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Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., March 15, 1901.

Oddities of Life in China.

All Round Reliance the Native Places in the Walls. A Chinese Martyr—A Nice Point in Tea Drinking. Seasons and Domestic Economy—Ear Rings and Little Boys.

A Pekin letter to the New York Sun says:

China is a strange country full of people with many strange customs. The Chinaman's chief dependence seems to be a wall. Something more than 2,000 years ago the Chinese built the Great Wall on their northern border for the purpose of shutting out their enemies. Since then they have run to walls. Every town or city is surrounded by a wall. The houses of the officials within the towns or cities are walled. The first thing a Chinaman does when he thinks of building a house is to build a wall around the site. The temples are all within walls. Everything that is anything has a wall around it. To get inside these walls one has to pass through a narrow gateway. Inside each gateway is a bit of detached wall. To get into the enclosure it is necessary to turn an acute angle to the right or to the left. This inside bit of detached wall is a little higher than the opening in the main wall and a little wider. It looks nothing more than a substantial screen to prevent outsiders from looking inside the compound.

"What's that thing for?" demanded a stranger of a Chinaman.
"That," said the Chinaman, "is to keep the bad spirits out."
"What a fool idea," said the stranger. "How will that keep them out? Can't they get in here or here?" pointing to the openings on either side.
"Oh, no," said the Chinaman, "bad spirits can go only in a straight line. When they try to come in they bump against the wall."
"How do you know that bad spirits can travel only in a straight line?"
"Do you know they don't?" asked the Chinaman, innocently, and that ended the conversation.

When you call on a Chinaman who is able to buy a servant the first thing that servant does is to bring in two cups of tea. He puts one in front of the master and one in front of the visitor. The master indicates that you shall drink from the cup before you. If you want to incur his everlasting enmity go ahead and drink. He merely asks you to drink it for politeness sake. He does not want you to do it, and expects you to refuse for politeness sake. Letting the tea stand in front of you proceeds with your interview, and you are at liberty to continue it, and you may feel you are welcome until your host picks up his cup and takes a sip. This is the polite way he has of telling you the interview is ended. The polite thing for you to do then is to take one sip of your tea and depart. The right to drink the first sip of tea, however, goes with rank. If the visitor outranks the host no matter how much the host may wish to get rid of him—he must sit until the visitor chooses to take a sip of his tea.

"Now let us see," said Sir Robert Hart, head of the Chinese imperial customs or the "I. C." as he is known here; "let us see about this partition of China question. The Chinese worship their ancestors. No matter how he may stand otherwise on religious subjects he worships his ancestors. I remember my Bible rightly, it says 'Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.' And if I read my history right the Chinese empire has lasted longest of any on earth. It certainly looks as if that promise was being fulfilled for the heathen, doesn't it. They still worship their ancestors. I have been here forty-seven years and not a year has passed that they haven't talked of partitioning China. And I believe as they still do worship their ancestors we ought to be a little slow in prophesying any partition at this time."

During the siege at Pekin, where the native Christians who were not fortunate enough to get into the compound opposite the British legation along with the missionaries were being killed as fast as they were being hunted out by the Boxers, the news came to the Boxer headquarters one day that there was a family of Christians of the name of Su living in the Chinese city who had so far escaped disturbance. The head of the Su family, old man Su, was 80 years of age. He and his family had for days been expecting the Boxers to come and kill them, but they did not try to escape. On the day that the Boxers started after them some of their neighbors sent word that the fanatics were coming.

"We are ready," declared the old man, and his wife and children nodded assent. The neighbors say old Su took the matter joyfully. He put on his best clothing and when he heard that the mob was near he said it was his wedding day, and he would go out to meet death, his bride. He strode out of the house and up the street in the direction of the approaching mob, and when he was in sight of the leaders he beat his breast and cried out: "Here am I, here am I; kill me if you will." The mob surrounded him, and beat his brains out and kicked and stamped on him. Then they finished his family in the same way.

After the work was done the leaders marvelled at the courage of old Su coming out and facing death as he had done, and they picked up his body and carried it to their temple in the Chinese city outside the Tartar wall. They told the story of his wonderful courage to the priests and then they

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Young Child Burned to Death.

LOCK HAVEN, Pa., March 5.—At Cardwell, this county, the house of John Carr was burned to the ground to-day and the youngest child was burned to death. Mrs. Carr had gone to a spring and, seeing the flames break out, she hastily returned, but could not enter the house to rescue the little one.

THE PENALTY.

We are mad—grown mad in the race for gold,
We are drunk with the wine of gold;
The truths our fathers proclaimed of old
We spurn with a high disdain.
But while the conqueror's race we run,
Our rulers should not forget
That the God who reigned over Babylon,
Is the God who is reigning yet.
Would we tread in the paths of tyranny,
Non-stands with his blood we wet,
Who taketh another's liberty,
His freedom hath also lost.
Would we win as the strong have ever won,
Make ready to pay the debt.
For the God who reigned over Babylon
Is the God who is reigning yet.
The ruins of dynasties passed away
In eloquent silence lie;
And the despot's fate is the same to-day
That it was in the days gone by.
Against all wrong and injustice done
A rigid account is set,
For the God who reigned over Babylon
Is the God who is reigning yet.
The laws of righteous eternal laws,
Whom hands with his blood we wet,
My greed—blind masters, I bid you pause
And look on the work you do.
You bind with shackles your fellow man,
Non-stands with his blood we wet,
And the God who reigned over Babylon
Is the God who is reigning yet.
J. A. Elgerton in the Ram's Horn.

Death of C. L. Magee.

Noted Pennsylvania Political Leader Succumbs to Long Illness—His Death Was Unexpected.

HARRISBURG, March 9.—Senator Christopher Lyman Magee, of Pittsburg, died at 5:22 last evening after an illness of more than three years. His death was unexpected as it was generally believed by his friends that he was improving in health. His condition took a turn for the worse Thursday night and the members of his family were hurriedly summoned to Harrisburg. He gradually grew weaker during the night, and his end was peaceful and calm. His remains will be taken to Pittsburg at 3 o'clock this afternoon on a special car.

There was with Senator Magee when he died his wife and her sister, Mrs. Warwick; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Magee, Steel Magee and Mr. and Mrs. John Steel, of Pittsburg, brothers and sisters of the Senator. Drs. Browning and Wilson, of Philadelphia, were also with him.

Senator Magee was taken ill with a complication of diseases during the last session of the Legislature, and was almost under the constant care of a physician until he passed away. During the most of the time he was at the Stratford hotel, Philadelphia. He leased a residence in Harrisburg for the legislative session and came here the day previous to the organization. He took his seat on the opening day of the session and only once afterward appeared in the Senate. That was the day on which the ballot for United States Senator was taken, and he voted for Congressman John Dalzell, of Pittsburg. He kept in close touch with the legislative proceedings, but was too ill to attend the sessions.

Christopher Lyman Magee was born in Pittsburg, April 14th, 1848. His father was Christopher L. Magee, and his mother, Elizabeth Steel, an English girl, who came to this country at the age of 5 years. While a boy Magee attended public school in the present Grant school.

Subsequently he studied at the Western University. After his course at the Western University he entered the employ of Park, McCurdy & Co. as office boy. It was deemed necessary for Magee to go to work early in life by the death of his father which took place when he was 15 years of age, his mother being left with three children younger than himself. After a brief service with the steel company he secured a clerkship in the controller's office, and devoted his earnings to help support the family. From his mother he received his best training, and she was for the next 25 years his most trusted and beloved adviser. In 1869 he was made cashier of the city treasury, and in 1871, at the age of 23, was elected treasurer of the city, receiving 2,000 more votes than the candidate for mayor on the Republican ticket. He was again elected to the office in 1874.

He claimed for him that while treasurer and shortly afterward he had the city debt reduced from \$15,000,000 to \$3,000,000. He was twice secretary of the Republican state committee and has been a delegate in almost every Republican State Convention since 1876. In 1880 he was one of the Republican National Convention. In the National Convention of 1892 he was one of the supporters of President Harrison, after having tendered his aid to Blaine and been snubbed by him, it is said.

He was re-elected to the State Senate in 1896, being the regular nominee of both the Republicans and Democrats. In 1900 he was re-elected for the term he has been serving at Harrisburg this winter.

Mr. Magee was president of the Consolidated Trust Company, and was a director in numerous local banks, trust companies. He was also the president of Mercy hospital, an institution to which he was the chief contributor and in which he took an especial interest. He was the principal owner of the Pittsburg Times, a newspaper that he acquired after he succeeded the late Robert W. Mackay to the management of the political affairs of the city.

Played a Joke on the Good Man.

A good story is told on the Rev. Mr. Hageman. At the annual meeting of the Congregational church the question of hiring a preacher comes up. At one when the question came up, Hageman was rather anxious. The chairman, a good old deacon, arose, saying:
"All those in favor of retaining Elder Hageman for another year, at the same salary, will please rise."
Not one rose, and Hageman felt about as mean as mortal man could feel. But the chairman rose again, putting this question:
"All those in favor of keeping the Rev. Mr. Hageman at an increase of salary will please rise."
Every one rose. When it dawned upon the good elder that they had been only joking with him, the scowl on his face broke away into a broad grin—as a icicle breaks away in sparkling water before the beneficent rays of a warm sun. Some of his best friends had planned the scheme, which worked to perfection.—Oxford (Mich.) Leader.

Butcher—"Leg o' mutton? Yes'm."
Mrs. DeRigueur—"And let it be off a black sheep, if you please. We're in mourning, you know."

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

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