

## FIERY PUNISHMENT

Coloradoans Burn a Negro at the Stake.

### A SAVAGE RETRIBUTION.

Murderer of a Young Girl Goes to a Frightful Death.

### DOOMED BY VIGILANTES.

The Criminal Is Taken from a Train by a Small Band of Avengers, Conveyed to the Scene of His Crime and Slowly Roasted to Death.

Limon, Col., Nov. 17.—Chained to a railroad rail set firmly in the ground on the exact spot where his fiendish crime was committed, Preston Porter, or, as he was better known, John Porter, last evening paid a terrible penalty for his deed. It was 6:23 o'clock when the father of the murdered girl touched the match to the fuel which had been piled around the negro and 20 minutes later a last convulsive shudder told that life was extinct. What agony the doomed boy suffered while the flames shriveled up his flesh could only be guessed from the terrible contortions of his face and the cries he gave from time to time.

The executioners, who numbered about 300 citizens of Lincoln county, had not the least semblance of the ordinary mob. Their every act was deliberate and during all the preparations as well as throughout the sufferings of the negro hardly an unnecessary word was spoken. Grimly they stood in a circle about the fire until the body was entirely consumed.

Porter did not seem to realize the awful punishment that he was destined to undergo. As he had exhibited indifference to the enormity of his crime, so he seemed to lack all understanding of its terrible consequences. For more than an hour, while preparations for his execution were in progress, he stood mute and sullen among the avengers. When everything was ready he walked to the stake with a firm step, pausing as he reached the circle of broken boards, to kneel in prayer. He arose and placed his back to the iron stake and half a dozen men wound chains about his body and limbs. Kerosene oil was applied to the wood and after a brief pause Richard W. Frost, the father of little Louise Frost, whose mutilated body was found one week ago on that very spot, applied a match.

For a moment but a little flickering flame arose. Then the oil blazed up, sparks flew into the air and the wood began to crackle. Almost instantly the negro's trousers caught fire. Even though the flesh must have been scorched, he did not utter a sound. The flames crept slowly upward on his clothing and the sparks flew up in a cloud of pale smoke. Porter turned his head and a frightful expression changed his face. With a sudden convulsive tugging he stretched his head as far from the flames as possible and uttered a cry of pain. "Oh, my God, let me go, men. I've got something more to tell you. Please let me go, O, my God, my God."

Not an oath escaped him, but he pleaded to be shot. Suddenly, the rope holding his hands burned through. Then arms, head and shoulders slipped through the chains. For an instant the body stood erect and the arms were raised in supplication while burning pieces of clothing dropped from them. The body then fell away from the fire, the head lower than the feet, still fastened to the rail. This was not expected, and for a few minutes those stolid men were disconcerted. They feared that the only remaining chain would give way. If this had occurred the partly burned human being would have dashed among them and not many would have cared to capture him again.

But the chain held fast. The body was then in such a position that only the legs were in the fire. The cries of the wretch were redoubled and he again begged to be shot. Some wanted to throw him over in the fire, others tried to dash oil upon him. Boards were carried and a large pile made over the prostrate body. They soon were ignited and the terrible heat and lack of air quickly rendered the victim unconscious, bringing death a few moments later.

This terrible ceremony, out upon the rolling prairie, concluded the second tragedy upon that spot, the terrible avenging of the first.

Through the entire affair but little was said. As they had calmly prepared for the avenging, so the people of the eastern part of the state carried out their plan deliberately. The train bearing the negro in custody of Sheriff Freeman and his deputies arrived in Limon at 3:45 p. m. The cars were crowded with newspaper reporters and people who were curious to see the negro executed. R. W. Frost, the murdered girl's father, was one of the passengers. When the train stopped 16 men, who had been selected by the vigilance committee, entered the train and demanded the prisoner from the sheriff. The officer protested in the name of the law and asked the men to allow him to take his prisoner to the county jail at Hugo, but his protests were disregarded. One man carried a rope, of which had been formed a hangman's noose. This was slipped over the negro's neck and he was led to the place of execution.

It was decided to leave the method of death to the outraged father. He decided upon burning at the stake. Just before he was tied to the stake the boy tore the leaves from his Bible and distributed them among his executioners.

### A BIG FAILURE.

The Dry Goods House of W. L. Strong & Co. Goes into the Hands of a Receiver.

New York, Nov. 15.—The appointment of a receiver for the firm of W. L. Strong & Co. has been discussed with much interest in mercantile circles here, in view of the report that the firm's affairs are in much worse condition than those who knew the late Mayor Strong suspected. The Commercial Advertiser prints the following:

"A bank president who has been doing business with the firm is quoted as saying that it had been well known in the street that the ex-mayor was not by any means so rich as was generally supposed. He was not a millionaire and he was not very wealthy. Lately he and Mr. Stott had been presenting their notes in sizes all the way from \$25,000 to \$100,000, so that the lending banks became cautious, and then many of us refused to discount their stock. The two dead members of the firm had been swapping paper; Mr. Strong endorsed Mr. Stott's notes and Mr. Stott endorsed Mr. Strong's. It was an accommodation paper and served to show that the firm was in difficulties."

Edward A. Treat, the receiver of the firm of W. L. Strong & Co., said yesterday that he was unable to remove the uncertainty as to whether or not the firm is solvent. It is not yet known whether or not the firm was financially embarrassed before the death of ex-Mayor Strong. Mr. Treat made the following statement: "No one can tell whether or not the firm is solvent. The books must be gone over and days will be required for that work. Just as soon as I can I will issue a statement of the firm's affairs."

Counsel said that the Strong firm had endorsed more than \$500,000 in notes for the Stott woolen mills for which the firm was agent, and that owing to the sudden death of former Mayor Strong and of F. H. Stott, heads of the two concerns, within three days of each other, had brought about a crisis by the dissolving of the firms at a moment when large sums were due. The Stott mills are located in Stottville, N. Y.

"If either Mr. Strong or Mr. Stott had lived the difficulty might have been settled without public embarrassment," said a representative of the counsel yesterday. "We cannot say what action will be taken in regard to winding up the business of the Stott Co., but it is the debts of that concern rather than those of Strong & Co. that have brought about the present condition. The Stott partnership is dissolved the same as that of Strong & Co."

### OLD SOLDIERS.

Society of the Army of the Tennessee in Session in Detroit.

Detroit, Nov. 15.—Speaker Henderson, of the house of representatives, struck the keynote of the meeting of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee in Masonic temple last night when he said that it was a gathering of old soldiers and friends that was a veritable spiritual and patriotic uplifting. For over two hours after being formally welcomed by Mayor Maybury, of this city, the society listened to papers and patriotic speeches by members that were reminiscent of the war of '61 to '65. Gen. Russell A. Alger presided and introduced the speakers.

Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, of New York, president of the society, the first speaker, reviewed the achievements of some of the famous generals who are members of the society. Discussing the insurrection in the Philippines and the opposition in some quarters to the administration's policy, Gen. Dodge said, speaking for the society, "with us it is first settle with the enemy and then this country will successfully solve the problems forced upon us by this war with clear sight and as much justice as we settled the problems arising from the civil war."

Maj. Rassieur, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, made a short address in which he eulogized the private soldiers who, he said, made the victories achieved by the generals of the Union army possible. Speaker Henderson, after protesting against being forced to speak whether or no, made the wittiest and brightest speech of the evening.

### RURAL DELIVERY.

Postmaster General Will Ask for \$3,500,000 for Free Country Delivery.

Washington, Nov. 15.—Postmaster General Smith has framed his estimates to be submitted to congress and will ask an aggregate of about \$32,000,000 as the appropriation for the entire service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1902. This includes an estimate of \$3,500,000 for the rural free delivery service.

By the close of this fiscal year 4,300 rural free delivery routes throughout the United States will have been established and the general extension contemplated for next year will involve about 4,500 additional routes. The success of the service so far instituted has resulted in plans for a very general extension next year. The postmaster general, together with other officials, is investigating the feasibility of putting the service in operation at every point throughout the country not reached by the regular free delivery services in operation in the cities.

### A Difference of Opinion.

San Francisco, Nov. 15.—The Bulletin publishes the report of Federal Quarantine Officer Kinyon in which he states that from March 7 to October 14 there have been 18 deaths in San Francisco from plague. The Bulletin says that it is well known that there has not been a single authenticated case of plague in San Francisco. Dr. J. M. Williamson, of the San Francisco board of health, says there have been 21 or 22 cases of bubonic plague in this city since the first case was discovered last March. The last case was reported on November 3.

### ALASKA'S PEOPLE.

Report of the Census Enumerator in the Frozen Territory—The Indians Are the Most Destitute People in North America.

Washington, Nov. 15.—The census bureau recently completed the enumeration of the district of Alaska. The schedules have been received at the office and are now in process of tabulation. The director of the census Wednesday gave out the following statement with reference to the work in that great territory:

"Mr. Samuel C. Dunham, who had charge of the work in the northern district, returned to Washington a few days ago and submitted his final report. He left Washington on this work May 4, 1899.

"The native and mixed population of the northern district of Alaska is 12,652. The most populous district with respect to the native population is the country lying between the mouth of Yukon and the Kuskokwim rivers and extending back from the coast 100 miles. Mr. Maurice Johnson, the agent for this district, traveled over 2,000 miles with dog team during the winter, and enumerated 3,613 persons, all of whom were Indians.

"The Indians in this region are probably the most destitute people in the North American continent. Mr. Johnson reports that from December 1 to March 15 he visited 74 Indian villages, and during that time saw but three fires burning in the shacks or dugouts. The poor creatures huddle together in their miserable dwellings during the long winter and subsist on frozen fish and a little seal oil, which they secure on the coast during the summer. The fur bearing animals which formerly furnished them with natural clothing, are nearly extinct and they have been forced to adopt the white man's garb, and as their poverty prevents them from securing enough to cover their nakedness there is great suffering from the cold. The spiritual condition of these neglected natives is no better than the physical.

"The Nome district is the most populous in northern Alaska. The enumeration showed a permanent white population on June 1 of 2,704. During the summer about 18,000 people landed at Nome, about 2,500 of those coming from Dawson. About 12,000 have returned to their homes in the states, leaving about 9,000 people in the region contiguous to Nome. It is probable that the population of the town of Nome during the winter will be between 4,000 and 5,000."

### NATIONAL GRANGE.

The Patrons of Husbandry Begin a Week's Session in Washington.

Washington, Nov. 15.—The thirty-fourth annual session of the National Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, began here Wednesday with a good attendance and will continue for a week or more. The chief feature of interest yesterday was the annual address of Worthy Master Aaron Jones, of Indiana, who said that in most of the states the order had enjoyed great prosperity during the year. In a few states it had not succeeded so well. Never had the conditions been more favorable for the extension of the order than now. While agricultural conditions are somewhat improved over what they were a few years ago, they are not what they should be, said Mr. Jones. The price of what farmers had to buy, he said, is too high compared with what they had to sell. He urged opposition to the ship subsidy bill and spoke of the growth of the industrial combinations "until the entire country is justly alarmed." He urged an amendment to the constitution, clear and express in its terms, empowering congress with the right and authority to regulate corporations.

The interstate commerce law, the grand master argued, should be amended so that all sections of the country could secure fair and equitable freight rates. This being secured, the hardest blow that at this time could be struck to monopolies and trusts and the greatest encouragement to enterprise and thrift would be given.

The report of the secretary, Dr. John Trimble, of Washington, showed that 182 new granges had been chartered during the year—the order now numbering over a half million members.

During the day addresses were delivered by Assistant Secretary J. H. Brigham, of the agricultural department; Edward Wiggins and Mrs. Wiggins, of Maine; Mrs. George A. Bowen, of Connecticut; S. H. Ellis, of Ohio, and Mrs. Katherine M. Stahl, of Illinois, chaplain of the grange of that state.

### Becoming More Complicated.

Terre Haute, Ind., Nov. 15.—The striking of the hoisting engineers in the coal fields of this state is becoming more complicated and an early settlement is not predicted. The 7,000 idle miners in Indiana do not feel that the engineers were justified in forcing idleness upon them at this time of the year. The miners are under contract with the operators to work until April and it would be a difficult thing for them to refuse to work if non-union engineers were employed at the mines. The block coal operators held a meeting at Brazil Wednesday and passed resolutions entering into an agreement not to recognize the striking engineers as an organization.

### "Jug Cure" Law Unconstitutional.

St. Paul, Nov. 15.—The state supreme court has decided that the so-called "jug cure" law is unconstitutional because it applies only to counties of over 50,000 population and it is limited in its benefits to a certain number in each county one per year to each 10,000 of population.

### At Loggerheads.

Berlin, Nov. 15.—The Frankfurter Zeitung prints a dispatch from China saying that discord prevails in Pekin between the military and the diplomats and that the latter are also at loggerheads among themselves.

### PEDDLES MEDICINE.

Former Governor Leedy of Kansas Adopts New Business for Retrieving His Fortune.

Out in Kansas during the last few years many men have leaped into sudden political prominence, and with equal suddenness have gone back into almost complete obscurity. Among the more recent and spectacular of these political meteors is former Gov. John W. Leedy, who has started out to peddle a new patent medicine through the state.

In explaining his action Mr. Leedy points out that as governor his salary was but \$3,000 a year, and that he was compelled to spend most of that sum to maintain the dignity of the office. When his term expired he



HON. JOHN W. LEEDY.  
(Kansas Ex-Governor Now Engaged in the Medicine Trade.)

had some money, and with that as capital he went into the Kansas-Missouri zinc districts, where he made speculations which proved disastrous. As a result he found himself practically penniless. Then a well known Kansas physician made him a proposition to go into partnership with him in the manufacture of a patent medicine, and Leedy took him up. He declares that he feels no loss of dignity and is not troubled with false pride in starting out with his wagon.

"I must have an income," he says, "and a man can't make a business of being governor. We have something to sell, and it is my business to find customers. I am simply doing what hundreds of men have done before me. Because I have been a little unfortunate in financial matters, is that any reason why I should lie down and give up the fight?"

### MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE.

Public Career of the Peer Who Has Been Made British Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

The lord of 143,000 acres of land, Henry Charles Keith Petty-Fitzmaurice, marquis of Lansdowne, has a long list of territorial and other titles, but perhaps his chief claim to the distinction of long and honorable descent is the fact that he is the twenty-sixth baron of Kerry and Lixnaw, which carries his pedigree back to 1181, and that one of his ancestors was Strongbow, earl of Pembroke.

The present marquis, the fifth, is 55 years old. His mother was a daughter of Comte de Plahault and Baroness Keith and Nairn. He entered official life at the age of 24, when, as a warm adherent of Mr. Gladstone, he was made lord of the treasury. After three years in this office he became under secretary for war, holding the post two years.



MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE.  
(Just Appointed British Secretary for Foreign Affairs.)

In 1880 he was made under secretary for India, but resigned the office the same year because of his dissent from the home rule policy.

From 1883 to 1888 he was governor general of Canada, and followed this by a term as viceroy of India, being named by Lord Salisbury, with whose unionist policy he has strongly identified himself. His governorship of India from 1888 to 1893 was less remarkable for domestic reforms than for his work in strengthening the frontier defenses and building strategic railways.

### Study of Finger Nails.

An exhaustive study of the nails of the hand has been made by P. A. Minakoff, and some of the results appear to be of medico-legal importance. "Among other things," says Popular Science, "he asserts that the nails of the right hand in a right-handed person are wider by one-half to two millimeters than the corresponding nails on the left hand; while in a left-handed person the reverse obtains, and in the ambidextrous the nails are of equal size on the two hands. The thickness of the nails diminishes progressively from the thumb to the little finger."

### Great Slaughter of Rats.

After suffering for a long time from the migratory rats, the inhabitants of Copenhagen organized war against them and in 15 weeks 100,000 were killed.

### CHEAPER ARMOR PLATE.

Secretary Long Contracts for a Large Quantity at a Reduction of \$95 a Ton from Prices Originally Asked.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Secretary Long yesterday announced the conclusion of the long controversy over the price of armor plate for naval vessels, and an agreement with the Carnegie and Bethlehem companies for Krupp armor at \$420 a ton, with the possible addition of royalty fees, making the maximum price \$455.52 a ton. The amount of armor involved is the largest ever placed at one time by the government and is said to equal all the armor purchased by this government up to 1896. It covers the armor for 17 ships now in various stages of construction, including eight battleships, six armored cruisers and three protected cruisers. The following official statement was given out concerning the agreement:

"The navy department has come to an agreement with the Carnegie and Bethlehem companies for Krupp armor of the first class, amounting to 24,950 tons, for \$420 a ton. The Krupp process involves the Harvey patent, the validity of which is now under consideration by the courts, and it is further agreed that the government will assume in addition any liability for the Krupp process not exceeding \$5, or \$24.32 per ton for Krupp royalty, and not exceeding the United States license fee of \$11.20 for Harvey royalty. The maximum price to the government is therefore \$455.52 a ton, subject to diminution in case of any reduction in the foregoing royalties. The bid of these companies for this class of armor was \$490 and the price originally asked \$545."

The Midvale Co. some time ago withdrew their bid, but they would have been unable, in any event, to furnish armor in due season for the Maine class of battleship. Had they not withdrawn their bid it is probable that some arrangement might have been made for the distribution among three companies of the manufacture of the armor other than that of the Maine class. Their bid, however, was of value in enabling the department to secure the above large reduction. Admiral O'Neil, chief of the bureau of ordnance, said of the result:

"The agreement is most satisfactory. The terms are reduced not only to a reasonable point, but more than reasonable. We get armor cheaper than any country in the world. It is due not only to Secretary Long's able management of the matter, but also to the fact that the companies met him in a very reasonable spirit. It is only just that this should be understood."

The armor contract covers not only the 24,950 tons specified in the official statement, but also some 10,000 tons of armor of the second and third class, which has not been in controversy, but has been dependent upon the disposal of the first class armor. The entire amount, approximately 35,000 tons, is now made available.

### TWO GREAT STEAMSHIPS.

Their Keels are Being Laid in a Shipyard at Groton, Conn.—Will be the Largest in the World.

New London, Conn., Nov. 16.—Work began this week on the laying of the keels of the two mammoth iron steamships to be built at the works of the Eastern Shipbuilding Co. at Groton, opposite New London, and from this date the work of putting together the hulls of the ships will go rapidly on.

There was issued from the office of the company yesterday an authoritative statement regarding the size of the ships, which shows them to be larger than any vessels in the world now building or planned. The new vessels will be of 20,000 tons register and 23,000 tons displacement, or just 10,000 tons more displacement than the new Atlantic greyhound Deutschland. The new steamers, which are being built primarily for cargo carriers, are not as long as many Atlantic liners, but are much wider and deeper. The following are the principal dimensions of the vessels: Length 630 feet, beam 73 feet, depth 53 feet.

They have each five continuous decks extending the whole length of the ship, with three additional partial decks amidships.

Passengers as well as freight will be carried and accommodations are provided for nearly 1,000 passengers in three classes.

They are designed to carry cattle, chilled or frozen meats in refrigerating chambers, fruit or any kind of cargo that may appear for transportation.

It is estimated that when completed the steamships will cost fully \$5,000,000, and they are intended to run from the Pacific coast to Oriental ports in connection with the Great Northern railway.

### Mrs. McKinley's Nephew Dies.

Washington, Nov. 16.—News was received here Thursday of the death from typhoid fever of Mrs. McKinley's nephew, Assistant Paymaster J. S. Barber, at Hong Kong. Mr. Barber entered the Eighth Ohio volunteers at the outbreak of the Spanish war as a private with his cousin, James McKinley, and was commended for gallant conduct. He was mustered out at the end of the war and was given a commission in the navy as assistant paymaster. He was ordered to the Philippines at his own request, being attached to the Don Juan De Austria.

### A Long Shot.

Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 16.—Prof. W. F. Leavenworth photographed the asteroid Eros through the telescope at the State university observatory Wednesday evening. Considering that the diminutive planet is said to be 34,000,000 miles away, it was a long shot. The professor said that the planet could not be seen with the naked eye or through the telescope. By a close mathematical calculation he ascertained its exact location and the sensitive plate caught its likeness, even though it was beyond human ken.

### A MORAL CRUSADE.

Mr. Croker Asks Tammany's Leaders to Suppress Vice in Greater New York.

New York, Nov. 16.—The executive committee of Tammany Hall held a meeting last night at which Richard Croker bade all the leaders good-bye and took a hand in the starting of the movement to rid the city of vice. In a little speech the Tammany leader said he was going to Europe for health, not pleasure, and introduced Isidor Straus, president of the Educational alliance, as a man who was acquainted with the condition of things on the East Side, adding:

"I hope you will give attentive hearing to his statements as to the conditions of vice that exist and after you bear what he has to say you will make every effort to correct those evils as far as lies in your power."

Mr. Straus said he had met Croker at dinner accidentally and had talked with him for two hours over the conditions in the East Side and Mr. Croker had asked him to talk to the executive committee of Tammany Hall. Then, addressing the committee, Mr. Straus told of what was needed on the East Side to suppress crime. He said that he as a democrat had frequently had cast up to him the statement that Tammany Hall receives the greater part of its revenue from people in this evil condition of life and that no good can be accomplished unless the power of Tammany Hall is destroyed.

Lewis Nixon then, by resolution, had a committee of five appointed to "investigate the moral conditions of the city and to receive and suggest remedies for the correction of abuses."

Mr. Croker then arose and said: "I have nothing to add to what has been said to you by Mr. Straus, because he is familiar with the matters on which he has spoken to you. I hope that this entire committee will give its full strength towards helping him and his work. We should heartily endorse his remarks and aid him in the work of crushing out this awful crime. And right here I want to reiterate what I said three weeks ago to you, and that is that not one dollar comes into my possession from landlords of pool rooms and houses of ill-fame, and if any one of you gentlemen are collecting from any of these people, you had better get out of the organization. It has no use for you. You are a disgrace to it. The organization can't and won't stand for any such thing."

### BUTCHERED BY BOXERS.

Fleishich Cruelties Meted Out to Christians by Chinese Fanatics.

Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 16.—With the approval of the United States minister and the officers commanding the American troops in Pekin, George Tewksbury has been prosecuting inquiries, dictating terms and arranging indemnities in the villages around Lung Chow. Tewksbury's report, according to Oriental advisers, says his investigation "brought to light cruelties of the most barbarous description as practiced upon the native converts of that neighborhood by the Boxers. Some of the Christians and all their relatives shared in whatever punishment was meted out. Some were buried alive, others were burned at the stake; still others were first saturated with kerosene and then set on fire. A Belgian Catholic priest had strips of flesh cut out of his limbs and the holes filled with kerosene, which was then ignited."

Almost as horrifying a description was also brought Thursday by the steamer Empress of China and is given by Rev. E. J. Jader, of the Swedish Protestant mission, of the murder of Rev. McConnell, Mrs. McConnell, their little boy, the Misses Burton and King, Rev. John Young and Mrs. Young and a native servant.

At Tsin Kia Nan the little party, fleeing for their lives, were overtaken by 20 soldiers and a mob of coolies. The soldiers hacked the missionaries to pieces with their swords. The women were forced to look at the murder and mutilation of the men and the baby. The bodies were thrown on the road and were still in the dust seven days after the murder.

### A FORTUNATE RESCUE.

Members of the Crew of a Sinking Ship are Brought Into Port.

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—After floating on the ocean in a helpless condition on a sinking vessel for five days, Capt. Anderson and his crew of 13 hands of the Norwegian bank Highflyer arrived here Thursday, having been rescued by the British steamer Georgian Prince. During the five days the crew were at the mercy of the waves, they saw only two steamers. The first one, according to Capt. Anderson, came within half a mile of his vessel, but steamed away without giving any aid. The second ship sighted was the Georgian Prince.

The Highflyer sailed from Campbellton, Cape Edward Island, November 2, for Newport, Wales, with a cargo of lumber. After eight days out the bark encountered a severe gale, which tore away her sails and strained the vessel so that she sprang a leak of nine inches an hour. All hands were kept busy at the pumps so that the bark could be kept afloat until a passing vessel could render assistance. Four days passed and on the morning of the fifth day a trans-Atlantic liner passed near, but only answered the distressed vessel's signals by raising a flag.

### Tuan Saved Their Lives.

London, Nov. 16.—Rev. Evan Morgan, the last foreigner to leave Sian-Fu, has arrived here. His life and the lives of the other missionaries in Shen-Si province were saved by Gov. Tuan, a kinsman of the notorious Prince Tuan. Gov. Tuan, when he received a decree from Pekin to kill all foreigners, warned Mr. Morgan and his colleagues and gave them an escort. The only foreigners left in Shen-Si are 20 priests, mostly Italians, and 12 nuns, who are occupying a sort of fort near Sian-Fu, defended by machine guns.