhile leading hostelry in New York, the Astor House.

The native portion of Tientsin is now one of the cleanest and best regulated municipalities in the whole of China, having been under international government for some time since the trouble 1900, when it was greatly improved in many respects. For twenty or more years Tientsin was the home of the celebrated Viceroy Li Hung Chang, during which time practically all the foreign policy of China emanated from there. Having a large foreign population it naturally incurred the hatred of the Boxers and was the first object of their attack after they were thoroughly organized. The fierce assault made on Tientsin, its defense made by marines and soldiers and its final relief are now a matter of history, scarcely any evidence of the destruction of those trying days of 1900 now remains, and the whole city, Phoenix like, emerged from ashes grander and greater than ever.

From Tientsin to Peking the country is quite level and in a high state of cultivation. As we proceed to the latter city caravans of camels, heavily loaded with merchandise, were to be seen coming from north and west. The railroad enters Peking through an opening in the wall of the Chinese City, and its terminus is at the gate of the Tartar city not far from the street upon which all the legations are located.

Peking has two grand divisions the Tartar or Northern City and the Chinese or Southern City. Both are surrounded by walls; those of the former being about 50 feet thick at base and forty high, those of the latter are about 25 feet high and 35 thick at base. Nine gates give entrance to the Tartar and seven to the Chinese, each surmounted by a pavilion. The walls are faced with brick, mud and broken stone used for filling, and the top is covered with flagging of sand stone, affording an excellent road for rickshas around the entire city.

The Tartar City consists of three enclosures one within the other, each having its own wall. The innermost, called the "Forbidden City," contains the actual home of the Emperor, the Imperial Palace, with its surrounding buildings, parks and gardens. Until recently foreigners were not allowed to enter this "Holy of Holies," and even now only diplomatic and high

officials are admitted.

In the second, the "Imperial City," are the offices of those who are connected with the administration of the Chinese government: the outer or Tartar City proper, is occupied for the most part by Manchus' shops and dwellings. According to its original design, it was a permanent Tartar encampment, a fortified garrison of bannermen or soldiers surrounding the palace of the conquering Manchu emperor.

With the exception of the Hon Kong and Shanghai banks, and some of the legations and hotels, temples and palaces are the only buildings in Peking of more than one story. It is an ancient belief with the Chinese that good spirits cross space one hundred feet above the ground, and therefore no buildings are raised to this height for fear of obstructing their passage and thereby incurring their ill will, even the pavillions surmounting the City gates, stop at 90 feet and, in consequence, Peking produces a very different effect from a city in any other country.

Whether wide or narrow, dark alleys or main thoroughfares, the streets, with one or two exceptions are so uneven, so filled with huge blocks of stone, and the holes in them so numerous and deep, that travel in them in any kind of conveyance, is dangerous—even on foot it is inconvenient, and frequently hazardous. Heavy, two wheeled springless, covered carts, pulled by mules or ponies, rickshas and sedan chairs offer means of transportation about the city. Rickshas received our patronage as we found them more comfortable than the carts or chairs. One of our most pleasant experiences was viewing Peking from the top of the wall dividing the Tartar City from the Chinese. Looking to the north the low house tops stretched away in the distance, half hidden in foliage, from which, here and there, a pagoda or high roofed temple projected. The chief places to be seen from this elevated position were the great yellow tiled palace in the "Forbidden City", the dwelling of the "Son of Heaven," as the Emperor is called, the drum tower and legation quarter, where, since the siege of 1900 new buildings have been erected. To the south the Chinese City, with its "Beggars Bridge," "Curio" street, lined on both sides with shops in which can be purchased anything under the Chinese sun and off in the distance are the beautiful, azure tiled Temple of Heaven, where the Emperor goes at stated times to pray and the Temple of Agriculture, in the grounds surrounding which he plows a furrow each spring, in honor of the earth and to promote interest in the cultivation of the soil among his people. One of the most imposing structures in Peking is the Catholic cathedral in the northern part of the city. It was in this church that Bishop Favier sheltered three thousand Chinese Christians at the time of the Boxer outbreak and where, with the help of fifty French and Italian marines, one of the most pathetic and desperate resistances of modern times was maintained for almost two months. On Hatamen street, one of the principal thoroughfares of the Tartar City is the magnificent monumental arch erected on the spot where Baron von Ketteler, the German Minister, was murdered, just before the beginning of the siege in 1900. We visited the Confucian temple, celebrated in particular on account of the ten stone drums; which are there preserved. These stones are inscribed with verses which date back several centuries before the Christian era. The Lama Temple formerly a magnificent palace of one of the Royal Princes, was also found to be interesting, it has served as a monastery for more than three thousand Mongol Lamas, with the living Lama at their head.

The two objects which attract most attention here are the tablet whereon is inscribed in four languages the history of Lamism, and the huge statue of Buddah, more than 70 feet in height. I would be delighted to give you a more detailed description of the Chinese capital, but it would require a volume of many pages, and having to refer to my personal diary I would possibly spoil the whole of it, by entering a great many things that would not interest one in a hundred, although the cruise of the now Flagship Ohio, has been a good bit of travel, something over forty-five thousand miles since April 1, 1905. We leave for Japan shortly, the land of the rising sun, where, it is often said by the man o'warman, we enter paradise. Our travels have proven very interesting and instructive.

R. W. MOUTON,
U. S. F. S. Ohio, Yokohama, Japan.

CHINESE NOTES.

When a Chinese man is

dresses in white, he puts his hat on when he bows, and mounts his horse from the off side.

The crest of the Emperor is a five clawed dragon rising from the sea, surrounded by clouds and grasping the sun. This is the symbol of universal dominion.

Any foreigner who wishes to become a naturalized Chinaman must own a graveyard, such ownership is proof of his intention to become a permanent resident.

In China a native gentleman very rarely appears on the street with his wife, and when he does, never walks beside, but follows her, a husband and wife may not ride in the same vehicle.

No matter how formal or prolonged a dinner may be (some have as many as seventy courses) a Chinese host will not allow the plates to be changed from the beginning to the end of the feast. This is not due to untidiness as many think, but to a very old superstition, which expressed in Chinese words means, "Change the plates and the house wife dies."

During the month of February you can plant spinach, mustard, carrots, beets, turnips, rutabaga, lettuce, endive, cabbage, kohlrabi, early cauliflower, parsley and celery. We have these seed fresh in packages and in bulk.—Moss Pharmacy.

Impressions of Mind or the Face.

When an actress wishes to represent a character, she tries to think the thoughts that character would think. If representing some unscrupulous criminal or adventuress, she would not come on the stage filled with the memory of her little child's "good-night" kiss. That memory would make her too humanly beautiful. Yet there are people who will walk about thinking disagreeable and bitter thoughts, while wondering that they, the thinkers, are not liked. The reasons is that the thoughts are making the face unlovable. If one wishes to look pleasant, the thoughts must be pleasant. There is an alternative—acquiring such complete control of the features that they say nothing of the mind. It is a very useful accomplishment.—Exchange.

For Sale.

Grade Jersey cow with young calf.
DR. T. B. HOPKINS.

—AT—

RUGER'S.

A beautiful assortment of
Watches, Chains, Rings, Lockets, Etc.
CARVING SETS AND CUTLERY.
The Celebrated Shumate Razor.
Gold and Silver Headed Umbrellas.

—AT—

RUGER'S.

P. KRAUSS,
WATCHMAKER AND OPTICIAN



DIAMONDS,

Watch Fobs, Chains, Cuff Buttons, Rings, Fancy Clocks, Silverware and Jewelry of all kinds
A Full Stock of Fine
FOUNTAIN PENS.
REPAIR WORK
Done Promptly and Guaranteed.

WE SUPPLY YOUR WANTS

In a prompt and satisfactory manner as you will find if you give us your business. We make a specialty of

Fresh First-Class Groceries

We also carry a nice stock of Plain Crockery, the kind to use daily. Our Prices are always right.

MORGAN & DEBAILLON.

SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE,
LAFAYETTE, LA.

A Manual Training School
for the Youth of Both Sexes.

TUITION FREE.

Apply for catalogue to Jesse W. S. Lillibrige, Secretary.

T. JAY LACY & CO.,
Eureka Nursery,
Lafayette, Louisiana.
WE NOW OFFER
Fruit Trees for the Gulf States that Will
Produce Fruit and ORNAMENTAL SHRUBBERY.

MOUTON BROS.
General - Merchandise
—OUR AIM—
Best Goods at Lowest Prices, Consistent With Quality

Illinois Central
CHICAGO St. LOUIS
LOUISVILLE CINCINNATI



And All Points North and East.

The Illinois Central is the only line from New Orleans maintaining two daily, up-to-date fast through trains to Chicago, Cincinnati St. Louis and Louisville, with direct connections for points north and east.

REMEMBER—that Southern Pacific trains run into the same station as the Illinois Central in New Orleans. You avoid the long and disagreeable bus transfers and make sure connections.

See that your tickets read via the I. C. Apply to Ticket Agent for through tickets, or address

N. D. FINCH, T. P. A., Houston, Texas.



THE QUICKEST WAY

and the ONLY LINE with

THROUGH TRAINS,

Dining and Sleeping Cars, both Standard and Tourist.

New Orleans **CALIFORNIA** and Intermediate Points.

Tickets on sale Feb. 15 to April 7 inclusive.

THROUGH TOURIST PULLMANS DAILY, excepting TUESDAY.

For further information consult nearest Railroad Ticket Agent, or write to

F. E. BATTURS, General Passenger Agent,
NEW ORLEAN, LA.

J. DAURIAC
Blacksmith and Wheelwright

Shop on Jefferson Street
at Miller's Old Stand
All work guaranteed. Rubber tires
put on Buggy Wheels

MOUNT CARMEL CONVENT,
LAFAYETTE, LA.

Boarding and Day School.
A full course in French and
English. Pupils of every denom-
ination admitted.