

CHINESE AWAKE UNDER RELIGION

Returned Missionary Tells of Advance of Christianity.

NEED FUNDS AND WORKERS

Efforts to Abolish Binding of Women's Feet and Use of Opium by Men Meet With Promised Success.

"The Resurrection of China," was the subject of the address delivered at the Y. M. C. A. men's meeting yesterday afternoon by Rev. F. W. Bible, a Presbyterian missionary, who has just returned from Hang-Chow, China. He was compelled to leave his field of labor on account of his wife's health. A chorus of 24 children from the First Christian Church sang a number of Easter selections preceding the address.

Mr. Bible said that, with Sir Robert Hart, Commissioner of Customs, he believes the only thing that can keep China from becoming a menace to the world is the rapid spread of Christianity. Mr. Bible said further that the strongest objection the Chinese have to Christianity is that it is a foreign religion. He believed the best plan would be for the missionaries to firmly plant Christianity in Chinese soil, as it were, and then leave it to propagate itself.

"Give us the funds and the workers we need for the next 25 years," said he, "and we will leave China with Christianity so firmly rooted that it will propagate itself without further effort on our part. In the province in which I have been working there are between 10,000 and 12,000 Christians. Among them are to be found leaders who are as well qualified for their work as any you will find in America."

China Has Awakened.

He said the Chinese had awakened to the fact that if they were to preserve their country and their rights from foreigners they must create and maintain an army and navy. This, he said, they have done, and there are now 100,000 men in army, which has been trained by Japanese officers to the point of perfection. Mr. Bible said some might believe that the Chinese cannot fight, but that this was a misconception. He referred to the time limit of the treaty between Japan and Great Britain. As this treaty expires in 1914, it was incumbent upon China to prepare for that time, that she might protect herself from the possible inroads of other nations.

During the last eight years, China has been making rapid strides toward a civilization in keeping with that of the other nations of the world. Under the old educational system, about 10,000 men took the government examination every year, which lasted from 35 to 72 hours. This has all been done away with. Mr. Bible said there was no year when several of the students did not die from the continued mental strain which the old examination caused. Mr. Bible said:

This educational system, of which the examination was a finale, and which was old when Rome was founded, has been swept aside in a single year.

If I should take an average American and ask him questions relative to subjects he had studied in school ten years before, he could probably tell me very little, for he would have forgotten a great deal. But not so with the Chinese. The educational system and the severity with which he has been put through his studies has fixed the subjects in his mind, so that the average Chinese knows almost as much about his studies ten years after he leaves school as he did at the time he passed his examinations.

Make Prominent Lawyers.

It has been said that the Chinese are imitative, and that they do not reason. While this may be true in some instances, it is not true of the Chinese as a nation, for some of the most able lawyers graduated from prominent colleges of the Eastern United States have been Chinese. On the whole, the Chinese mind is not one whit inferior to the American intellect. When China has absorbed this education of ours, and the same is true of Japan, you will wake up to the fact that the greatest thing that has ever happened on this globe is happening right now, before your very eyes.

But it is not alone in its education that China is making rapid strides. Let your minds run back a few years and recall the struggle our Nation went through before we had adopted our present form of government to meet modern conditions. Then think of the significance of the edict from the Chinese throne that the Chinese will all be a parliament, and establish a democracy. Think of what this means in a country where an absolute monarchy has existed for thousands of years, and in which there are 400,000,000 people. If the task of remodeling the government to meet modern conditions, which those about the throne have set for themselves, meets with success without plunging the nation into a revolution, it will be the greatest diplomatic achievement the world has ever seen. China then will have placed herself in the lead of all the nations of the globe.

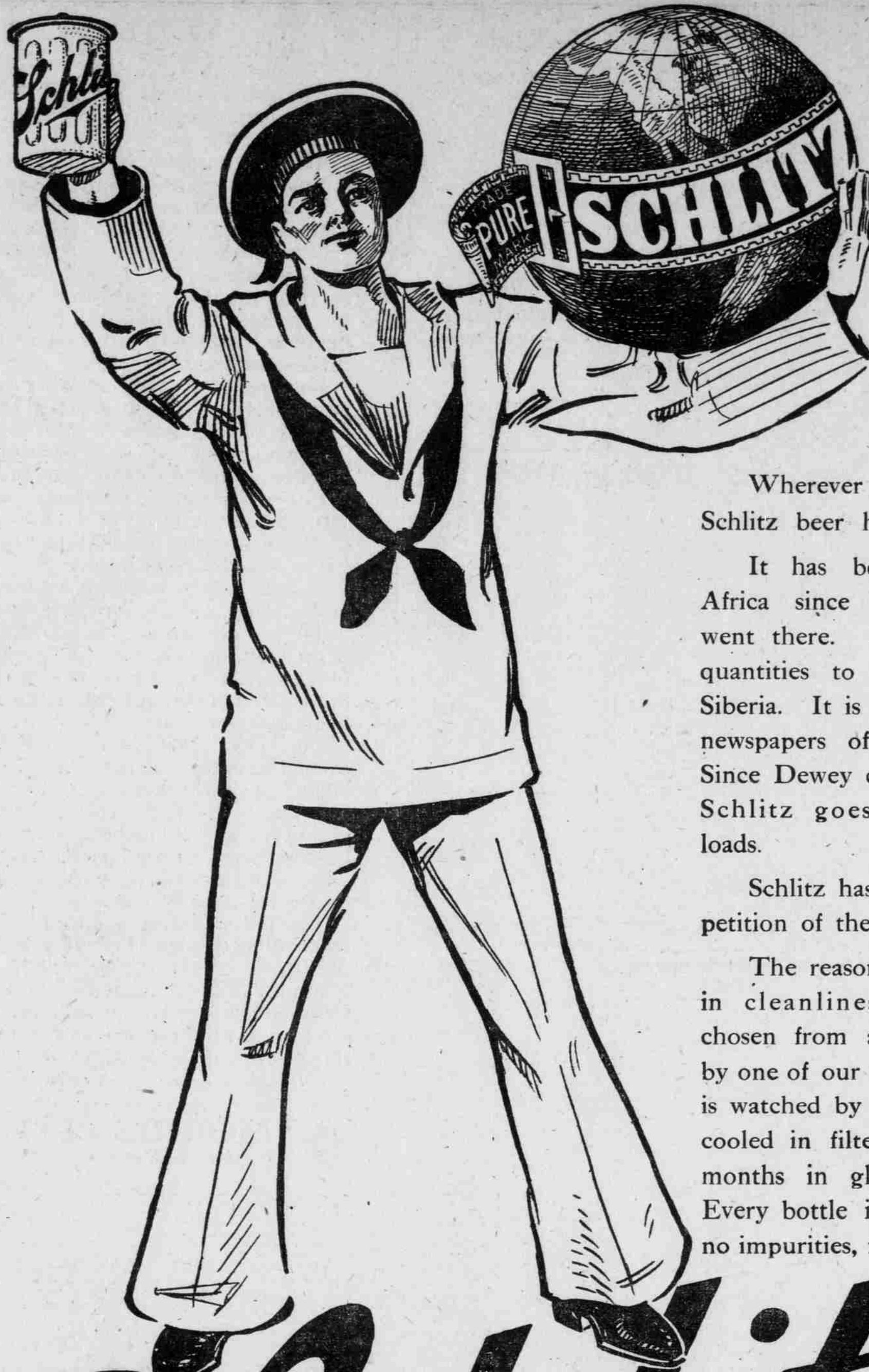
Sell Many Foreign Goods.

Formerly you could buy hardly anything of foreign manufacture in Hang-Chow. Now, in those little shops you can buy almost anything in the way of imported goods, from a knitting needle to a piano. The trouble is that America is not alive to the opportunities for Oriental trade, and is leaving Japan, Germany and England to take the cream. For instance, the people of China used to wash basins. But they were obliged to use either a basin of wood, which was cheap, or a basin of brass, which was expensive. The wooden basins were not very good, so the Austrians set about furnishing a cheap basin. This basin now sells in China for 25 cents. There is a demand in China for American hats and shoes. They have not begun to use American clothing very much yet, but that will come in time. There will be a greater demand for American cotton cloth; in fact almost anything of American or European manufacture can be made profitable through exportation to China.

I would call your attention to two great social movements which are having a marvelous influence toward the awakening of the sleeping giant. The first is the cessation of foot-binding among women, the second is the edict cutting down the importation of opium, and prohibiting its use in the empire. In connection with the first movement the name of Archibald Little deserves to be passed into history with that of Frances E. Willard. It has now become unfashionable to bind the feet of the girls, and as fashion counts as much in China as it does here, that great curse will soon be abolished.

Since two years ago the missionaries in China had been working toward the abolishment of opium smoking in the empire. We called ourselves the Anti-Opium League. A year ago we sent up a petition, with signatures several miles long, asking that something be done to put a stop to the traffic. Within two weeks after it reached the throne the announcement came that an agreement had been reached by which Great Britain agreed to cut down the importation of opium from India 10 per cent a month. Then came the edict that all Chinese soldiers must cease the use of the drug at once; that all officials in the employ of the government must cease in nine months, and that all opium dens of the empire must close on August 6.

It also provided that less land be devoted to the cultivation of the poppy. Then the officials gathered up all the opium pipes, and all the trays, and declared a holiday.



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In Hang Chow the pipes and trays collected were burned publicly. The lamps were melted, and the metal molded into a bell, which now bears an inscription giving the date, stating that this was the day when China threw off opium. This is before Christians have gotten hold of them. What

will they be when the majority of them have accepted the principles of Christianity?

Banks Do Not Fail.

When Mr. Bible gave opportunity for those present to ask questions follow-

ing his address, a member of the audience created considerable merriment by asking: "Are there any bank-failures in China? What do they do with the bank-wreckers over there? I have always heard they cut their heads off."

Mr. Bible replied that he had never heard of a bank-failure in China, as they had not yet completely adopted our civilization.

Lodges Give Tokens.

Homeless Knights of Pythias, of St. John, at its last regular meeting, presented C. W. Potter with a beautiful watch charm and G. G. Gould with a

gold ring bearing the emblem of the order. Mr. Potter and Mr. Gould are soon to leave for their new home in Southern Oregon, where they will conduct a large orchard. Both have been in business in St. John.

