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London 100 years ago had a popula-
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The cart naturally precedes the horse
when a back-up is necessary.

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Sagacious Celestial Holds a Foremost
Rank Among Diplomats.

The Chinese minister to the United
States, Wu Ting-Fang, is the most ex-
traordinary person who ever came to
us out of the east, says a writer in
Ainslee's Magazine. He is one of the
individuals rare in any country, whose
intelligence is universal in its range.
He is a man of the world in all that
the phrase implies. There is no com-
pany of men or women among whom
he would not be at home. His mind
plays easily and swiftly. He is quick
of apprehension and speedy in re-
sponse. Sagacious, witty, astute, dis-
cerning and catholic in sympathy, his
aim has been to learn the ways of the
country and adapt himself to them. He
is an untiring student of American lit-



WU TING-FAN.

erature and customs. He reads the
newspapers religiously and has an in-
timate acquaintance with the topics of
the day. He is fond of travel and likes
to meet all kinds of people. He sees
everybody who calls to see him at the
legation no matter how unimportant
the person or trifling the errand.
Physically, he is of medium height and
medium build and clothed with mus-
cles worthy of an athlete. There are
few women who would not envy him
the perfect teeth, white, hard and
small, which he displays as often as he
smiles. He is graceful in his move-
ments and carries himself always with
a dignity that is enhanced by his flow-
ing robes of silk. His manner of life
to all outward appearances is that of
any well-born American. There is
hardly an oriental suggestion in the
furnishings of his Washington home.
Madame Wu, whom he married twenty
years ago in China and who looks for
all the world as if she had stepped out
of a Chinese picture, pays, calls and
receives visits as regularly as any other
woman of her station. She attends the
theater with him and frequents public
places. His 8-year-old boy plays with
American youngsters and is getting an
American education. He goes to the
public schools and beats all the other
children in his studies.

Minister Wu has been in the highest
sense an ambassador to the American
people. Not since the time when James
Russell Lowell found his way to the
hearts of the people of England and
gave to our culture across the sea a
taste of the culture and refinement of
American life, of which they had hith-
erto had a crude conception, has any
diplomatic representative of any gov-
ernment fulfilled quite the same kind
of a mission that has fallen to the lot
of Minister Wu during his residence in
the United States.

Up to the time of the arrival of Min-
ister Wu, China was an undiscovered
country. American public opinion in
its conception of the Chinese character
wavered between the cynicism of Bret
Harte and the brutality of Dennis
Kearney. The "heathen Chinese" was
either a person of subtle intellect to be
avoided, or an obnoxious interloper to
be stoned and spat upon. It has been
the fortune of Minister Wu to convey
to the American people an entirely new
idea of his countrymen. In his own
personality he has contributed a new
type, which, through his actions and
utterances, the American people are
about ready to accept as the true type
of a nationality hitherto inadequately
understood.

Minister Wu is 50 years old and re-
ceived his education in England, where
he was admitted to the bar. He was
the first Chinese lawyer ever admitted
to practice before the English bar in
Hong Kong.

Protection from Hail.
The plan of protecting vineyards
from the ravages of hailstorms seems
to have been successful in part only, if
at all, in France and Italy. Some ex-
periments have been made in both
countries, but the inference drawn up
to this time seems to be that whole
parks of artillery containing many
guns of large caliber will be needed if
reasonable security against hail is to
be insured. And it is not altogether
certain as yet that even if hundreds of
sixteen-inch guns were to be discharg-
ed at short intervals the protection
would be complete. The bombardment
of the heavens cannot yet be considered
effectual.

Railroad Cultivates Fish.
The Grand Trunk Railway has a
car specially built for transporting
fish for stocking streams and lakes
along its line. Acting in conjunction
with the government of Ontario, this
company recently carried thirteen
car loads of bass from Lake Erie to
the lakes and rivers of Northern On-
tario. The fish were caught in nets
in St. Williams, on Lake Erie.

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