

The Weekly Chronicle.

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NO TEMPORIZING WITH CHINA.

The powers will not temporize with China. The fact is clearly indicated by the flat-footed refusal of the United States, Great Britain and France to listen to the peace proposals of Kwang Hsu, representing himself as actual emperor of the Chinese empire, says the Spokesman-Review. The edict appointing Li Hung Chang as envoy plenipotentiary to negotiate for peace with the powers is only a subterfuge. Were the powers to accede to the request of the emperor it would only allow more time for China to get her armies into shape for the serious work of attempting to drive the allied troops to the sea coast.

It is pretty clearly established that no terms offered by China will find favor that do not include entrance of the allied armies into Peking for the safe conduct to the seacoast of the diplomats, missionaries and native Christians now besieged in Peking. It would be worse than folly to back down at this juncture from the position assumed by the civilized world. The powers have set out to teach China that she must be decent in her treatment of foreigners. They have demanded that the ministers accredited to Peking be safe-guarded and have time and again asked for proof that their demands have been complied with. No satisfactory answer has been had. Instead of putting into operation all machinery at hand in Peking to preserve the legations from harm, China has permitted the imperial troops to daily besiege the legations and has summoned to the front all the troops within marching distance of the foreign invaders. Every avenue through which news of actual conditions in Peking might be had has been effectually closed. The same conditions to any other capital of the globe would long ago have been cause for a declaration of war by every nation interested and something would drop.

Altogether too much latitude has been given the Chinese. They have been permitted to take their time to answer every proposal and ultimatum given them. When they failed to reply to important notes excuses have been made until invention has been exhausted. The only safe course to pursue with China is to compel her to humble herself and apologize for the gross insults offered the foreign ministers, and the powers must exact ample and immediate reparation for the excesses committed by the Boxers and the imperial troops. To make the lesson a thorough one they should have a complete understanding with the Peking government on matters of commerce and missionaries. If the powers fail to do this China will be a closed book for many years to come.

The powers agree that it is impossible to take seriously the proposals of Kwang Hsu until it is well established that he is in reality the emperor. That they will falter in their determination to force entrance to Peking seems improbable. When the ministers and their establishments, the missionaries and native converts are in places of safety it will be time to consider China's appeal for cessation of hostilities.

COLLIS P. HUNTINGTON.

In the field he had chosen for the exercise of his great talents, Mr. Collis P. Huntington was supreme, says the Oregonian. His power in transportation circles, and especially in the relationship transportation enterprise sustains to government, was something no man ever attained before and no man, perhaps, ever will attain again. His career is another of those monumental rebukes to the assertion of charlatans that there is no show in this country for a poor man. Huntington was born a poor Connecticut country boy. All that his father could give him was a brief

primary schooling, and, at an early age, his "time." He earned \$84 the first year of self-support. His wages included his board and clothes, so that of the \$84 he saved every cent. On his way to California he was delayed with others three months waiting for a north-bound steamer; but while others merely waited and used up their substance in being comfortable, he lived abstemiously, he worked and traded so as to increase his capital from \$1200 to \$5000. All that he acquired in wealth and power he owed simply and solely to his own exertions, iron will, patient accumulation and retention of useful information and application to sagacious plans and prudent safeguards.

It is impossible to speak of Mr. Huntington's career, great in achievement and inspiring in example as it was in many ways of patient industry, strenuous endeavor and bold enunciation of the practical views of life and society he held, without reflecting in regret upon the stupendous power he exerted in a political way for the benefit of the vast private interests with which he was identified. No man so influenced congress in questionable ways, whatever be thought of the justice of the ends he sought. But if we are sincere we must recognize that the principal in these offenses is the corrupt official and the corporation is the accessory. The average man will prefer to carry on his business in a lawful and honorable way if he is let alone. The original source of railroad corruption is to be found in unscrupulous blackmailers who have sworn to do their duty to the state. With honest men elected to office, all that is unlovely in the public career of C. P. Huntington could never be. The first move of the corporation in politics is self-protection. The next step to self-aggrandizement is easy. Huntington, no less than Shakespeare or Lincoln, is the product of the life of his time.

Anxiety as to the fate of the Peking relief expedition is acute. News may come any hour that it has met serious resistance before the gates of the capital, and the losses of the last engagement were so serious that the powers expect the next will bring with it a tale of heavy losses. If the imperial troops are ordered to resist the final entrance of the allied troops into the city, the invaders will have a more desperate task than has yet been given them, for there has been ample time for Chinese commanders to place artillery at all weak points to fortify the natural approaches. There is hope that China will weaken when the imperial authorities surrounding the empress dowager are actually brought face to face with the relief forces, but that hope cannot safely be based on any action heretofore taken by China.

This is the way Towne looks at it. He says he was in doubt, when the democrats adopted their "splendid platform" at Chicago in 1896, whether they were actuated by an impulse or a purpose, but the "magnificent achievements" at Kansas City have settled all doubts on the subject. Here we have it then. The "paramount issue" may go a glimmering for all of Mr. Towne. It is the "magnificent achievement" of reaffirming 16 to 1 and the whole Chicago platform that has so enamored him of the democratic party that he declines the populist nomination in order to crystallize that "splendid platform" into an administration policy by the election of Mr. Bryan. Here is one man at least who is not hiding behind an anti-imperialism decoy with a 16 to 1 gun.

W. S. Stratton, who recently sold his Independence mine at Cripple Creek for \$10,000,000, gave \$25,000 to the democratic campaign fund in 1896, and was one of Bryan's most enthusiastic supporters. This year he says he will give more than \$25,000 to the republican campaign fund and will support McKinley.

The democratic cry of "imperialism" is like the thief's cry of "stop thief!" in order to divert the pursuing crowd from himself. The republican party was the means of freeing the slaves whom the democrats would have kept in chains had the election of Lincoln not forced

them from power. The republican party under McKinley is continuing the anti-imperialism work of Lincoln. "To over ten millions of the human race living in the Philippine islands it has given a new birth of freedom." The responsibility of caring for the new "wards of the nation" will be met as faithfully by the republican party as it has been in the case of the freedmen of the south—schools for the children, fair trails with jury, equality of opportunity with the white man, these are some of the things the republican party has accomplished for the negro race of this country, after it rescued them from their bonds; and will do also for the millions it has since rescued from the cruel dominion of Spain. In China the republican administration is opposing imperialistic partition by European nations and is advocating the "open door."

There is an interesting subsidence of the hue and cry from democratic sources about "militarism." The phenomenon has been coincidental with Bryan's long silence about China, and final confession that the administration was doing the right thing there. If "militarism" is right in China, as Mr. Bryan admits, why is it wrong in the Philippines? Troops in China may avenge crimes that have been committed, but can never restore the lives of people that have been already massacred. In the Philippines the use of American troops has prevented the perpetration of such horrors as in China have shocked the whole world, including even Mr. Bryan. Manila was prevented from becoming a charnel house only through the vigilance of American troops who were on guard duty the night that Aguinaldo had set for the general massacre of all Americans and Europeans in that city. How about the old adage that "an ounce of prevention is worth one pound of cure?"

At Chicago on Monday Bryan delivered a part of his speech of acceptance into the phonograph, and this will be ground out in different sections of the country, and become an important part of the campaign. There is no advantage in this—it is machine both in original and counterfeit—excepting that the counterfeit will be slightly more automatic. The circus managers will certainly all avail themselves of this opportunity. Mr. Bryan is a great entertainer. He appeals to the ears of the people, but this does not lead any great number of them to conclude that they want him for president.

Mr. Bryan promises that if elected he will undertake to give the Filipinos self-government. But suppose they prefer a dictatorship under Aguinaldo, what then? Will Bryan insist on establishing self-government by force? Besides, if the United States has no established right to the islands, what right would Bryan have to even suggest what kind of a government they should have? That would be a variety of imperialism that the German kaiser would hardly attempt.

The Des Moines Leader, an anti-imperialism organ in Iowa, says: "Let it be granted that imperialism will slay its hundreds; 16 to 1 would slay its thousands. Let the November news be that Mr. Bryan is elected, and although it may bring gladness to the far-off Filipinos, as to the struggle for their liberties, it will bring despair and a short larder to the American business and working man."

Every democratic editor is hard at work trying to convince his readers that the 16 to 1 plank of the Kansas City platform doesn't mean anything. But he doesn't attempt to account for Mr. Bryan's persistency in forcing its adoption.

American fruit carried off the honors at the Paris exposition. Had the Oregon fruit been in greater evidence, in its perfection, the lead in favor of the United States would have been more pronounced.

While a member of congress Mr. Bryan said in a speech in the house: "Speaking for myself, it is immaterial whether the sheep-grower receives any benefit from the tariff or

not." There are many men in Eastern Oregon who are not indifferent on the subject, and they can remember the time when sheep were almost valueless as a result of the tariff law Bryan helped to passed.

"Elect me to the presidency. The senate is safely republican, and it would be impossible for me to do any harm to the country during the next four years." Does the country want a chief executive who is compelled to make such a plea in his own behalf?

There is one army that goes up with a great bound when the democratic party controls the country, and that is the army of the unemployed.

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