

The Truth About China.

BY AMBROSE BIERCE.

The real authors of this blackest page in modern history (the Chinese insurrections) are the missionaries. It is to be hoped they are proud of their work. Whether they are or not, it is the last work they are likely to do in China for a good long time. In all Christendom there is not a government that will dare to encourage these infatuated men and women, to resume their horrible work. They would need encouragement, and a lot of it, to persuade them again into the field to gather the harvest of Asiatic souls. We hear a good deal about their "heroism" and "devotion," but all that is now a bricked bubble. They have no such qualities. Apparently the crown of martyrdom is a head gear which they are now wise desirous to wear. None than they are more clamorous for protection when menaced: none as they so loudly invoke the military arm. Time was when they who went abroad to preach the benighted accepted martyrdom with avidity. Their reliance was in God; he was their refuge; if he failed them they said: "Thy will be done," and died in harness, praising him. But these modern missionaries put their faith in legations and gunboats. They have, in this instance, leant upon a broken reed, and for weeks the poorspirited creatures have been scampering to the sea-coast like frightened rats, and pickling their shins in the brine to hail the passing ships. They have had more than enough of the missionary business—a veritable bellyful of it. Pitiful to relate, their poor "converts," mostly women and children, have been slain by the thousands. Doubtless these holy men are capable of rejoicing in the thought that they converted the wretched victims just in the nick of time to save their souls; but doubtless, too, they will be a deal older than they now are before they care to undertake the salvation of any more.

Killing Chinese is Murdering Children.

BY T. B. WAKEMAN.

The Portland Evening Telegram, of Sept. 24th has the following sample of war resulting from Christianity:

"It would be hard to estimate the number of Chinese killed by the allied forces, but judging from what he saw and the statements of other responsible parties, the officer thinks that the number must be enormous. Mounds of earth, under which the Chinese were buried, covered the earth at intervals of every few feet for miles and miles on the way to Tien Tsin. Corpses which lay on the ground were devoured by numerous pigs and dogs, and the stench was terrible.

"The sight of the pigs devouring the dead Chinese revolted my stomach against any future pork-eating during my stay in China," said the officer. "I could not bring myself to eat pork, some of the ingredients of which, perhaps, was furnished by the carcass of a Chinaman, who probably was one of the lineal descendents of the royal Confucius. I was informed by a Mr. Lord, a representative of an English firm with headquarters at Tien Tsin, that he saw the bodies of thousands and thousands of dead Chinamen thrown into the river. This will show to some extent the slaughter effected by the allies."

That there might be no mistake about war as the result of Christianity, let us read Matt. 10, 34. "Think not that I have come to send peace on earth: I come not to send peace, but a sword," etc., to verse 39.

The verse "peace on earth and good will to man," is a text corruption. It should read, "peace on earth to men of good will"—that is, to those who believe as we do. "He that believeth not shall be damned:" Mark xvi. 16. That damnation is the heart, soul and essence of all Personal God religions, and it simply results in the general murder of non-believers, for the more wholesale the murder is, the better. The sword of the Roman was succeeded by the sword of Christ and of Islam. Theism, and especially Monotheism, has made human history a sea of blood. At bottom it is a license if not a command to murder. So has it ever been since Yahweh commanded the Hebrews to rob and murder the Cananites, down to this day, when William, "by the grace of his God,"—commands HIS Germans to see that "no prisoners are taken," no quarter given, in the Christian murder war against the Chinese. The Christian Bishop, Cranston, is seconded by Christians and Imperialists everywhere, to the effect that life is of no great account in the "Christianization" of China.

The heart of every Liberal and of every Human ought to rise in revolt and protest against the whole of this bloody business, and the Christianity and greed which is at the bottom and the cause of the whole of it. Missionaries, and then traders, force their way among a child-like people, to outrage their most sacred beliefs, to beat them out of their property and lands, to force opinions and goods upon them which are destructive. Then when these CHILDREN resent, resist, and try to shake off this interference, the Christian civilized nations go over and murder them by the thousands, if not millions, in a war which would disgrace a savage, because no quarter is given—"no prisoners to be taken!" Then we at home sing "TE DEUM," and glorify and PENSION the butchers!

The heart is not human that is not sick of this whole accursed business! The slave trade was pure and white in comparison; then the victim had some chance for life, civilization, and even the ultimate "blessing of Christianity." Now the Christian carries the black flag! His mission is one of pure, silent death in order to populate his Hell for the glory of his God.

And whom are they murdering? Simply CHILDREN, as we have said above; for such they are, and only are, under the laws of evolution, history, civilization, international and AMERICAN LAW, common humanity and morality.

Our Christian statesmen are treating those fetichistic Chinese peoples and their patriarchal governments, just as though they were a consolidated European nation. The masses of the Chinese do not understand what is being done with them nor what for, any more than the inmates of a "Kindergarten" would under similar circumstances. By American and all human laws, all of the peoples in the earlier stages of evolution are the "wards" of those who have evolved further on, and who pretend to be civilized. The present extent and value of our civilization will be tested by the way this "wardship" is exercised. Our Supreme Court declared, on the grounds above intimated, that the Indians were the wards of the United States, but we have made a poor fist in exercising our wardship over them, because we allowed the Christians and settlers to boss the job, and they soon discovered that "the only good Indian was a dead one," and acted accordingly.

But, we are asked, must not the Chinese peoples be held responsible for what is done among them, just as Germany, Britain, France or the United States would be? Is not "equality-equity" among nations, just as it is among suitors in our courts of equity, or among our states and civilized nations? The law of evolution and wardship answers decidedly, No! Equality is equity among equals, but among unequals it is exactly the reverse. To act towards or to treat a child as an adult is to abuse, torture and kill him. To treat a people in the earlier or childish stages of evolution as though it was a grown up member of the great international human family, is to commit the same blunder, in sociology, law and morals; only on a tremendously larger scale, and with consequences, not intended perhaps, yet none the less terrible.

The great duty and law of wardship is to look out for the ward and his estate. Under international law, this obligation and rule applies to the undeveloped tribes and peoples. Just as the citizens of

the United States are equal in their rights and before the law, so each nation and people is equal in its right to live and to have its life undisturbed so that it may evolve in the natural and most beneficial way.

It is our duty and advantage to show them peacefully the benefits of Science and civilization as we did in the case of Japan, through Comodore Perry. And just as we keep the Chinese from populating and interfering with the welfare and growth of our country, so we should respect theirs; and if our missionaries and traders will force themselves there and in ways not wanted, and so are forced to leave, as we force Chinese to leave us, no war should follow. The privilege of travel in each other's country, and of trade fair to both, should be secured by treaty if possible, but not by force or war. The confidence of these subsidiary child-peoples, and the ability to benefit them, must be obtained, as in the case of children, by kindness, protection and helpfulness. Force, injustice, intermeddling, missionizing and war will only teach them the same, and make bloody barbarians of them.

The forcing of Christianity upon these fetichistic ancestor worshippers, is a most cruel impertinence on our part, and death to them. Christianity has no sense of comparative religion, sociology, or of the international future of the human race. Secular statesmen should become the managers of earthly and human affairs, and manage them "for the benefit of all concerned."

But the main thing for all to do is to realize that the Chinese are childish peoples, not a consolidated people; and that they are not a nation, nor empire in our sense of the word; and that they have no modern motives nor ideas, nor language to express them as we have. They are, in the history of our race, what the Protozoa are in early animal life; a lot of monosyllabic, coalescing family colonies. Like early Protozoa in Biology, they remain socially the most numerous and the oldest peoples, but still only in the first and simple childish stage. The true picture and measure of them is their language of one syllable only, which after thousands of years is just beginning to form into words.

So it is with their ancestry worship, and all of their imitative habits and ideas—all "childlike and bland." And they should be treated like the grown up children they are, and great and good things will come of them; for they are in many ways the most industrious, patient and best children that Humanity has ever had, and they should be respected as in her "holy keeping."