

CHINA'S MILITARY POWER.

TWO ARMIES THAT ARE UNDER WIDELY DIVIDED CONTROL.

The Descendants of the Manchu Conquerors and Their Allies Are Hereditary Warriors, and All Recruits from This Class—Great Armies Where Useless War Material is Made.

The war news from China has created much interest in the Chinese army, and the reports to the effect that the Boxer mobs cannot be suppressed have caused many readers to wonder how and of what material the Chinese regular army is composed. In this as in many other things Chinese have not kept up with other nations, and their deficiency was clearly demonstrated during the Sino-Japanese War. But the warning was not sufficiently heeded, and the improvements which have been made in the army since then were not sufficient to bring the military up to the point where it should be for the protection of the country. Although there are two armies, neither of these is known as the Imperial Army. There is an army for each province. This body, known as the Army of Eight Banners, contains nominally about three hundred thousand men, who are descendants of the Manchu conquerors and their allies. Of these about eighty thousand are maintained on a war footing, and are divided into three groups, Mongols, Chinese and Manchus, and form an hereditary profession within which intermarriage is compulsory. Of these hereditary soldiers about four thousand are usually stationed at Peking as an Imperial Guard.

The national army is called Ying Ping. This body is known also as the "Green Flags" and the "Five Camps," it being divided into five distinct parts. This army is subdivided into eighteen corps, one for each province, and is under the immediate command of the Governor-General or Viceroy. The nominal strength of this national army is about six hundred thousand, but of this number only about two hundred thousand are available for war. The Tien-Tsin army corps is the most important, and has about thirty-five thousand men. These have been drilled by foreign officers, and have modern arms and equipment, and do garrison and police duty.

The "mercenary troops" play an important part in the Chinese military system. They are raised in emergencies. Then there are the Mongolian cavalry and other irregular cavalry, numbering about twenty thousand, which have been described by foreign observers as "of no military value." The total land army on a peace footing is estimated at three hundred thousand men, and on a war footing at about one million; but the army as a whole, according to the same authority, has no unity or cohesion; there is no proper discipline; the drill is mere physical exercise; the weapons are long since obsolete, and there is no transport, commissariat or medical service. But the various provinces spend much money for army purposes, and maintain great arsenals where war material in the shape of guns and ammunition is made and stored.

The arsenal at Shanghai seems to be out of place in connection with the antique and slipshod Chinese army. This large place is under the provincial government of the Viceroy of Nanking, and is full of modern tools and machinery, stores and material of every description. The arsenal is in every respect a well equipped and perfectly furnished modern institution in good order, and if organized under European control, Lord Berosford thinks, could supply war material for the whole military forces of China. It was organized by Europeans and is now in charge of two Englishmen. The machinery at this arsenal is adequate for the manufacture of all calibres up to 12-inch fifty-ton pieces.

Besides this arsenal there are similar institutions at Tien-Tsin, Nanking, Hankow, Foo-Choo, Canton and Ching-Tu. The arsenal at Tien-Tsin is under the provincial government of the Viceroy of Chi-Li. It is well supplied with everything in the way of tools and machinery, and has spare room enough for a plant to supply the whole Chinese army. The plant is in charge of a British subject, but the actual head is a Chinese official, whose salary is 150 taels—about \$100—a month. A similar position in England or America would, according to the report of a European visitor, be worth at least \$10,000 a year.

The mint, with a capacity for making 15,000 dollars a day, is in this arsenal. There also is the naval school, the Annapolis of China. This school has sixty students, sons of noblemen, between the ages of sixteen and twenty, who remain at the school five years, and then are placed on a training ship for further instruction. At this school all the pupils are taught English. Next door to the Naval Academy is another school with accommodations for thirty, where young men receive instruction in the Russian language, with a view to becoming Russian interpreters. The money for the maintenance of this school is provided by the Peking government.

At the Nanking arsenal there are no

European employees, and although the machinery is modern it is used in the manufacture of useless war material. The Chinese authorities at this place showed the English visitors with great pleasure and pride a weapon from which a bullet could be sent through four inches of wood, and said that no other nation possessed similar weapons. "It was heartbreaking," said the English visitor, "to see both officials and workmen taking pleasure and using diligence in the manufacture of costly but absolutely useless war material."

The arsenal at Hankow turns out about eight thousand Mauser rifles a year. There also much time and money are used in the manufacture of useless war material. At the Foo-Choo arsenal there is also a dockyard, and the whole plant is under the sole charge of a Manchu general. Waste of money because of ignorance as to modern methods of manufacture is as apparent at Foo-Choo as at the other arsenals.

An old powder factory is one of the features of the Canton arsenal. There is a rifle factory there also, and a plant has been completed recently for making smokeless powder, with a capacity of 90,000 pounds a year.—New York Tribune.

A PRACTICAL DEFINITION.

The Great Difficulty of Defining "Insanity" in Words.

"How to Safeguard One's Sanity" is the subject of an article in the Century by the Rev. J. M. Buckley, D. D., L.L. D. In it he gives a practical definition of the word insanity.

In my childhood there called at our family residence a gentleman whose reputation as a person of distinction, and a certain intemperance with which he was regarded by all, attracted my attention. After a while he beckoned me to his side, and told me of his vast estate, its lawns, fine old trees and streams, his horses and hunting-dogs, the spacious halls of the mansion adorned by works of art, and his songbirds from every clime, and invited me to spend a month with him, promising me a pony. He threw a spell over me by his strangely expressive eye and glowing words. After he had gone I said to my mother, "When may I go to see those wonderful things and get the pony?" She answered sadly: "Never, my son. The poor man is deranged." At my request for an explanation, she added, "He is insane, is crazy, a lunatic." The mystery was not dispelled, but gradually the memory of the incident was overlaid by boyish sports and studies.

Three years afterward was opened the great Hospital for the Insane erected by the State of New Jersey at Trenton. In company with relatives, I was conducted through a ward, and looked curiously upon persons abstractedly gazing, talking at random, moaning as if in grief or pain, or laughing for no apparent reason. Passing along the corridor, suddenly I trembled, for before me, addressing an imaginary audience, stood the man who had charmed me. No one listened to him, and, as we approached, an attendant led him to his room, from which came the words: "I am God! Mortal men, bow down before me!"

In that instant I saw what it is to be "insane," "deranged," "alienated," "crazy," "mad," "a lunatic." No dictionary was necessary.

Since then I have served on boards of management of such institutions, including that in which this scene occurred, have attended courses of lectures on the subject, and consulted the best authorities, and I do not wonder that none of the teachers of my childhood could define insanity, for no definition exists that includes all that this word suggests and nothing more.

Judge's Decision Lost Him a Wife.

It is said that one of the Judges of the Prerogative Court in Ireland tried, on the eve of his marriage, a case wherein a man was sued for beating his wife. In delivering judgment he gave it as his opinion that, although a man had no right to beat his wife unmercifully, yet, with such a little cane or switch as he then held in his hand, a husband was at liberty, and was invested with a power, to give his wife moderate correction. These words coming to the ear of his prospective bride, she refused to adventure future with such an ungallant lover—a decision that evidently met with the universal approval of the judge's lady acquaintances, for he died a bachelor at an advanced age.—Tit-Bits.

The Cost of a Man.

A German surgeon, whose man servant lost both arms and legs and part of his face by the explosion of a shell, has calculated the cost of manufacturing an artificial man. A pair of arms, with hands, joints, etc., complete, would cost about \$150; a pair of legs about \$140; a false nose in metal—undistinguishable from the real article—costs \$80 to \$100, and for \$110 a pair of ears, perfectly natural in appearance, and furnished with artificial drums, can be produced. A complete set of teeth would cost \$40 to \$65, and a pair of glass eyes \$30. Thus the total cost of supplying deficiencies to a man who has lost all his limbs and the major portion of his face is \$500 to \$600.

Ganaries have been known to live twenty-one years.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Minister Wu must admit that the prejudice against the Chinese in this country has never reached the violence of the "Boxers."

The Missouri Supreme Court has sustained the principle of arbitrarily assessing property for street improvements at a front-foot or square-foot foot rate.

Ohio and Indiana are in litigation over the Ohio River. The river is unconscious of the trouble and at last accounts was wending its way unruffled to the sea.

One of the peculiar institutions which the Paris Exposition has brought into existence is a school in which the attendants are instructed how to see the fair.

Famines are not new in the history of India or the rest of the world. A thousand years ago famines in Great Britain and Europe often occurred, costing the lives of many thousands.

The British poets are either out of luck or their theme is distasteful to the masses. Swinburne has tried war poetry and has apparently made as rank a failure of it as the poet laureate.

Germany proposes to establish a rigorous system of examination of all meat food products of domestic origin, and to require similar treatment of all such products imported, from whatever country. In that she is impartial and not unreasonable.

Engineers say a 100-foot-wide canal 12 to 15 feet deep, between Lake Superior and Grand Forks, N. D., is an engineering possibility. The scheme is a grand one, and the agricultural northwest wants it carried through.

Some time ago the Connecticut Legislature, following the precedent established by the Swiss Cantons in case of the edelweiss, passed a law protecting the trailing arbutus. This is said to be the first law ever passed in any State in the Union for such purpose.

Sir J. Crichton Browne is of the opinion that consumption in the United Kingdom will, in the ordinary course, disappear in sixty years. He believes, however, that with caution in the nursing of patients it may be got rid of in half that time.

Eighteen years ago the first newspaper was published in Japan. Today there are 575 newspapers, a large number of religious papers, 11 scientific and 35 medical journals. This is very convincing evidence of Japanese progress.

There has been a marked improvement in the state of trade in Palestine since the opening up of the country by the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway. The transportation of goods from the coast to the interior is now rendered very easy.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. A mild case of the bubonic plague in one of the coffee centres of Brazil resulted in a rise of 60 per cent. in coffee prices inside of three months. The industry is said to be now in a better condition than for some time, and with the very marked increase in the use of Brazilian coffee in the United States, prices are likely to continue at the same level.

Professor Metchnikoff has some fine theories about checking the inroads of old age, but somehow the serum and other things that have been used to arrest decay of the powers have all proved futile. Oliver Wendell Holmes made a very careful study of the subject and had high hopes of living to be 100, but he died at 85, despite all his precautions.

Up to the present time land in Siberia can be acquired only by farmers and settlers. During the last two years a large number of concessions for the purchase of land have been asked for by merchants, engineers and manufacturers, and the Russian Ministry is now considering the question of making a change in the present system.

Red, white and blue, though the colors of the Union Jack, were not used generally in England as marks of patriotism before the Queen's diamond jubilee three years ago. The old colors were red and white and the innovation is said to be due to some dealer's importing a large stock of French decorations left over from the French national fetes. Englishmen are cheering the three colors now, however, as vigorously as though they were American or Frenchmen.

A Brooklyn philanthropist proposes to run boats, leaving the city piers at 6 p. m. and returning the next day at 3 a. m., which shall go out to sea thirty or forty miles during the night, and thus give the passengers a night's

rest on the cool waters, with refreshing salt air. Dinner will be served on the boats for 50 cents. There will be no liquors sold, nor disorder permitted. The idea is to furnish the opportunity to avoid the city turmoil, heat and odors without interfering with business. It is announced as a solely experimental sanitary and beneficent enterprise, not inspired by a desire to make money. It ought to succeed.

To give an idea of the extent of the greenhouse culture of flowers in the United States it may be stated that there are considerably over 500 acres under glass devoted exclusively to flowers, which at retail aggregate a grand total of about \$22,500,000, or a dollar for each square foot of glass. Of roses there are sold each year 100,000,000, worth \$6,000,000; as many carnations, worth \$4,000,000; 75,000,000 of violets, worth \$75,000. The single item of chrysanthemums alone represent half a million dollars a year, while the value of the 100,000,000 plants sold in pots is set at \$10,000,000. The demand for flowers is constantly increasing, no social function is complete without them; never have they been so highly appreciated as at the present moment.

Since 1875 the railway mileage in Europe has nearly doubled. That year it amounted to 83,680; at the close of 1899 it had reached 167,439 miles, an increase of 83,759. The greatest number of miles constructed in any one country during that period was by Russia, which has 15,142 miles to its credit. Germany comes next with 14,696 miles. France built 12,998 miles; Austro-Hungary, 11,721; Italy, 5,181; England, 5,089; Spain, 4,618; Sweden, 4,123; and Switzerland 1,285 miles. Greece had only 7 miles of railroad in 1875; now it has 591.

One of the facts brought out by the recent census of Cuba is that a very considerable proportion of the inhabitants live in the cities. If among cities we include places having a population of 8,000 or more, there are 496,682 people, or 32 per cent. of the whole, living in the cities. If the basis be widened so as to include places having a population of 1,000 or more, we found among the inhabitants of cities a population of 741,273, or 47 per cent. of the whole. Naturally enough, the population is very unequally distributed, for while in Santiago 67 per cent. of the inhabitants live in the country, in Havana, on the other hand, 77 per cent. live in the cities. The total population of the island is not very large, only 1,572,797 at the date of the taking of the census. This is less than half the population of the Greater New York. The average number of inhabitants per square mile is thirty-six, or nearly what it is in Iowa.

The greatest game law ever known is about to go into effect in Africa, where human life has seemed always to be held rather cheap. It is a convention of the powers for the preservation of the wild animals within their dominions. Lions, leopards, hyenas, baboons, all birds of prey (except vultures), owls, crocodiles, and poisonous snakes, are all given up to the destroyers and may be killed at sight. All other species, including elephants, rhinoceroses, giraffes, deer of all kinds and buffaloes, are to be protected by local laws, the drift of which will be to prohibit absolutely the killing of their females and their young, to demand licenses from hunters, to establish in certain cases a close time, and to define and preserve reserves within which the beasts may multiply in security. The contracting parties agree to promulgate the measures for carrying out the convention within a year, they are to encourage the domestication of zebras, elephants and ostriches and the convention is to remain in force for fifteen years and so on from year to year unless any party, twelve months before the expiration of that period, "denounces" it.

Miss Hecker's victory over Miss Underhill and Miss Hoyt in the contest for the women's championship of the Metropolitan Golf Association adds another name to the growing list of expert players who have attained to championship form, says the New York Commercial Advertiser. There are now five: Miss Hecker, Miss Hoyt, Miss Underhill, Mrs. Fox and Miss Wetmore. Six years ago there were practically none, and Miss Hoyt's tenure of the national championship for three years gave her a "splendid isolation" that one was apt to ascribe not only to her own cleverness in the game, but to the lack of sufficient competitive interest in it. But golf has jumped into immense popularity during the last two years, and the supply of champions has, of course, increased with it. It promises to be no temporary increase, for the game has come to stay, judging by the social interests that have grown up with it.

A Large Zulu Tribe.

The Basutos are a tribe of Bechuanas, and they number about 250,000. They are a race of recent origin, being really an agglomeration of peoples who had been scattered during the Zulu conquests at the beginning of the present century.

LUCK IN MONEY MAKING.

Fortune Made by a Man Who Stumbled on a Good Thing and Knew It.

Four men, each of whom had made and lost several fortunes, were discussing in a broker's office one afternoon last week the part chance played in money making, when one of them said:

"How do you suppose Mr. Blank made his fortune?"

The man whose name was mentioned has made millions in the past few years as the half owner of a company that manufactures a machine as well known as the typewriter.

"Blank had some money to invest and this patent seemed to him a good thing and he put his money in it. No chance about that," said one of the party.

"It was all chance," said the first man, "and when I tell you the history of this company as it was told to me by the inventor of the machine you will agree with me. I know that the story is the truth. The inventor knew that his patent was all right, and that the article which it described would be sold all over the world as soon as its merits could be made known. He had invested \$17,000, all that he could raise, in this patent, and he needed \$1,000 more to complete it. An acquaintance of his whom I may call Brown had shown some interest in the patent and in his emergencies the inventor appealed to him. They met in a Broadway hotel to discuss the question. The inventor pleaded his case. He showed his plans and told exactly how he had spent \$17,000 in perfecting them.

"If you will give me the \$1,000 now which I need I will give you a half interest in this patent," said the inventor, "and I am sure there is a big fortune in it for each of us. I have gone over the ground carefully and I know what I am talking about."

"Brown listened to him, thought it all over, and then said: 'What you say sounds all right, but on thinking it over I have decided not to go in with you. I am sorry that I can't feel my way clear to do it.'

"The inventor thought that his last hope had been killed by this refusal and he said that he did not see anything for him to do except to jump off the bridge. Brown left him and as he was tying up his papers a middle-aged man who had been sitting at a table near him came over and said:

"Look here, would you mind explaining that patent to me? I have overheard your conversation and if you can show me that you have a good thing I have a little money to gamble on it. My name is Blank, and when the time comes I will satisfy you of my financial standing. Are you willing to talk it over?"

"The inventor unrolled his plans and began to describe them in a perfunctory way, as he had described them many times before. Blank showed his interest by asking intelligent questions and the inventor took heart. After two hours' talk Mr. Blank said to him:

"I am convinced that you have a good thing here, but you will need more than \$1,000 to push it. If you can convince me that you are a trust-worthy man I will advance \$10,000 for a half interest in this patent."

"Mr. Blank and the inventor spent the following day investigating each other's standing, and as a result the partnership was formed. The patent was completed and protected in every way, and an expensive salesroom, where the articles might be exhibited, was opened on Broadway. You know how the article has been pushed. It has salesrooms in every big city here and abroad, and it has the field to itself. Mr. Blank and the inventor have each made a fortune out of it, and the end is not yet. Now, then, didn't chance have a good deal to do in shaping Blank's fortune? If he had gone to some other cafe, or if he had set at some other table, he would not have overheard Brown and the inventor talking. Chance alone gave him the opportunity, and Blank's little money and good business sense did the rest."

—New York Sun.

A Pennsylvania Patriarch.

People who visit the ancient "public burying ground" beside the Old Concord Schoolhouse, in Germantown, are apt to receive a shock—that is, if they fall to reading the epitaphs, as visitors in a graveyard usually do.

Concealed in a modest, unfrequented corner is a grave which, half-hidden in tangled grass, seems in no wise different from its sunken fellows. It is only when the eye of the explorer falls upon the tombstone at its head that the shock is received, for the inscription, in time-worn letters, reads:

IN MEMORY OF
ADAM SHISLER,
WHO DEPARTED THIS
LIFE DECEMBER THE
22, 1777, AGED 96
YEARS.

Luckily, the oldest inhabitant is usually at hand to explain the situation and chuckle anew over an ancient joke. Adam Shisler, so he explains, was gathered to his fathers at the age of 99 years. The stonemason mistook his directions, and had already cut 99 years upon the stone when he discovered his mistake. Thrifty, unwilling to lose his hours of toil, he covered up the first 9 with cement and added another after the 6. In the course of

years the cement wore away, and some ghoulish wag with a pocketknife did the rest.

The inaccuracy of the epitaph is proverbial, but that of poor Adam Shisler, as it stands, must carry off the palm for prevarication.—Philadelphia North American.

Identified Against Her Will.

A richly-dressed woman entered the office of a trust company in Philadelphia the other day to rent a box.

"Have you any one to identify you?" asked the attendant.

"Certainly not," said the woman, indignantly; "everybody knows who I am."

"That may be," was the reply, "but I don't know that you are the woman of that name."

Just then another woman, who had been transacting business, raised her head, and a frigid nod passed between them.

"Do you know this woman?" asked the bank official.

"I don't want to know her," snapped the woman; "she lives next door to me, and instructed her footman to kick my dog, just because it chanced to be on her step. You needn't ask me to identify her, for I won't."

"I wouldn't let you identify me," retorted the applicant for a box; "I think you have acted horribly about your old dog; and you left the Dorcas Society, telling everybody you wouldn't belong as long as I was a member. A nice Christian spirit!"

In the meantime the bank official, entirely satisfied that the identification was complete, handed over the key to the box, to the ill-concealed chagrin of the other woman, who had identified her against her will.

The Corpse Came to Life.

"I am not prepared to state that the dead can come to life," said H. E. Peters, "but the experience of a friend of mine in a Pennsylvania German town recently would seem to incline one that way. In the town where he was visiting he became acquainted with the local undertaker, and in that way was enabled to be present at the funeral of a young woman who had expired from shock at seeing her husband fall from a load of hay. He was not hurt at all, but she was, to all intents and purposes, as dead as the proverbial doornail. The body was laid out in the parlor, and all the relatives and friends had assembled to pay their last respects to the dead. As is customary in that locality, a big funeral dinner was served. In the midst of the meal the parlor door opened and in walked the corpse. It didn't take a minute to clear the room, leaving the intruder from the spirit world in sole possession. The undertaker finally plucked up courage to return to the dining room, and found his subject enjoying a hearty meal after her enforced fast. Her first question was: 'Was Jake hurt much?'"—Philadelphia Record.

Monument to a Teacher.

One of the oldest and oddest monuments in American stands in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Knoxville, Tenn., and was erected in memory of the pioneer school teacher of Western Pennsylvania. Her name was Rebecca Lang. The only legible words on the stone read as follows: "Born in Liverpool, Eng., September 20, 1700. Died October 17, 1790." The deceased believed that life was not complete until it had passed the century mark, and a broken tree carved on the monument signifies that her existence was unfinished.

Mrs. Lang came to this country from Liverpool in 1730, and erected a small school in the place now called Knoxville. She was the only teacher in the vicinity for twenty years. In 1770 her school was burned to the ground by Indians, and Mrs. Lang had a narrow escape from being cremated. She escaped, however, and despite her age taught in a new building erected in the place of the one destroyed.—Philadelphia Press.

Made a Shilling.

At a certain cloth factory in Scotland it was the custom to fine the workpeople for turning out bad work. One day a workman brought a piece of cloth to be examined, and the manager found two little holes about an inch apart. He then showed these to the man and demanded two shillings fine—a shilling for each hole. "Is it a shilling for each hole?" asked the man. "Yes," said the manager. "And is it the same for every hole, big or little?" "Yes, exactly the same," said the manager. "Well, then, I'll save a shilling," and putting his fingers in the holes, he quickly made the two into one.—Argonaut.

A Hen of Many Eggs.

Thomas Hamblen killed a hen recently that proved to be a phenomenon. The hen was exceptionally fat and weighed when dressed nine and one-half pounds. In dressing her twelve fully developed eggs with soft shells and twenty-three partially developed eggs were discovered. The small eggs varied from the size of a marble to that of a walnut. The eggs have been preserved and will be presented to the museum of the Washington Agricultural College at Pullman.