

beings, to which are attributed, by the fears and hopes of the believers, a constant and important rôle in the government of the world."

A detailed consideration of the many gods and sacred animals that enter into the daily worship of the people brings M. Charpentier to the following conclusion:

"No people reject all dogma as vigorously as do the Chinese. They concern themselves not at all with the lofty morality of Confucius; yet, at the same time, no race exhibits such abject slavery to a fetishism at once tyrannical and degrading.

"This is why the Chinese, altho they have an immense domain, will never become a really great people. In this vast body there will never be a soul. The ancient Greeks, few in number as they were, must be accounted the noblest race of history. Perhaps Confucius will bear comparison with Plato; but when a society has no noble code of ethics, it will not grow; when it has lost such a code, its period of decadence has begun. The whole question for any nation is to know or not to know how to put into action 'the sublime harmony of beauty and life.'"

—Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.

BEHAVIOR OF THE ALLIES IN CHINA.

REPORTS of outrage, cruelty, and wholesale looting in China by the allied forces still come to hand, tho it is notable that such accounts receive currency chiefly in British and American papers. The correspondent of *The Straits Times* (a British colonial paper), who was in Peking during the entire siege by the European troops, declares that more than 50,000 Chinese men, women, and children, in the ordinary proportion in which they obtain in towns, were killed by the European and Japanese troops after the latter had entered the city. "Babies, children, men, and women," he says, "were indiscriminately bayoneted or shot." The correspondent of *The Daily Express* and *The Sphere* (London), Mr. George Lynch, declares that the savagery was "beyond conception." The Japanese and Americans were least culpable, but "a horrible lust of cruelty has developed throughout the private soldiery of all nationalities." To a representative of the *Kobe Herald*, "to stain the name of the Russian empire with a blot that will prove all but indelible."



RUSSIA: "Open door?—Why certainly, there you are."

—Fischietto, Turin,

ken. . . . The Russians were perpetually committing acts of cruelty. As an instance of what continually occurred I saw them kicking along a little boy of ten or eleven years old like a football. . . . It was impossible to be a member of the expedition without noting the inhumanity exhibited by the Russians as a matter of course. The Russian soldiers were perpetually prodding the Chinese with their bayonets, which they had fixed on their rifles the whole time. . . . It was a notorious fact that fifteen Russian soldiers raped a girl of eleven years old to death. The French soldiers, I am sorry to say, were also exceedingly cruel. Indeed, no nationality was altogether blameless in this

representative of the *Kobe Chronicle*, (also under British auspices) Mr. Lynch said recently:

"In the course of the march to Peking, I found that the best-behaved body of troops among the whole lot were the Japanese. Particularly at Tungchau, where the Russians behaved abominably. I here myself saw Chinese women lying under the walls, from which they had jumped to escape being ravished by the Russian soldiers, with their hips broken.

matter. . . . Then you must recollect that it was a war without wounded. Practically no prisoners were taken."

One of the Japanese correspondents at the front (Mr. N. Taguehi, of the *Keizai Zasshi*) says: "Everywhere they [the French and Russian soldiers] went they scattered sorrow and anguish, their footsteps being those of plunderers and ravishers of women when no fighting was going on. Yet they showed themselves on the field of action the most cowardly of all." *The Japan Times* (Tokyo), commenting on the alleged outrages, says: "Such inhuman excesses will remain a lasting reproach to the civilization and honor of the countries to which the cruel brutes belong." "Enough has been done that the world knows of," says



IN STILL WATER THERE IS GOOD FISHING.

—Kladderadatsch, Berlin.

the *Kobe Herald*, "to stain the name of the Russian empire with a blot that will prove all but indelible."

The question of looting by the allied troops is still the subject of severe newspaper comment. Several of the powers—notably Great Britain and the United States—have officially condemned the practice by forbidding their troops to take without remuneration any article from a Chinaman or from a Chinese building. The French Government also has returned unopened a number of cases of plunder sent to President Loubet by General Frey (commander of the French marine forces in China); and Vice-Admiral Alexieff, Russian naval commander, is reported to have ordered his men to make out detailed lists of Chinese property in their possession, stating where such property now is. These orders are, however, it is averred, so easily evaded as to be practically of no effect. "The atmosphere of the city is loot," declares the correspondent of *The Westminster Gazette*:

"Moreover, people who a month ago were most emphatic in their condemnation of the practise are now among the most active in the wild scramble to obtain for nothing or next to nothing almost priceless treasures—the disease is as contagious as small-pox. It started with the soldiers, but it quickly spread until it embraces not only officers and civilians but missionaries and high officials within the Legations. Only a very few have withstood the temptation to loot, and these are inwardly rebellious because their consciences do not allow them to participate in the harvest."

In the interview with the *Kobe Chronicle* already quoted from, Mr. Lynch charges the missionaries with "disgraceful, promiscuous looting, or, at least, profiting from looting." We quote again from the interview:

"The private looting that took place was most successfully exploited by the missionaries. When an effort was made to stop promiscuous looting, every British officer was put on his honor to give an account of any loot that he had, and to return everything except one or two things of trifling value which he was allowed to keep as souvenirs. The looting stopped from that time among the soldiers—that is, private looting. But the missionaries were not bound by this at all. They took possession of big Chinese houses, where they carried on sales of everything they

could seize, engaging their converts to bring them in fresh articles from private houses as purchases depleted their stock. I bought a sable coat myself from a missionary for \$125, after bargaining with him for some days. I sent home a photograph of one of these gentlemen taken in his 'shop' with piles of furs and Buddhas round him and his converts assisting in the selling. He stood amid the Buddhas like a poulterer selling his pheasants. He had a Chinese there valuing the things. The Chinese put on the full value, and the missionary sold them for one third less.

"Did they say what the proceeds were for?"

"Yes. For the good of the 'cause.' The money went straight into their desks."

Mr. Lynch promises to publish the portraits of these missionaries when he returns to England. There are several extensive "loot markets" in Northern China. A correspondent of *The Celestial Empire*, speaking of the allied camp near Tientsin, says:

"In every by-street and in the environs of the camps soldiers of all the powers gather in little groups bartering the spoils of war. It is all done very quietly, and apparently is winked at by those in authority. These little extemporized bazars are



A NEW EUROPEAN VOCAL CONCERT.

"We hold fast and true together."

—Lustige Blätter, Berlin.

extremely picturesque. Japanese, Americans, Frenchmen, Sikhs, Russians, soldiers of every flag, gather in eager groups, while civilian traders and curio-seekers haggle with them over prices in true Oriental fashion. By far the greater portion of the stuff is practically worthless except, as has been said, for its value as relics."

The American policy with regard to China, as outlined in the President's message, receives rather disparaging comment in the British press. President McKinley's suggestions are anything but definite declares, *The Times* (London). "He is also rather too optimistic as to the final result. Why doesn't he formulate a plan?" *The Standard* holds that "the United States Government has done little to strengthen the alliance. . . . In spite of Mr. McKinley's assurances, it rather acted as a drag upon European diplomacy." The message "contains not one positive suggestion," says *The Daily News*. *The St. James's Gazette* characterizes the President's opinions as "brave words, but entirely without importance." "Obscure and involved verbiage" is the comment of *The Saturday Review*; "the whole trend of the American policy is to leave other nations to do the work by which the United States will benefit." *The Scotsman* (Edinburgh), however, highly approves of the President's references to China, and concludes its comment by saying:

"On all questions of policy and principle to which the message, in its references to China and its future, gives expression, this country will find itself in hearty agreement with the United States."

In an article in the *Revue Diplomatique* (Paris, December 2) P. Coquelle, writing of the so-called Chinese crusade, undertakes

to show that the sole motive of the powers in the war with China is to acquire a market for the surplus railroad material manufactured in the different countries as a result of the concessions granted by the Chinese Government before the outbreak of the trouble. This novel view is presented as follows:

"The question of the missionaries alone would never have led to a collective movement of the Powers. For more than twelve hundred years now the Chinese have massacred missionaries periodically, and the result has each time been excuses on the part of the guilty and the payment of large recompense to the families of the victims. Nor is the crusade for the sake of acquiring land upon which the Occidental nations may empty their surplus population. China is already too thickly populated, with the exception of certain inhospitable regions, for the reception of European colonies. . . . No, the true motive of the crusade is the question of railroads. During recent years the great iron-construction companies of England, Germany, Belgium, and to a certain extent also of France, have produced a considerable quantity of railroad material which has not been disposed of. . . . The Chinese have learned that railroads reduce distances; they use them and are satisfied. The result of this experience was a great quantity of demands for concessions on the part of English, German, French, American, and Belgian companies. All were granted, and the concessions up to the present time amount to some twenty thousand kilometers, which is but one quarter of the future system of China. One could regard the industry of the civilized world as rescued. The work commenced, notably on the great artery from Peking to Canton. But the mandarins and lettered classes did not regard so favorably as the common people the introduction of the locomotive. They saw that China would gradually become civilized through contact with European inventions, and that the ruling classes would lose their prestige with the loss of their power and riches. In concert with the Empress, whose secret desires corresponded exactly with theirs, they incited the Boxers. The imperial troops sent to suppress the Boxers were defeated according to order, rather than owing to the superiority of the rebels, the work on the railroad was destroyed, the Peking-Taku line torn up, and the Christians massacred or besieged."—Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.

THE NEW POLAND.

NATIONS are not born in a day, but neither do they die easily. This is aptly illustrated by the Polish problem, burdened with which Prussia enters the twentieth century, and which will tax all the wisdom of her rulers. Whether or not the Prussian Poles are more harshly oppressed than their brethren elsewhere, there is no doubt that their feeling on the subject is keener, and there has come among them a revival of national ambitions, nurtured by their clergy and strengthened by association. The brilliant qualities of the Poles enable them to obtain advantages in many parts of Germany, and altho the Government is well aware of their growing strength, there is no way to oppose men who do not openly rebel. The *Berliner Korrespondenz* says:

"At the end of 1898 there were 894 Polish associations. Their statutes give as their aims, religious edification, good-fellowship, moral improvement, education and enlightenment, and generally, also, the fight against Socialism. Rarely is the cultivation of the Polish language made the chief aim, and still less is the preservation of Polish characteristics mentioned. Only lately has it been possible to prove the political character of the Sokol (athletic) clubs; yet it can not be doubted that the majority of these associations form an enormous national organization for political purposes. Their aim is to gather all Polish elements together, to isolate them from their non-Polish fellow citizens, and to arouse their national Polish feeling. A highly developed press assists in the work."

The *National Zeitung* also declares that the Polish press and clubs are and always will be the enemies of the Germans. The peculiarity of the Polish movement lies, however, chiefly in the