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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1858.

CHINA.

Although we are yet without particulars of the Treaties recently executed, by the Emperor of China, with the diplomatic representatives of the United States, Russia, France, and England, it is evident that great concessions have been made, which will probably change the social condition of the Celestial Empire, ere many years elapse. Hitherto, the Chinese system has been wholly one of exclusion. England, as a commercial nation, made many efforts, during the last seventy or eighty years, to put herself into friendly relations with China, but it was impossible to achieve such a consummation. Two special Ambassadors, surrounded with a great deal of pomp and state, to captivate the attention of the Chinese, failed to penetrate to the presence of the Emperor—a thick-lipped Tartar, who modestly, in all public documents, proclaims himself to be "Brother to the Sun and Moon." In the first of these missions, occupying the years 1792-4, England was represented by the Earl of MACARTNEY; in the other, in 1817, Lord AMHERST represented the Prince Regent of England, and was summarily sent back, almost *in limine*, because he refused to submit to a ceremony called the Kotoo, which he considered would have placed the sovereign *whom he represented in a degrading position*—vastly inferior, in fact, to the monarch whom he was to see. For the diplomatic principle is, that the Ambassador, representing a ruler or a State, is actually, in that capacity, the equal of the monarch to whom he is accredited as the *alter ego* of his own master. At St. Helena, after the failure of Lord AMHERST's mission, a strong opinion was expressed by NAPOLEON that Lord AMHERST should have submitted to the Kotoo, or any more degrading ceremonial, in order to establish the personal communication with the Emperor of China, for which he had taken a long voyage. Of course, NAPOLEON's view was to get the wedge in, and then extend the opening. The Chinese ceremonials so rigidly insisted upon were, doubtless, intended to prevent anything of this description.

Ever since Europeans have had any intercourse with the Chinese, one thing has been very apparent—that they were not desirous of foreign commerce. Their country is so large, (having an area of over 5,000,000 square miles,) that it produces, in its own limits, every necessity of life, and indeed almost every luxury also. In this respect, it greatly resembles the United States, in which are all varieties of climate, soil, produce—so completely so, indeed, that we could live happily, comfortably, and even luxuriantly, on our own resources, natural and mechanical, without being in the slightest degree dependant upon foreign supplies. It should be borne in mind, too, that the great great population of China induces the most remarkable industry. A country in which there are nearly 350,000,000 mouths to feed, every day, assuredly requires much industry to obtain food, clothing, and habitations. Of course, the cities are thickly inhabited:—Pekin is estimated to have a population of 1,500,000; Canton has 1,000,000; Chang-chow, 800,000; Teen-tsin and Soot-chon 700,000 each, while six other cities have from 400,000 to 500,000 each. In fact, China is most densely peopled.

As Russia in Asia almost wholly forms the northern boundary of China, there has been some intercourse between the Muscovites and the Chinese, from a period long past accurate reckoning. There has been some trading between the two peoples, from time immemorial, and, of late years, even a Russian agent or diplomatist has occasionally been allowed to reside in Pekin, and have some sort of semi-official intercourse, if not influence, with the ruling authorities in that capital, who act under instructions personally communicated by the Emperor. Next to Russia, the United States stand in public estimation in China. The natives, though singularly behind the civilized world in many points, are not deficient in natural shrewdness, and discovered, long ago, that whatever the European, and more particularly the English principle and practice of foreign conquest and annexation, American policy sternly opposed all injustice of this sort. It is significant of the Chinese feeling towards the Russians and ourselves, that when the Emperor recently was compelled to execute a treaty with France and England, he previously and voluntarily signed treaties, nearly similar in all points, with Russia and the United States.

Five centuries ago, China was "the far Cathay" of MARCO POLE, and the other adventurous travellers sent out by the proud republic of Venice to view and report upon remote countries. MARCO POLE's descriptions of China and her people read at the present day as precisely correct, so slightly has *change affected them*. The only class of Europeans who really penetrated into all parts of the Chinese Empire were the Catholic Missionaries, sent out by the Jesuits, to introduce Christianity, from France, Portugal, and Italy. They had considerable influence, and some power, in China for an extended period, but persecution finally thinned their numbers by martyrdom, and drove them out of the country. It is singular enough that to one of this class, at once enterprising, self-devoted, and religious, we are indebted for by far the best modern account of China. We allude to M. Huc, whose "Journey through the Chinese Empire" was published, some two or three years ago, by the HARPERS of New York, and gives an interior view of China and its population, as entertaining as a romance, and as reliable as if the narrative had been delivered as an affidavit.

The commercial relations between England and China can scarcely be said to have properly commenced before the establishment of the East India Company, in the reign of Queen ELIZABETH. At first, the trade was chiefly limited to the purchase of silk, largely produced in China, but within the last 130 years the English consumption of tea has been very great. At present, and for a long time past, the exportation of silk and tea from China has been principally engrossed by the English *and the Americans*. The *Cyclopædia of Commerce* supplies some interesting statistics on this head, from which we learn that in 1856, as many as 91,085,000 pounds of tea were exported from China to the United Kingdom, and also, in 1856, as many as 40,246,000 pounds to the United States, and that, "since 1849, only seven years ago, the quantity of tea exported from China to the United Kingdom and the United States, has increased from 65,814,000 lbs. to 131,280,000 lbs. Since 1852, the increase has been from 99,471,000 lbs. to 131,280,000 lbs." The increase in the exportation of Chinese silk has been equally marked.

We have to notice, as a proof of the general ignorance about China—from the jealous indisposition of the inhabitants and authors towards foreigners, *alias* "outside barbarians,"—that the books describing that vast Empire are few and generally unsatisfactory. Foremost in reliability and interest is M. HUC's work, above mentioned. Sir GEORGE STAUNTON's account of Lord MACARTNEY's Embassy to China, in 1792-94, is well written, and even amusing, as a personal narrative, but it relates little except what the author saw, and as Secretary to the Embassy, he was kept in the dark as much as possible. Sir JOHN F. DAVIS, who accompanied Lord AMHERST to China, in 1816, continued at Canton for *twenty* years, in an official capacity, and, on his return, in 1836, published "The Chinese: a General Description of China and its Inhabitants," which is by far the most valuable systematic work on China ever produced. In 1841 he followed it up by "Sketches in China," with notes on the war then proceeding with England. Another valuable work is Mr. ROBERT FORTUNE's "Narrative of Two Visits to China, between the years 1843-52, with full Descriptions of the Culture of the Tea Plant." There are some minor publications, of which Lord JOCELYN's "Six Months with the Chinese Expedition," in 1841, is satisfactory, as far as describing Canton and the neighborhood with spirit and fidelity.

In a new work, just published by the APPLETONS at New York, and called "From New York to Delhi," we have unexpectedly found some chapters relative to China which make us lament that the same able pen did not give us more on the same subject. Mr. ROBERT B. MINTURN, Junior, went *to Delhi, viâ* Rio de Janeiro, (which he visited in January, 1856,) Australia, and China. The whole book is full of interest, but we have here to notice only what Mr. MINTURN says about China. He made a six months' tour in India, *just before the outbreak of the recent mutiny*, which he considers now as nearly suppressed, and the result of his observation in Hindostan is a more favorable opinion than generally prevails, of the policy and Administration of the East India Company, whose existence, as a sovereign power, terminated on the first of this month.

Mr. MINTURN went from Sydney, in Australia, to Shanghae, in China, in sixty days, arriving there at the end of June, 1856. There he found the American Episcopal Mission, and also the Roman Catholic mission flourishing, and several American firms doing a large business. He says that the cities in the north of China are accessible to foreigners, who are seldom annoyed by the Chinese; this is marked contrast with Canton, where there is an antipathy to foreigners. After a short stay at Shanghae, Mr. MINTURN took an eight-days' trip up the canals, and found many villages scattered over the country, which was kept in a fine state of cultivation, irrigation being largely employed. From Shanghae, Mr. MINTURN passed down south, to Canton, *viâ* Hong Kong, the English settlement. At Canton he remarked that "no strangers are allowed within the walls, though a free ingress is secured by treaty." Indeed, this one of the things which make us less sanguine than many others about the results to be derived from the new treaties. The Chinese consent to them, under pressure, but are clever at evading them.

Opium-smoking, rat-grills, dog-stew, and other *dainties*, are noticed by Mr. MINTURN. His impression of the Chinese is not very favorable, but he evidently thinks them more civilized, and certainly more humane, than is generally supposed. He describes an "Institute of Universal Benevolence," founded at Shanghae, by private charity, over a century ago, at which any poor man may receive gratuitous medical advice, legal assistance, or relief in the shape of food, clothing, and money. He adds, "Benevolence is one of the most attractive features of the Chinese character, and one that our preconceived ideas find it hard to reconcile with infanticide and other cruelties which disgrace this and all heathens." He tells us, further, "that educated *Chinese have no religion*, and the lower classes just as much as they find convenient."

After three weeks' residence in or near Canton, Mr. MINTURN left for Calcutta, where we now leave him. He is an American, and thus, not without a touch of satire, likens the Chinese Government to ours. He says:

"The Chinese Government, as at present administered, seems in some respects remarkably like ours. The first great theory is, that in theory it is perfect, and in practice works remarkably badly. Secondly, *it is a government for collecting taxes, and enriching those who can put themselves into office* by bribery and other means. Thirdly, The officials have no power except when supported by public opinion: and, Fourthly, *The Government will not act in the interest of the people*, who, in case of difficulty, consider a Government official the last person to go to for advice or redress."

Very probably, when our admirable neighbor, Mr. JONES, emphatically called "JEHU" reads this extract, he will consider it personal *on the present Administration, with whom it* is his glory to dine, in the White House, and then to boast of it in that House to which he is destined *not* to return.

Mr. MINTURN's notes on China, brief though they be, are so very satisfactory that we heartily wish he had inclination and time to revisit the Celestial Empire, and make a book of his tour.

Better Sense than Poetry.

SENATOR DOUGLAS AND HIS PERSECUTORS; OR, THE BATTLE SONG OF THE HYENAS.

[For The Press.]

We'll hunt the lion down,
We'll lly *bold* Hyenas,
Though honest folks may think
We're just about as mean as

The devils are, who make
Poor bigots torture people,
Because the people can't
Uphold said bigots' steeple.

O! won't it be such fun
To crush the "Little Giant,"
Who, conscious of the right,
Is saucy and defiant?

Why can't he do like us—
Stoop low for place and plunder?
Such independence does
Excite our wrath and wonder!

Of course, in open day
We never will attack him,
For then his voice would call
The masses up to back him;

But at the midnight hour,
In dark and gloomy weather,
In some old grave-yard foul,
We'll congregate together,

And lay some secret plan
To stuff with spoils our leanness;
And hunting Douglas down
Will gratify our meanness!

A Letter from Brigham Young.

A citizen of Canandaigua has received an autograph letter from Brigham Young, which we find published in the Canandaigua (New York) Ontarian. This letter was written in reply to one addressed to the "Prophet" by the gentleman spoken of. Brigham was requested by his correspondent to settle a controversy relating to his own descendants, which had sprung up between the latter and *Alonzo Beebe, of Canandaigua*. Brigham gives the following leaf from personal and family history:

"GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, July 23, 1858.

"To ——: I received your letter dated Canandaigua, May 5, 1858. I will give you a short sketch of my history. I was born in Whitingham, Windham county, Vermont, June 1, 1801. My father and family removed to Smyrna, Chenango county, New York, when I was about eighteen months old. We lived in that place until 1813. Shortly after the commencement of the late war with Great Britain, my father and his family removed to the town of Genoa, Cayuga county, New York, in which county I lived until 1832. We then moved to Mendon, Ontario county, and in 1830 removed from thence to No. 9 Canandaigua, into a small house owned by Jonathan Mack, situated on the west side of the road, opposite the residence of Lorenzo Snow. I helped to finish his new house, so that he moved into it before I left the place.

"I left Canandaigua in the first part of 1833, and returned to Mendon, April 14, same year. I was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I did not live in any other house during my residence in Canandaigua than the one before mentioned. I never saw Sena Goff to my knowledge. I never held meetings in partnership with any person, nor ever preached or pretended to preach, except to my own family, or prayed with two or three persons, or spoke in meeting, except once in a prayer *meeting* in the house I lived in, when called upon to prayed from two to five minutes. There is a possibility of my having spoken in prayer meeting at other times, but I have no recollection of it. If I had, I think I would have remembered it, for I found myself materially frightened when I found myself in the meeting I have mentioned. After I had joined the church, I became somewhat accustomed to public speaking. Once, in passing through No. 9, I stopped and preached in the school house north of Mr. Mack's.

"I have thus far marked out my path with some particularity. Since then, the events of my life are before the world. I will, however, state, that after my return to Mendon I removed to Kirtland, Ohio, from thence to Farwest, Mo., from thence to Nauvoo, Ill., and from thence to the mountains.

"I have by my first wife, Mary Ann, in the following order: John, Joseph, Phineas H., myself, and Lorenzo D. The two former never lived in No. 9. Phineas H. and Lorenzo D. did live there, but removed long before I came. Of the five of us, with my two living sisters (I have three dead,) are here; and although some of them are past three score and ten years of age, yet by living in a righteous manner, and through the blessings of the Lord, we have good health, and are surrounded by an abundance of the comforts of life. Your opponent in the controversy (Beebe) I have no recollection of whatever. He relies on his fancy for his arguments, and his imagination for his facts.

"Through the faith and prayers of the Saints and the visible dealings of the Almighty, we are blessed with peace, and again delivered from the grasp of our enemies who have sought all the day long to trample in the dust, and extinguish that sacred light which God, through his revelations to Joseph, the prophet, has implanted in our breasts.

"My heart yearns toward my friends of bygone years, and blessed, indeed, will be the day when they receive the light of the new and everlasting covenant, when I can join hands with them *and feel that my God is their God*, and that where I worship, there also will they offer up devotion to the throne of grace.

"The war is ended, the troops are partly withdrawn, and we have returned to our comfortable homes; our tree are loaded with fruit; we have the best country in the world for vegetables; our crops are most abundant. Wheat is our staple grain. At many times we have harvested three crops from one sowing, by what we call voluntary wheat springing up the second or third season.

"Although I have been in this valley only eleven years, I have had peaches for seven years, and this year will have abundance of apples for family use; we've anything we want for eating, cheries, and the finest grapes I have ever seen; they grow in bunches weighing from eight ounces to two pounds.

"I have a fine family of boys and girls, a part of whom are married. I have fifteen living and two dead grandchildren.

"Present my warmest regards to your father and his family. I really desire you to let me know where they are living, and how they are situated.

BRIGHAM YOUNG."

SPEECH OF HON. JOHN C. KNOX,

DELIVERED AT COCHRANVILLE, AT FOUR O'CLOCK WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 15TH, 1858.

On making his appearance, Judge Knox was greeted with hearty applause. He said:

FELLOW-CITIZENS: It is some years since I have addressed a meeting on political topics, but I rejoice that I am able here this day to speak in behalf of a great principle, and in favor of one of its noblest advocates. [Applause.] If this were merely a local contest, or the issue were simply a personal one, I should not, as I am not a resident of this Congressional district, have deemed it proper to take any part in it. But the issue is not a local or a personal one. The principle involved is as broad as humanity itself, and the fame and reputation of your candidate for Congress, John Hickman, is dear to every true-hearted Pennsylvanian. A deep interest is felt everywhere in his success. Those who have watched his course in Congress are satisfied that he is an honest, honorable, and intrepid public servant, that he stands up for the rights of the people, regardless of consequences; and this being so, as men desirous of doing their full duty, it is for you of this Congressional district to stand by him. [Applause.]

The question that has occupied more of the public attention, for the past few years, than any other, perhaps, is that which by the Republicans is called the slavery question; by the Lecomptonites, the "settled question;" but which I choose to treat as the Territorial question. It is a question of vast importance to the people of this country. It is not a new question, but is older than the Government—"as ancient as free government itself." It attracted the attention of the Congress of the United States before the formation of the Constitution. At the time of the Revolution there was a large body of *unsettled lands claimed* by several of the States. It was alleged by the States that, although those lands were not within their boundaries, yet they were included in their charters. They claimed to have succeeded to the rights of the crown. On the other hand, it was stated that, as the struggle for independence was a common one, therefore the lands in truth belonged to all in common, and were the property of the confederated Government. Congress at an early day passed a resolution requesting a cession of the lands in controversy to the Confederation. The cession commenced prior to the close of the Revolution. In 1781 New York ceded her lands. New York was the first, and Georgia the last, her cession taking place in 1802.

In 1784, the difficulty of governing these Territories began to excite general attention. A committee of Congress was raised in 1784 on the subject, of which Thomas Jefferson was chairman. Mr. Jefferson reported a temporary plan for the government of the Territories, and that plan embraced the celebrated Jefferson ordinance, which I have not time now to read in full. It provided that after the year 1800 there should be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except of those duly convicted of crime, in any of the States to be formed out of the Territory which had been ceded by the States to the General Government. The plan also had reference to territory which might thereafter be ceded.

A motion was made to strike out the proviso from Mr. Jefferson's report. Under the old Confederation it required a majority of the original thirteen States to adopt any measure or any part of a proposition. The question was taken, six States voting for the proposition as reported, and two against it; and, as six was not a majority of the thirteen States, it was stricken out. Mr. Jefferson of course, succeeded in Congress to strike the proviso, but his colleagues from Virginia overruled him. In 1787, an amended ordinance was reported for the government of the Territories, and in that amended ordinance there was a prohibition of slavery within the Territory when a new State Constitution was formed, and submitted to the States for adoption. At the time the Constitution was formed, Congress had provided for the government of the Territories then owned by the Union, as well as for those which should thereafter be ceded to it. Hence there was not that precaution in providing for the government of the Territories which subsequent events have shown to be necessary. The Constitution, however, does provide that "Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States;" and when it is remembered that the acts of the States ceding the territories to the Union, reversal of which preceded the formation of the Constitution, expressly ceded the territory to the United States, for the latter and *Alonzo Beebe, of Canandaigua*. Brigham gives the following leaf from personal and family history:

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"To ——: I received your letter dated Canandaigua, May 5, 1858. I will give you a short sketch of my history. I was born in Whitingham, Windham county, Vermont, June 1, 1801. My father and family removed to Smyrna, Chenango county, New York, when I was about eighteen months old. We lived in that place until 1813. Shortly after the commencement of the late war with Great Britain, my father and his family removed to the town of Genoa, Cayuga county, New York,