ON THE TRAIL OF THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

This Distinguished American Journalist is Traveling Around the World for the Purpose of Investigating the American Foreign Missionary from a Purely Disinterested, Secular and Non-Sectarian Standpoint. Illustrated with Drawings and from Photographs.

Missions and Massacres Are Related in China

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Peking, China.—The most serious charge made against missionaries in China is that by their interference with civil law they exasperate the natives to the point of uprisings and massacres. This subject deserves the fullest investigation and most careful treatment; for it is no light thing to accuse ministers of the gospel with being responsible for riot and murder. Yet I regret to write that I find ground for this widespread criticism.

A look at the setting of the facts is first necessary. China has long been regarded as a huge, hulking, helpless incompetent among the nations of the earth. She has never received the consideration due to a great country. Foreign powers have never trusted the lives of their subjects in her keeping; wherever they go, there goes the law of extra-territoriality. An alien in China is not subject to China; he knows no law but that of his own self-restraint or of his country's consulate.

Every White Man a Nabob.

A foreigner can do pretty much as he pleases in China. Instead of being, as his friends at home imagine him to be, a terror-stricken mortal, momentarily afraid that the Chinese ogre will demand his life, he is more nearly an ogre himself.

Bitter experience with armies and navies from over seas, and with the loss of territory seized as a penalty for injury to foreigners, has made Chinese officials fearful of these strangers. Every magistrate knows that he will lose his job, if not his head, should aught befall a foreigner within his jurisdiction. Instead of being hooted down the street as a "foreign devil," the foreigner swaggers along expecting all other pedestrians, and jinrickshas and carriages as well, to get out of his way. The small urchin, less discreet than his elders, sometimes cries "foreign devil," only at the risk of feeling the foreigner's stick.

The race question in the southern states is not half so serious as the race question in Asia. The white man's sense of superiority to the yellow expresses itself in a harshness that would shock America were it widely known. If a rickshas man does not go fast enough, beat him with your stick. A secretary of the American legation at Peking told me as a joke that he broke his light cane on a coolie's shoulders. If a Chinese gets in your way, shove him aside, kick him or pull his queue. When I have seen the way the Chinese are frequently abused by white men I no longer marvel at the anti-foreign feeling which resides in most native breasts. The wonder is that the Chinese have endured so much without reprisal. For it does seem as if the natives have no rights which the foreigners are bound to respect. The present outcry against the white man in China has manifold justification.

Missionaries Above the Law.

As an enlightened Chinese educator said to me, "Anybody can do whatever he wants to China at present." Thus it came to pass that the French treaty gave civil rank and authority to French missionaries. There are ugly reports afloat concerning the means by which this provision was put into the document; but these do not necessarily concern the present discussion. The American and British missionaries, who would be entitled to the same rights by the "most favored nation" clause, promptly disavowed any intention of accepting them.

Not so the French. They have been openly political agents, as have also, in some cases, the Germans. The French bishops travel in the full regalia of viceroys. When he goes out in his chair a bishop has outrunners, umbrellas, flags and all the other flummery of a Chinese governor. He demands to be received always in the state befitting his rank. Upon this point Chinese officials, high and low, have spoken to me with greatest bitterness; and so also have men in the consular and diplomatic service.

The Why of China's Latest Massacre.

Regardless of public opinion, the French missionaries have pressed to the limit their prerogatives. Columns could be written of the manner in which they have abused their power. Whole villages have been forcibly impressed to work for them. In the interior, a few weeks ago, I ran across a case where they had imprisoned the head men of a village. At Nanchang they insisted on the punishment of two men whom the mayor had promised to protect; the latter, his "face" gone, wrought a dire Chinese revenge by committing suicide in their church. Straightway an uprising followed in which an entirely unoffending British family was massacred, as well as the French priests, and all the foreigners in the place would have been slaughtered, had not a timely rain dispersed the mob.

For all such crimes the French demand exorbitant indemnities. The most trivial offense against a member of one of the French churches must be heavily atoned for. This applies not only to the national land-grabbing of France and Germany on account of missionary troubles, but also to petty neighborhood squabbles. A convert of the French priest is immune from the law of his own land. He may be a murderer, a thief, a rascal of any kind or degree; his church membership is an asylum, and the law cannot touch him. The missionary alone is his judge. No outsider can make a peremptory ruling that missionaries must not meddle with law cases, so that they could make this answer when appealed to. Certainly it is the conclusion of all impartial observers that it is gravely unwise for missionaries to attempt to influence the course of Chinese civil and criminal administration, even when these are unjust.

So strongly do most missionaries now feel upon the subject that they refuse under any condition to touch yamen cases. One young missionary, born and reared in China and on close terms with leading Chinese, was one day notified that a certain man under arrest had claimed exemption from punishment on the plea of belonging to this missionary church. "What shall I do?" asked the magistrate. "Give him ten extra lashes for trying to deceive you and for attempting to drag the church into a civil case," promptly replied the young missionary. The general practice of the American missionaries, with only rare exceptions, is to permit their members to suffer injustice, rather than to incur the greater evil of bringing reproach upon the church's name, and of hindering the state from exercising its sovereign rights. Nevertheless, I have learned from consuls and from missionaries of some cases wherein American missionaries have appealed to the mandarins or to the consuls on behalf of natives.

Robbing Mandarins of "Face."

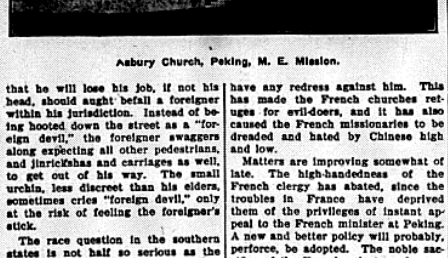
The preeminent importance of "face" in China makes this sort of thing harder for a Chinese official to swallow than it would be for an Anglo-Saxon, although the endurance of it on the part of the latter is an impossible hypothesis. Magistrates are thereby shorn of prestige and power by the meddlesome foreigners. The procedures which pass for judicial processes in China are knocked sky high. Thus, although most officials with whom I have talked clearly distinguish between French and American missionaries, there is undoubtedly a widespread hostility against all missionaries on the part of the official class. They associate, and not without reason, the loss of much of their territory with the missionary's presence and activity in civil affairs. Embodied in every missionary, to the Chinese mind, is the ever present possibility of complications with foreign powers. Small wonder the throne has recently been memorialized by the progressives for a retrocession of extra-territorial rights.

Some courageous Chinese magistrates, it should be said, show their resentment against foreign interference by deciding against the missionary's side, even though he be in the right. A spirited young mandarin told me how, when he was sitting at Mukden, a litigant brought in his card reading, "A member of the Christian church." (And, in passing, it may be mentioned that every missionary keeps his personal cards carefully locked up, for a Chinese can work wonders with the prestige of a foreigner's card.) I said to him, "Are you a Chinese subject or a British subject? If you are a Chinese subject I do not care anything about your religion." And before I was through with him that man learned that it does not pay to try to hide behind the foreigner's church in some Chinese courts.

In an endeavor to be perfectly fair I may have given undue prominence to the fact, frequently denied at home, that some American and British missionaries do occasionally interfere with Chinese civil and criminal cases, although apparently, judging from the interviews which follow, they do so in minor ways which do not reach Peking. My pronounced conviction is that they should not do so, under any circumstances, even to save their converts from persecution. It is only just to add, however, that the entire missionary body is suffering from the odium of this sort of thing chiefly because of the monstrous behavior of the French and German priests.

Minister Rockwell's Views.

The American minister at Peking, William Rockwell has vigorous opinions about missionaries. "What about the missionary question?" I casually remarked, at the end of a rather extended interview. "What missionary question? There is no missionary question that I know of," he quickly and almost sharply rejoined. "I have been minister here for two years, and during that time there has been no missionary question before me, except that unfortunate massacre last spring down in Lien Chow, which was purely a local matter, and might have happened anywhere. So far as I know, the American missionaries are living in delightful relations with the Chinese. Their work in Peking is beyond praise; anyone who goes to it with an unbiased mind must admit that. I spent two years in interior China, and I saw missionaries of all bodies; and I found them most delightful people, whose work for the Chinese is simply beyond estimate. The missionary is doing more for the cause of—I shall not say civilization, for that has become a cheap word; but for the cause of progress, of enlightenment, than any other person or agency. Not to speak of the purely preaching or doctrinal side of the missionary's activities, for that is beyond my province, his medical and school work are an unquestioned, an inestimable good. I cannot imagine why the people in the treaty ports criticise the missionaries. I cannot see any real basis or reason for it. They simply do not know missionaries. Nobody can look into the situation, except he has an 'a priori' conviction and prejudice, and sees only what he is determined to see, without praising the missionaries most highly."



Asbury Church, Peking, M. E. Mission.

IN THE CANEBRAKE.

HONDURANS TAKE ACAJUTLA

SALVADOREAN PORT IS CAPTURED BY A LAND FORCE.

News of the Battle, Which Took Place in September is Declared False in Washington.

San Francisco. — The Pacific mail steamer San Jose, from Panama and way stations, arriving in this port Monday morning, brought word of the capture of the Port of Acajutla in the latter part of September by the Honduran land forces after a battle with the army of Salvador.

The attack upon Acajutla is said to have been well planned and to have taken place during the absence of the United States gunboat Yorktown, which was to have looked after American interests on the southern coast. Both the Yorktown, which was proceeding north, and the Chicago, were at Acapulco at the time of the capture of the Port of Acajutla, and at the departure of the San Jose for San Francisco the full details of the battle had not been received.

At Corinto the San Jose's manifest was examined by Nicaraguan government officials and her hold searched for ammunition, after which she was allowed to proceed.

Washington. — Assistant Secretary of State Adee Monday night characterized as "an absurd canard" the report from San Francisco that Honduran land forces had captured the Port of Acajutla in the latter part of September after a battle with the army of Salvador. Mr. Adee said that Honduras and Salvador are on friendly terms and that no suggestion of trouble had reached the state department here, although the Washington government is in almost constant communication with the Central American powers concerned.

Minister Ugarte, of Honduras, said that he had had cable dispatches from his government Saturday in regard to the coming peace conference to be held here by representatives of the Central American republics and that no mention was made of any difficulty at Acajutla. The ministers from Guatemala and Salvador are likewise without advices in any sense confirmatory of the reports from San Francisco.

UNITE TO FIGHT LOW FARES.

Railroads of Northwest Begin Action for Permanent Injunction.

Sioux Falls, S. D.—All leading railroads having lines in South Dakota Thursday afternoon commenced a united action in the United States court, this city, for a permanent injunction preventing the state board of railroad commissioners from putting into effect October 15 an order reducing passenger rates in the state from three to two and one-half cents a mile. The commission was temporarily restrained from putting the new rate into effect pending a hearing from Judge Carland October 29 on the application for a permanent injunction.

Omaha's New Cathedral Begun.

Omaha, Neb.—Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul made the principal address at the laying of the cornerstone of the new St. Cecilia's cathedral Sunday, devoting his remarks to a discussion of the present tendency to humanize Christ and make of Him an ordinary man. The ceremony followed a parade composed of nearly 9,000 people, representing all Catholic societies, in brilliant regalia, on foot and horseback. The new structure will be among the ten largest in the United States, and will cost upward of $250,000.

Hersey to Be in Balloon Race.

Washington.—At the request of Prof. Willis L. Moore, of the United States weather bureau, Secretary Wilson, of the department of agriculture, Monday authorized Maj. Henry B. Hersey, chief inspector of the government meteorological service, to represent the government in the international aeronautic cup race from St. Louis October 21. Maj. Hersey has just returned to this country from Spitzbergen, where he assisted Walter Wellman in his effort to reach the north pole with an airship.

HARTJE RENEWS HIS FIGHT.

Wants Divorce Case Reopened, Claiming to Have New Proof.

Philadelphia.—Claiming that they have letters which passed between Thomas Madine, coachman, and Mrs. Mary Scott Hartje, which will result in a complete reversal of affairs, counsel for Augustus Hartje, the wealthy Pittsburg manufacturer, appeared before the Pennsylvania superior court here Monday to argue a petition for reopening the sensational suit for divorce which he brought against his wife.

Other letters which the petitioner says he has found since the case was heard were written, he alleges, by Helen Scott and Ida Scott to Howard A. Lappe, of Pittsburg, Pa., in which the writers indicate that unless their parents paid them a certain sum of money each month they would "turn in" for the petitioner. These letters were written, according to the petition, on April 27 and April 29, 1907.

In the petition presented to the court for Mr. Hartje he recites that since the hearing in the case he has secured letters written by Thomas Madine, the coachman, while he was in Ireland, to Mrs. Hartje while she was at the Hotel Victoria in London, and others which she wrote to the coachman from there. He relates that he is in a position to prove that Mrs. Hartje arranged with the employes of the hotel to have the letters delivered privately to her and that she supplied Madine with envelopes addressed to herself. He further avers that Mrs. Hartje arranged with a hair dresser, Ambrois, of 274 Rue St. Honore, Paris, to mail letters through him to Madine and that she received letters from the coachman and sent money to him through the same avenue.

LICENSE ORDERED SUSPENDED.

Steamer Fred Hartweg Causes Trouble on President's Trip.

Evansville, Ind.—United States Inspector of Hulls Williams for the local port Friday afternoon received a telegram signed by President Roosevelt directing that the license for the steamer Fred Hartweg, carrying the Pittsburg delegation in the present river trip, be immediately suspended. The telegram follows:

"Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 4.—On Board U. S. S. Mississippi.—Supervisor Inspector of Vessels, Evansville, Ind.—I direct that the license of the master or whoever is responsible for the 'Fred Hartweg' during the present voyage be suspended at once for 90 days. I wish this done by telegraph, wherever the boat may be, if such procedure is possible. Col. Sears can give you the details of the misconduct, which has been of so serious nature and might have at any time caused an accident to this boat as well as to other boats.—Theodore Roosevelt."

The steamer Fred Hartweg's home port is Cairo and it is inspected at Evansville.

Judge Faints on Bench.

Bemidji, Minn.—Peter Mathieson, on trial for killing John Johansen near Tenstrike last February, was found guilty of murder in the first degree. Judge McClenahan fainted when about to pronounce sentence and was carried from the courtroom. He was revived and returned and sentenced the convicted man to hang within 90 days.

Arbitration Project Wins.

The Hague.—The entire Anglo-American project providing for obligatory arbitration was approved at the Monday evening's session of the committee on arbitration by 31 votes to 9.

Wages of Operators Increased.

Topeka, Kan.—The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad company Monday announced an increase in the wages of all telegraph operators on the system. The increase went into effect October 1.

To Break Mormon Politicians.

Washington.—Frank J. Cannon, formerly United States senator from Utah, has become the head of a determined agitation to break down the political power of mormonism in the western states.

SAID TO BE SIMPLE

EASILY MIXED RECIPE FOR KIDNEYS AND BLADDER.

Tells Readers How to Prepare This Home-Made Mixture to Cure the Kidneys and Bladder and Rheumatism.

Get from any prescription pharmacist the following:

Fluid Extract Dandelion, one-half ounce; Compound Kargon, one ounce; Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla, three ounces.

Shake well in a bottle and take a teaspoonful dose after each meal and at bedtime.

The above is considered by an eminent authority, who writes in a New York daily paper, as the finest prescription ever written to relieve backache, Kidney Trouble, Weak Bladder and all forms of Urinary difficulties. This mixture acts promptly on the eliminative tissues of the Kidneys, enabling them to filter and strain the uric acid and other waste matter from the blood which causes Rheumatism.

Some persons who suffer with the afflictions may not feel inclined to place much confidence in this simple mixture, yet those who have tried it say the results are simply surprising, the relief being effected without the slightest injury to the stomach or other organs.

Mix some and give it a trial. It certainly comes highly recommended. It is the prescription of an eminent authority, whose entire reputation, it is said, was established by it.

SURELY HAD PRIZE FLY.

Money Invested in Incubator Was Not All Lost.

Poultney Bigelow, the brilliant author and journalist, said the other day of the chicken farm that he is about to set up at Malden:

"I hope to succeed with this farm. I hope our experiences won't too closely resemble that of my old friend Horatio Rogers. Rash Rogers lived in the suburbs. On the suburban train one morning he said to me with a sour laugh:

"'I've got something nobody else has got, Mr. Bigelow.'

"'Have you, Rash?' said I. 'What is it?'

"'Well,' said Rogers, 'I bought a $50 incubator last month, put $15 worth of eggs in it, and hatched out a bluebottle fly.'

"He frowned, then sighed.

"'Yes,' he said, 'I've got the only $65 bluebottle fly in the world.'"

Known by His Friends.

A forlorn looking man was brought before a magistrate for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. When asked what he had to say for himself, he gazed pensively at the judge, smoothed down a remnant of gray hair, and said:

"Your honor, 'Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn.' I'm not as debased as Swift, as profligate as Byron, as dissipated as Poe, or as debauched as—"

"That will do," thundered the magistrate. "Thirty days! Aye, officer, take a list of those names and run 'em in. They're as bad a lot as he is."—Lippincott's Magazine.

Knew What She Wanted.

"A foreign looking woman, rather well dressed, came in the other day," said the librarian at one of the East side branches, "and asked for 'Cottage Cheese.' I supposed, of course, that some one had directed her to a dairy or perhaps a grocery, and that she had got into the wrong place. But she insisted that she was in the right place and that it was 'Cottage Cheese' that she wanted. 'It's the name of a book,' she said. That gave me the tip that she simply had a title mixed up, and, sure enough, it was 'Scottish Chiefs.'"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Yes, Why Not?

Dr. Frank C. Bostwick, official dentist to the sultan of Morocco, has been spending his vacation in Plainfield, N. J., and at a recent dinner he said, apropos of a bad child:

"It is wise to punish children, but not corporally. I know a dentist in Gibraltar who got out a birch rod to punish his little son with one day. The boy, looking at the rod, said piteously:

"'Papa, would you mind giving me gas first?'"

TRANSFORMATIONS.

Curious Results When Coffee Drinking is Abandoned.

It is almost as hard for an old coffee toper to quit the use of coffee as it is for a whisky or tobacco fiend to break off, except that the coffee user can quit coffee and take up Postum without any feeling of a loss of the morning beverage, for when Postum is well boiled and served with cream, it is really better in point of flavor than most of the coffee served nowadays, and to the taste of the connoisseur it is like the flavor of fine, mild Java.

A great transformation takes place in the body within ten days or two weeks after coffee is left off and Postum used, for the reason that the poison to the nerves—caffeine—has been discontinued, and in its place is taken a liquid food that contains the most powerful elements of nourishment.

It is easy to make this test and prove these statements by changing from coffee to Postum. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."