ARMY ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT A HEAD

QUEER PLIGHT OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

More Than a Million Soldiers Without a Central Commander-Individually They Are Brave Men, but in the Army.

Berlin Correspondence of London Times.

I am able to forward to you a transof an article on the Chinese army from scription of the Chinese army:

The peculiarity of the political goographical and economical conditions of China, the historical development of the state and of the family, and other causes, have given a peculiar character Manchu troops, the provincial troops enlisted in case of need and again dismissed. No such thing exists as a centralized command of these bodies.

The Manchu troops are in general the descendants of the Manchus and of those Mongols and Chinese who in the seventeenth century overthrew the Ming dynasty and established the present one upon the throne. They still constitute the chief support of the Tatsing dynasty, and are divided into eight "banners," according to their eight differently colored flags. Their strength may be reckoned at about 300,000 men. Originally they were kept in Peking as a body guard, but the viceroys of the provinces, in order to weaken the central authority, manage 1 break up this force under the pretext that they wished the imperial power to have representatives in the provinces. According to other accounts the detachments were sent them from the beginning in order to enable them to keep control of the conquered territories. These troops are quartered in parts of the town specially walled in. the so-called Tartar quarters. The obligation to military service is hereditary among them, and originally, in addition to concessions of land, they received high pay and portions of rice from the court. Even now every Manchu receives a salary from the emper-or, but it is so small that it does not suffice for his own maintenance, much less that of his family. However, the military duties are not fulfilled very conscientiously, and the soldiers have plenty of time to devote to other oc-cupations. Marriages between Manchus and Chinese are strictly forbidden, but I have none the less seen a considerable number of small-footed omen in the Tartar quarter at Hanking, and alanchu women, as is well known, are not allowed to cripple themselves by artificially lessening the size of their foot. Every son of a Manchu and Manchurin is entered by name in a roll kept by the government and is entitled to a salary from the imperial treasury. Although the Manchu troops have degenerated considerably through the idleness of their live, they have, nevertheless, even in quiet recent times, given proofs of their devotion to the throne and of directs the firing, herole courage. In the streets of the Tartar quarter the angular, lightbrown faces of the well built men, and the curious headgear and long red trousers of the women, form an agreeable contrast to the Chinese custom. The Tartar general is the commander of the few thousand Manchues who are stationed in each province. He holds with the governor a privileged position in the province. These Manchu garrisons are of very little use; they rather tend to increase the discontent of the Chinese by reminding the guns,

of the imperial power the Manchu troops may be neglected. THE PROVINCIAL TROOPS.

them that they are a subject race. In

considering the external development

The provincial troops, with their green banners, are recruited entirely from the Chinese population. They are under the control of the vicerovs and governors and are enlisted voluntarily. They constitute the garrisons of the most important towns and are in-trusted with watch, police and inspection duties. They number about 400,-000 or 500,000 men. A small number of these troops stand in a close relation to the governor and act as his body guard. The only control the central government has over the provincial troops is that it settles the amount of the annual estimates and appoints the Judged by our conceptions the Chi-

nese troops are, to all intents and purposes, quite untrained, badly armed and thus useless. Moreover they lack a centralized command. The so-called "braves" are still to be counted as among the best. They are better among the best. They are better armed and provided for. Some of them have been through a course of European drill, and their officers have been trained in military schools. The duty of arranging for the commissariat and armament of the troops is intrusted to the generals and the superintendents of the camps. These maintain, as a rule, only a small proportion of the regulation strength, a fraud which is connived at by the superior officials, who divide the profit with them. Occasionally a camp is temperarily or even permanently broken up but it still appears in the accounts. The wages which are paid are generally insufficient, and the soldiers endeavor to supplement their means by private work and by robbery. Chinese officers a camp as a speculation. Cheating is The acconterment and every province. In one province the men are exercised with antiquated lances, halberds and pikes, in another with Martini rifles, and in another with German model 88. In one year Krupp guns are brought out, remain lying somewhere and in a short time are in such a state that it is impossible to use them. The officers are secretly glad of the opportunity to buy new weapons, and make a small profit on the transaction. The officers, like all other officials in China, have to make their living by embezzlement. They obtain their positions by the favor of high officials and disappear with the fall of their patrons without receiving either a pension or further employ-The corruption is increased by the fact that rank and official posts are obtained by purchase, and that punishments, even for serious crimes, can be bought off. As is natural in such circumstances, idisobedience is rife in the official world. The attempts

models which have been made by some governors have made no progress. The body of troops formed at Wusung has fallen back into Chinese hands,

NAVY ALMOST AS BAD, What has been said of the military forces applies to a certain degree to the navy, although the officers are here better trained, and in some instances honorably anxious to do good work. The purchase of modern ships of war and torpedo boats is being carried or as rapidly as means will allow; but there is a lack of officers capable of Are Simply Grotesque—Navy Like commanding all these ships and maintaining an undivided control over them. It must be added that neither the land nor the sea forces are sufficiently supported. There is a lack of roads, railways and modern fortifications. The so-called fortresses are mostly built with sloping walls of clay scarcely a lation of the most interesting portion foot thick at the top. Forts built according to European nations are only the pen of Baron von Reitzingen, a to be met with at a few places on the major in the German army, who has coast. Of those in the north, the fortorganzing a portion of the Chinese fleet, were designed to detend to organzing a portion of the Chinese rank trance into the Gulf of Pe-chi-li have passed into the possession of the Europassed into the Europa epan powers. Port Arthur and Ta-lienwan, and of Chi-fuan, the northeast point of the Shan-tung peninsula There remain to be meationed the forts which protect the coasts of the Gulf of Leao-tong and of the Gulf of Peto the Chinese defensive system. As chi-li. Of these, in-hw, on the Lanho military forces are to be noticed the river, has to protect Mukden. The most important link in the chain of and the so-called irregulars, which are fortifications defending the approach to Peking is Taku, at the mouth of the Peiho river. It is intended to protect the barrier of the river, and there is line of forts extending from Taku to Tien-Tsin and the camp of the northern army. Of the fortifications of the Yang-tse river, the fort at Wusung has recently fallen into complete decay. The Nan-shi-tang and the modern Szetzelin battery still remain. At Klau-yong, too, there are a few modern batteries existing side by side with the

> To the more important fortresses of the southern coasts of China belong the fortifications of Tsin-Hai, which guard the entrance to Hang-Chau, and those of Fu-Chau at the mouth of the River Min, which consist of five forts built by French engineers. Further south find the fortresses of Amoy and Swateau, and, opposite Hong Kong, the group of forts at Canton. These last consist of three zones intended, in connection with mines and torpedoes, to protect Canton from attack. It would not be worth while to consider more fully the importance of these various fortifications. The high clay walls of the majority of the forts, the sentry houses, the flag poles and the high gates offer magnificent marks or artillery. The protected shooting places are quite antiquated. The size of the ourt-yards, with the clay huts which they contain, facilitates the destruction of the forts. Only a few batteries correspond to modern conceptions, Batteries, too, are to be found which are composed of twenty or more guns differing entirely from one another in size and construction. This fact alone would render it impossible for the action of the whole battery to be directed by ; single will, and the same effect is produced by the placing of a single gun at the summit of each of the dills at Kiau-Yong and Nanking. But the im-portant principle that the fire of a battery should be directed from a single center is not understood by the Chi-nese, with whom it is not the officer, but the man in charge of the gun, who

ancient ones, and the same is true of

Tsin-Kiang. Further up the river the batteries at Nanking are the only for-

tifications of any importance.

The guns, too, are in a very sad state where there are no European instructors. In the forts on the Yang-tse fine powder is even now used for heavy Krupp guns, while on the other hand brown prismatic powder is used for firing salutes with Armstrongs, Tables of charges are only to be found when they have been fixed to the guns, Coverings and packings are not, as a rule watertight. Ammunition is generally placed in damp rooms, and nobody has any idea of the ballistic capacities of

CO-OPERATION NOT UNDERSTOOD But even if the fortifications were in a better state, they would be of little use to China, for there is no commander who is capable of understanding what is meant by the cooperation of troops and fortifications. There is not even an officer who has a clear idea of the co-operation of different kinds of troops on the field of battle, and from this judgment I would not even except Lieutenant General In-Chang, who speaks German and is at present in command of the northern troops. During the many years I spent in China I only once heard of a proposed combined strategic action of the troops. I refer to the plan which is reported to have been drawn up by the counsel of war at Peking and sanctioned by imperial decree for use in case of war with a European power, According to this plan Lin-kun-i, the viceroy of Nanking, would be appointed as command-er-in-chief of the Yangtse valley with 63,000 men under him. The Viceroy Cheng-Chi-Tung. Wut-Chang, would be entrusted with the command of 48,000 men in the central portion of Yangtse. The defense of the west would be under the control of the governors of Hu-Pei and Hu-Nan with 18,-000 and 30,000 men respectively. The waterways of the Yangtse would be protected by Admiral Huan with 40,-000 men. General Li of An-Hin would be appointed to command the southern fleet. I have not been able to ascertain with certainty whether this plan has any real existence. In any case the Chinese government has not

its command one-tenth number of soldiers whose disposition is thus arranged for, and the lack of roads would render it very difficult to use them as proposed. And regard the post of superintendent of then, too, it must be considered that these troops lack everything they would need to take the field with any training of the soldiers are different in chance of success; leadership, discipline, training, arms, accounterment and commissariat, all are wanting. Even the small corps that was built up with such energy and success at Wu-Sung is no longer an exception to the rule, since it has been removed to Klau-Yong, and deprived of its German instructors. The China of the present day has, in fact, no understanding for military matters, nor has the government the money necessary for the creation of a good army. None the less the government has recently taken up once more the idea of reforms, which, however, are chiefly concerned with the extension and improvement of the

> It is not soldiers nor modern weapons of which China has the greatest need. What is wanted is a man with the courage and ability to break with the old traditions, to utilize the treasures which exist in the country, to reorganize the administration, to put an end

WE HAVE CUT THE PRICES TODAY ON ALL HOLIDAY GOODS. THERE MUST NOT BE A DOL-LAR'S WORTH LEFT WHEN THE CURTAIN RINGS DOWN LATE SATURDAY NIGHT. NEVER HAVE GIFT-GOODS BEEN SO LITTLE PRICED AS NOW.

Christmas Things at Friday Prices

There are none of us infallible.

make mistakes.

We go to the markets and look over the Christmas novelties; we see things that we think will sell, we bring them home and spread them out before you in all their gorgeous array.

As a rule, we are not disappointed; the gift-things find quick owners here. But not always. And so it happens that certain lots of articles, bought for the Holiday Trade, are not marching out of the store as quickly as we could wish. It may be the price; if so, we have remedied that for Friday. It certainly is not the styles or qualities-for over our buyers is the generalship of experts, who seldom

This week's sale, coupled with our enormous Christmas trade, will be a record-breaker. Holiday Goods are added several articles at startlingly low prices. Come early in the day if you can.

Decorated Lamps.

\$1.25 instead of \$1.49 and \$1.89. This for your choice on Friday of lars, nearly a hundred. All hand-decorated, with globe or dome shades, extra large Bible-a good one that can be handed burners and twenty styles and colors to choose from.

All day Friday-after 10 o'clock.

Double Roasters.

29 cents instead of 40 cents. May as well have the turkey done to a turn when you can buy a roaster for so

Double roasters, too. Made with and complete with maps and helps. patent vent-will hold the biggest bird that ever strutted into your kitchen. All day Friday-after 10 o'clock.

Lace Curtains,

\$1.19 instead of \$2 the pair. We have never offered a better bargan in our upholstery store than is this one. Very fine quality curtains, full 35 yards long and 54 inches wide, complete with white pole-an ornament to any

All day Friday-after 10 o'clock,

Cluster Scarfs.

\$3.98 instead of five dollars. This for your choice on Friday of seventy-five Cluster Scaris in Stone breasted in style, heavy in weight and Marten, Sable and Electric Seal; also a in many pretty and desired patterns. few in the much desired imitation Silver in any pretty and desired patterns.

This is a typical fur season-never have cluster scaris been so much in demand; the markets are practically empty -and yet we give you this unparalleled chance for Friday.

All the newest season's shapes. All day Friday-after 10 o'clock.

Illustrated Bibles.

\$1.85 on Friday instead of three dol-

What more appropriate gift than a down from generation to generation.

We offer on Friday only and on no mats in front. other day, fifty Teachers' Bibles, containing over six hundred magnificent illustrations of Bible scenes and localities. Printed on superior quality of paper, bound in full morocco, silk sewed, full Divinity circuit, red under gilt edges,

These are the famous illuminated edition that have attracted universal attention. They are sold in most stores at

five and six dollars. Only fitty of them Friday at the special price of \$1.85-much less than

All day Friday-after 10 o'clock,

Boys' Suits.

\$1.48 the suit, instead of \$2.50. Don't know of a much more agreeable present to give a boy than a suit of clothes-especially when you can buy the expensive kinds at our low Friday

All sizes from seven to fifteen years.

All day Friday-after 10 o'clock,

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#### Photo Frames.

18 cents instead of 30 cents.

This for your choice of a big quantity of Photo Frames, seven by nine inches in size-will hold the largest cabinets, Made with easel backs and finished with

A decided bargain at the price. All day Friday-after 10 o'clock,

#### Hand Sleds.

20 cents Friday instead of 59 cents. There's plenty of snow ahead-but the Big Store cannot wait for it. The little folks can, if they've a pretty sled to

Let's suppose that we need the room (and we do) and that you need the sleds, A fair exchange will be no robbery-so come for these on Friday at twenty cents,

In two styles—the high one for girls, made with bent knees and prettily painted; the low ones for the boysmade very strong to withstand all sorts of knocks.

All day Friday-after 10 o'clock,

## Rocking Chairs.

Two lots for Friday-a splendid gift for very little money.

The \$2.50 kind at \$1.98. The \$3.00 kind at \$2.23.

Three hundred parlor rockers in mahogany and oak finish. Your choice of saddle, cobbler or upholstered seats. Made with high carved backs, turned and straight spindles and broad arms.

An unprecedened offering right in the midst of the Christmas season. There'll be three hundred happy

homes tomorrow night. All day Friday-after 10 o'clock.

to create an efficient body of troops under the control of one central authority, and to construct roads and railways so that troops could be immediately dispatched wherever a display of military power was necessary to defend the empire.

## AMONG THE AFRIKANDERS.

The Boer Women Have an Intense Hatred of the English.

From the New York Tribune. "The Boers of South Africa are distinct race by themselves," satd Louise V. Sheldon, who lived three years in South Africa. "They are and always will remain primitive men and women, who prefer to live on isolated farms, far from any neighbors. The Boer's ancestor, probably some Dutch or French Huguenot exile, 'trekked' to the command of the outlander, who came and took possession of his slaves and farm. But he will not 'trek' again to please any enemy.

"The Boer women are very prolific, many of them having from fifteen to twenty-three children. This is not an uncommon fact, and these children are ruled by their mother with a strong but silent hand. The women of this race are tall and massive, with giants sons, whom they bring up in burefooted freedom to run over their na-

tive veldt. Good features and a beautiful complexion are common to the Boer women, and, although she may only live

linen, allowing only the eyes to remain uncovered. The hot winds that sweep over the country from the Kalhari desert blister and burn and play havoc

"She is not as ignorant as one would suppose, but she lacks that worldly wise self-possession which the Engway shy and speechless before a foreigner, unless he or she is an American; then a metamorphosis takes place. Her eyes sparkle, a little litive, uncultured people, and they have added color flier to her cheeks as she

our own." "She is energetic to such a degree that it tires an American werden who is not a club woman to watch her, Her religion is of the Dutch reformed ereed, and she and her family 'trek' into town every three months to a beautiful church built of stone, erected at a cost of \$50,000 or \$60,000, in a village of not over 1,000 inhabitants.

says, 'You come from a republic like

'Her lazy, black, native servants have to be told every day from the time they arrive from their distant huts in the morning until pight just what they must do. The Kaffir has no memory for the white man's work and therefore a sharp stick well laid on his back is the only argument which the Boer frau uses and which will make him work.

"She can always get servants strange to say, while her English neighbor will be forced to do her own work through lack of understanding in a primitive house of cement and how to rule them. Until one lives in clay, she is most careful of her looks. the country and closely observes the at re-organization after European to the misgovernment of the officials. When in an ox wagon or cape cart she customs of the cape people in govern-

drives with her face swathed in folded ing the native the servant question mains as difficult to solve as here, "The Boer frau stays at home and runs the farm (of several thousand acres), while the men of the family go to war, and her inherited and acquired hatred of the English is so intense that she glories in being able to send her sons to destroy them. She lish woman has cultivated. She is in is extreme in her likes and dislike and the Englishman has no bitterer foe than the Boer frau.

"The English have no love for primon several occasions presumed upon the outward appearance of timidity in the Boer, and in turn been soundly thrashed.

enough to do in developing nature's storehouses in their own country, for the poorest mines in Cripple Creek, Cole, which are not considered worth working, are richer than the richest nines in the Johannesburg gold

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought FOR

## CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

## Fine Umbrellas

rashed.

"No one but Americans could ever ralgamate with the Boers, and that ralgamate with the Boers, and that amalgamate with the Boers, and that will never be, because Americans have and Fine Twill Silk. Great variety of

> Pocket Books, Card Cases, Shopping Bags, Boston Bags in Seal Alligator, Morocco, Russia Leather, Etc., Etc.

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