

Woman Today in China



SISTER-IN-LAW OF THE PRESENT REGENT.



PRINCESS SU ONE OF THE HIGHEST LADIES OF THE CHINESE COURT.



THE LADY YU, THE BEST INFORMED LADY IN COURT AFFAIRS, AT HOME PHOTOGRAPHS BY UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD, N. Y.

AT A MOMENT when the women of the west have attained to complete liberty of action, and to equality with the male sex in all matters, save that of the political franchise; when that intellectual and accomplished band, who under the name of suffragettes are daily mustering under its banners recruits from all ranks of society with the rallying cry of "Votes for Women;" and slowly but surely evolving a plan of campaign, which leaving out of account the aggressive militant attitude of certain of their members, cannot but fall to appeal in the long run to that sex in whose political thralldom they claim to be, it may be pertinent to inquire what their sisters in the east, and especially in China are doing.

Woman in China has many obstacles to overcome before she can hope to reach the progressive freedom attained by the woman of the west. While she has more license in her actions and meets with more consideration than the dweller in the Indian zenana, she still, as from time immemorial in the history of her country, occupies a very inferior position to her lord and master. Theoretically she has no standing at all. She is but a mere chattel or household appendage. Yet in reality, when a mother, she exercises to the day of her death, a powerful and far-reaching influence over the destinies of her children—even should they reach the state of being grandparents, and in spite of the cast-iron customs of old tradition, which restrain her daily life from birth, she is able to make herself more or less comfortable and contented with her lot.

From an educational point, however, woman in the mass has no place in China. While the son of the house is given every advantage to become a man of letters, though in a manner which adheres to classical traditions, except in rare instances where outside influences are at work—e. g.—the German-Chinese High school which was opened at Tsingtan on October 25, woman has had no such opportunities. The Chinese father looks upon the education of his daughter in this light: "This girl will be with me but a short time, till she is married. Why should I waste time and money for her husband's sake?" The girl, who is often possessed of a mind which is susceptible to the highest education, sharp and quick-witted, as has been proven by those who have had the advantage

of a new trend of thought, which is creeping in from the occident, but which as she grows up, becomes stunted in growth by her absolute illiteracy and limitation of outlook. Her energies seek no wider outlet than the petty cares of the household, her cooking, washing, sewing; and there it ends. Her life of drudgery coupled with the realization of her hopeless inferiority impressed upon her by her surroundings, breed in her a lack of hope and ambition, which transmitted by her to her family, must inevitably have a debasing influence upon the intellectuality of generations following. "Educate the mothers of France," was Napoleon's remedy for France; and it stands true for the China of today. As an unmarried woman, she is a valueless unit in the four hundred million inhabitants. As a wife, since she lives with her husband's mother she is no better than a slave, compelled to submit to the whims of her mother-in-law who wreaks upon her vengeance for her own sufferings as a bride. It is only on the birth of a son, whose coming spells release, that she shakes off the yoke and attains to a certain degree of honor. Yet to a Chinese woman marriage represents a desirable thing, and there are few unmarried, and that in spite of the fact that the husband is permitted to administer "wholesome correction," which she may not resent under the severest of penalties.

the pig signifying plenty. "Marriage" is a pig and a woman under one roof. "Wife" is a woman under a broom. "Good" is a woman and a male child.

A startling exception to the rule was the late dowager empress, who broke through custom and climbed to the throne, where she wielded a despotic rule which rivaled that of Catherine of Russia in many of its aspects. Though a person of high intellectual capacity and an artist of no mean ability, she was opposed to reform of all sorts, and took no advantage of her position to ameliorate the conditions of her own sex. The first official recognition of the existence of woman took place but a short time ago in the publication of a semi-official book dedicated to "The Fathers and Mothers of the People."

There seems to be a new era in view, and educational systems are being revised. The ladies of the upper classes who have in many cases good educations, are awakening to their responsibilities, and one, the Princess Halachan, has founded a school for Mogul girls. Thanks to the influence of certain ladies of other nations who have interested themselves in the matter, girls' schools are springing up here and there, and the impetus given to education and freedom of thought is clearly shown in the happy faces in this photo of some girl scholars. Once released from the idea of inferiority, the

girl must as a mother, exert a beneficial and enlightening influence upon the generation which follows her; and China having realized that the strength of a nation lies in the womankind, must surely discard her ancient prejudices.

Many centuries must elapse before then, for the east moves slowly, unless the woman of the west comes to the aid of her sister; and there seems to be no more noble field for the activities of the intellectual woman, as we know her, than that which seems to be presented by the masses of her sisters in China. Woman alone can appeal to woman, and the Chinese woman but awaits the moral backing to become a potent factor in the regenerancy of her country.

Ancient German Buildings

The entry into Goslar is reminiscent of Nuremberg; for one comes at once upon a huge, round fortress tower guarding the approach. But instead of lingering here, one hastens to the farther end of town to see the building that is the very raison d'être of Goslar, says a writer in the Century.

Goslar came into the world because it lay on the fringe of the Harz forests and at the foot of the silver-yielding Rammelsberg, both of which were owned by the ninth century emperors of the holy Roman empire. There they put up a succession of hunting lodges and small palaces until Emperor Henry III. built the Kaiserhaus, which is to-day the oldest secular building in Germany. Here Henry IV. began his ill-starred life. His preference for living at Goslar, and the number of castles he built in the neighborhood, roused the fears of the Saxon nobles, who tried to assassinate him one evening at the Kaiserhaus. And this was the opening scene of the drama that culminated at Canossa, when, barefooted, the emperor waited three days in the snow before Pope Gregory's portal.

The last holy Roman emperor in these spacious halls was Barbarossa. After him the noble building gradually fell into ruin until the coming of the new empire, when it was restored in a rather hard, Prussian style, and received into its halls the second great German leader, William I. Now, in bronze, the pair sit their war horses one on each side of the main flight of steps—Barbarossa and Barablanca, as the people call them.

The main hall is decorated with frescoes of the Sleeping Beauty and the Barbarossa legends, and with scenes from local and imperial history. Its principal attraction is the old Kaiserstuhl, seat of a long line of emperors.

In the chapel of St. Ulrich lies buried the heart of Henry III. It lay formerly in the famous cathedral which Henry built near his palace, and which was torn down in 1819. This piece of vanished glory possessed an extraordinary collection of treasures and relics. It made nothing of the bones of such saints as Nicholas, Lawrence, Cyril and Dionysius, for there were also important remains of the apostles themselves. There was half of the Apostle Philip, an arm of Bartholomew, and one of James; a hand, arm and the head of Matthew, and a great part of the bodies of Peter and Paul. There were also many other wonders.

Many of these valuables were stolen in the sack of Goslar in 1205, and more during the Swedish occupation in the Thirty Years' war. Others were sold to keep up the cathedral during the hard times brought on by the reformation, so that the only remnant of the building and its treasures to-day is a part of one transept near the Kaiserhaus, with some interesting statues, some of the oldest stained glass in existence, and an early Romanesque reliquarium borne by still earlier brazen figures of the four rivers of paradise, as old as the city itself. From this one fragment, with its splendid, sculptured portal, one can reconstruct the whole—ex pede Herculeum—and realize the effect of a religious pageant on one of Goslar's chief holy days, such as the Feast of St. Matthew, when the bells in the twin towers went mad when Henry III., in his imperial robes, swept down the broad steps of the Kaiserhaus, heading a brilliant train of prelates, princes, knights and many a band of pilgrims, who had come from every part of the empire to bow at this famous shrine. And after the last amen had died away amid the groined vaulting of the cathedral, St. Matthew in his silver sarcophagus was carried with due rites about the city walls.

ATOURIST in Athens wandering about the palace gardens noticed an elderly gentleman seated on one of the benches quietly smoking. Asking him for a match, and being answered in English, he sat down and entered into conversation with him. The talk veered round to the subject of the government, and the tourist asked casually:

"What do they think of the royal family, then?"

"Well," said the old gentleman, smiling: "The queen is beloved by all for her good deeds."

"And the king?"

"Um! I'm afraid he's not much use. He never seems to do anything very bad or very good. So we won't talk about him."

The tourist being invited to walk around the garden was surprised to see his guide being saluted, and beat a hasty and apologetic retreat on realizing that it was King George.

There are many such stories of the king's hatred of anything approaching formality or ostentation. But this is only fitting in the democratic king of the most democratic nation in Europe. It is not so many years ago since by constitution all degrees and titles of nobility were abolished, and in the eyes of the law all alike are equal.

King George has every desire for a peaceful life, for he has seen much happen since he was elected King of the Hellenes in 1863, but everything points at the moment to a political crisis which may lead him to share the fate of his predecessor, Otho of Bavaria. The military force then, as the Military League will probably be now, was the moving power in establishing a new order. Otho and his consort having gone yachting in the

Does it pay a King to be Democratic?



KING GEORGE OF GREECE AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY IN THE PALACE GARDENS, PART OF HIS RESIDENCE ON THE KING.

Aegean, the moment was considered an auspicious one for effecting a change of rulers; and on the astonished king arriving at Salamis he was politely informed that his services were dispensed with, that the throne was now vacant and that he need not trouble to set foot in Greece again. He did not, but returned to Bavaria, and the throne of Greece was finally offered to George, second son of the king of Denmark, and brother to the

queen of England. His marriage to one of the Russian princesses soon followed.

Their eldest son, Constantine, who has incurred the hatred of the army, whose head he is, is now 41. He married in 1889 Sophia, sister of the kaiser, and has now three sons, the eldest of whom, Prince Georgios, should by right, ascend the throne in the natural order of succession. It is the of the boys, however,



THE KING AT HOME IN THE ROYAL PALACE AND CONSTITUTION SQUARE, ATHENS

Prince Paulos, now eight years old, whom report points to as the people's chosen ruler in the event of the retirement of the king. Prince Paulos is already idolized by the royal guards, and is credited as being fixed upon by the Military League as the king's successor, since they fear that should the crown prince come to the throne he will take steps to repay the humiliations put upon him by their body. Every Greek is a politician, and the

cafes are hot beds of political discussion as to the trend of events. Should Paulos be chosen, then the constitutional royal authority must be exercised by the ministerial council until a regent is appointed. Meanwhile King George drives about in his auto, thinking deeply. He is growing old now, and his 64 years, 46 of which he has spent on the throne, make him wish to spend his remaining days as a simple gentleman.