THE CITY OF CANTON.

Historical Sketch of a Famous City of China.

Its Temples, Houses, Thoroughfares and Population---Its Commercial Importance, Industries and Growth.

[Boston Herald.]

In view of the fact that the Chinese imperial government is reported to be actively preparing to close the port of Canton, something in regard to this city and its commerce may perhaps be of interest to the world at large. The time was, however, when the closing of this port would have been equivalent to stopping all foreign trade with China, but since then there have been opened a number of other ports, so that a very large amount of the export trade of Canton is done by other cities. Its closure, therefore, will have no material effect upon the foreign trade of Canton. Indeed, such is evidently not the intent of the Chinese government in the steps said to have been taken, the same being, no doubt, in the ilue of a strategic policy, in view of portending difficulties with France, which aims to secure the integrity of the important but assailable points of the empire against foreign invasion and conquest. The city of Canton is the capital of the province of Kwangtung, one of the western provinces of China. It is situated on the south bank of the Pearl river, in north latitude 23 degrees 7 minutes 10 seconds, and east longitude 113 degrees 14 minutes 30 seconds, nearly parallel with Havana, Muskat, and Calcutta; but its climate is colder than any of these. It lies at the foot of the White Cloud hills, along the banks of the river, about seventy miles north of Macys in direct line, and ninety miles northwest of Hong Kong.

CANTON'S ANTIQUITY.

The earliest notices of the city date back two centuries before Christ, but traders were doubtless located there prior to that time. It grew in importance as the country became better settled, and in A. D. 700 a regular market was opened, and a collector of customs appointed. When the Manchoos overran the country in 1650, this city resisted their utmost efforts to reduce it for the space of eleven months, and was finally carried by treachery. Martini states that 100,000 men were killed at its sack, and the whole number that lost their lives at the final assault and during the siege was 700,000, according to the native accounts. Since then it has been rebuilt and has increased in prosperity until it is regarded as the second city in the empire for numbers, and is probably at present the first in wealth. The foundations of the city walls are of sandstone, their upper part being brick. They are about twenty feet thick, and from twenty-five to forty feet high, having an esplanade on the inside, and pathways leading to the rampart, on three sides. The houses are built near the wall on both sides of it, so that, except on the north, it can hardly be seen when walking through the city. There are twelve outer gates, four in the partition wall, and two water gates, through which boats pass into the moat east and west. A ditch once encompassed the walls, but it is now dry on the northern side. On the other three, and within the city, it and most of the canals are filled by the tide, which, as it runs out, does much to cleanse the city from its sewage. The gates are all shut at night, and a guard is stationed near them to preserve order.

A VIEW OF THE CITY.

The appearance of the city, when viewed from the hills to the north, is not at all inviting, being an expanse of reddish roofs, often concealed by frames for drying or dyeing clothes, or shaded and relieved by a few large trees, and interspersed with high, red poles used for flagstaffs. Two pagodas shoot up within the walls far above the watch towers on them, and, with the five-storied tower near the northern gate, form the most conspicuous objects in the prospect. To the spectator, at this elevation, the river is a prominent feature in the landscape, as it shines out, covered with a great diversity of boats of different colors and sizes, some stationary, others moving, and all resounding with the mingled hum of laborers, sailors, musicians, hucksters, children, and boatwomen, pursuing their several sports and occupations. On a low sandstone ledge, in the channel off the city, once stood the Sea Pearl fort, called Dutch Folly by foreigners. Beyond, on its southern shore, lies the suburb and island of Honam, and green fields and low hills are seen still farther in the distance. At the western angle of this island the Pearl river divides, at the Macao passage, the greatest body of water flowing south, and leaving a comparatively narrow channel before the city. The hills on the north rise 1,200 feet, their sides for miles being covered with graves and tombs, the necropolis of this vast city. The streets are generally narrow, being from six to ten feet wide, and are about six hundred in number, and have names in the Chinese language signifying, such as Dragon, New Green Pea, Physic, Spectacle, and Old Clothes streets.

STREETS AND BUILDINGS.

Unlike other Chinese and eastern cities, the streets of Canton are paved with flat granite blocks, and the sewerage is concealed. The houses are generally built of dark brown brick, one or two stories high; are without verandas, and are entirely open in front, closed only by suspended bamboo screens. The windows are small and rarely furnished with glass—paper, mica, and other transparent substances being substituted. The roofs are of unequal height, from a Chinese superstition that ill luck follows eaves which connect with each other. The houses contain from three to six apartments. The dwellings of the poorer classes are seldom more than mud hovels, containing but a single apartment. Stone is seldom used except about the gateways. The shops are commodious and well stocked with goods, and, in the busy part, every house is a shop. Eating-houses are numerous, and furnish a great variety of made dishes, in which rice, pork, puppies, cats, rats, and geese are the staple ingredients. The houses along the water side are built upon piles, and those portions of the city are subject to inundations. About four miles from the city is anchored the boat-town, or the 40,000 covered river boats, which are the constant homes of about 300,000 people, called Tankin, a strange, amphibious, outcast race, who subsist by fishing, carrying goods and passengers, and various other occupations. They are are also, on occasions, pirates.

THE TEMPLES.

The temples and public buildings of the city are numerous. Among the religious houses there existed up to a late date the monastery of Chong-showsz, or temples of longevity, founded in 1573, and occupying spacious grounds. In the first pavilion were three Buddhas. In the second—a seven-story, gilt pagoda—were seventy-nine images of Buddha. In the third pavilion was an image of Buddha reclining, and in a merry mood. This temple was destroyed in November, 1881, by a mob, which was incensed at the alleged misbehavior of some of the priests toward the female devotees. Near this stands the temple of the Five Hundred Genii, containing 500 statues of various sizes in honor of Buddha and his disciples. Canton is the most influential city in southern China, and its reputation for riches and luxury is established throughout the central and northern provinces, owing to its formerly engrossing the entire foreign trade, up to 1843, for a period of about one hundred years.

FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

The former residences of foreigners in the western suburbs are known as Shih-san Hang, or Thirteen Hongs (a hong or hang signifying a row or series, and was applied to ware houses, because these consist of a succession of rooms), and for nearly two centuries furnished to the Chinese almost the only exhibition of the yang-jin, or ocean-men, as the foreigners were styled. In 1856 there were thirteen hongs, or series of dwellings and factories, and in the fall of that year they were all simultaneously burned by the local authorities to drive out the British forces. Since the return of trade a new and better site has been formed at Shameen, west of the old spot, by building a solid stone wall and filling in a long, marshy low-tide bank, formerly occupied by boats, to a height of eight or ten feet, on which there is room for gardens as well as for houses. This is surrounded by water, and is thereby secure from fires and mobs, to which the old hongs were exposed. Residences are obtainable anywhere in the city by foreigners.

LEADING INDUSTRIES.

The trades and manufactories at Canton are mainly connected with foreign commerce. Many silk fabrics are woven at Fatsham, a large town situated about ten miles west of the city. Fire-crackers, paper, mat-sails, cotton cloths, and other articles are made there for export. The mattings of China early found their way abroad, and became known as Canton mattings, though, since the opening of the other ports of China, they, as well as most of the tea and other articles exported, are derived to a considerable extent through the other ports. The number of persons engaged in weaving silk and other kinds of cloth in Canton is about fifty thousand, including embroiderers, and there is still a large export of silk fabrics from that city. The weaving of silks and other stuffs and the manufacture of porcelain, are leading industries. Large numbers are engaged in the manufacture of fancy tables, screens, umbrellas, children's toys, jewelry in the precious metals, ivory, cranes' beaks, and other materials, ivory fans, etc. The printing and box trade is also considerable. But there are no large manufacturing establishments, the craftsmen working either singly at home or in small companies. Each trade or calling is united into guilds for mutual protection and support. Canton is still the chief entrepot of the commerce of China with Japan, Siam, Cochin China, and the islands of the Malay archipelago. The great junk fleet at Canton, composed of vessels ranging from five hundred to one thousand tons burden, contributes more to the wealth of the city than the European fleets which anchor at Whampoa.

SIZE.

Canton is a walled city, the part inclosed by walls being about six miles in circumference, and a partition wall runs east and west, dividing the city into two unequal parts. The entire circuit, including the suburbs, is nearly ten miles. The population on land and water is variously estimated, but appears to be, probably, about one million. The city is constantly growing, the western suburbs presenting many new streets entirely built up during the past ten years.

Progress in Physical Training.

["Macon" in Cincinnati Enquirer.]

A party of gentlemen were talking about sporting matters the other day when one of them observed: "It is wonderful what progress has been made in training. Twenty years ago there was a certain system for training a horse, and another for training a man, and all horses and men were trained pretty much alike, with but little regard to their individual dispositions or the character of the contest for which they were preparing. Now it is different. Recognizing that which is one man's meat is another man's poison, the disposition of both man and beast is now carefully studied by the trainer, as well as the nature of the ordeal they are to undergo. Indeed, with men like oarsmen and pugilists this is now a vital consideration In a long race the oarsman is trained for both wind and endurance, while force, dash, strength, is the main consideration.

"If two men are matched to fight, the trainers study the peculiarities of their man's opponent, so as to best prepare him to oppose them. This was exemplified in the fight between John L. Sullivan and Paddy Ryan. Ryan's battle with Joe Goss showed that he was a slow man with lots of hang on. In order that Sullivan might be strong enough to make a swift, hurricane fight, he was merely divested of his superfluous fat, and no attempt was made to reduce him in flesh, for you can't lose flesh without losing strength. Had he been ten pounds lighter his wind would have been much better, but it proved good enough as it was and he defeated Paddy in a jiffy. Ryan wanted to make a long fight of it, and was fine-drawn, and, consequently, not as strong as he ought to have been. Here the superiority of judgment was as apparent in the trainers as were the abilities of the men."

During the conversation it was stated that Billy Edwards and other renowned retired fistic heroes made a good thing of it in the spring of the year training business men of the eastern cities. These gentlemen do not train as severely as do professionals, but work and diet themselves enough to get into prime good health, and then they are ready for a good time in the summer. "If two-thirds of the business men of the country were to train for three weeks a year," said one of the gentlemen, "it would lengthen their lives a decade, but it would diminish their doctor's bills awfully." I think an equally good result could be obtained by an hour a day practice at our gymnasium.

Gen. Thomas and the Marines.

[Chicago Herald "Train Talk."]

Out of a dozen stories told me by a loquacious old veteran, I select one worth reading: "We were on board the flagship Undine, Admiral Lee, Mound City, Ill., when old Pap Thomas, as we called Gen. George H. Thomas, sent word he was coming on board to talk with the admiral. The admiral got out the gang plank, brought the marines and midship boys out according to naval style, and, with his officers gathered about him, waited on deck to receive his visitor. The general soon came, but, at the foot of the gang plank, stopped and called out: 'Admiral, if you will send those things away, I will come on board.' No, Lord bless you, Pap Thomas meant no disrespect to us marines, but how he did hate style and ceremony!"

The Cold Facts.

[Exchange.]

A beautiful young girl was about to be married to a bachelor 70 years of age, but very rich. On the eve of her marriage she learned that his wealth had been suddenly swept away, leaving him a penniless old man. Did the noble girl desert him in this his hour of trouble? She did indeed, and her parents helped her, too.

ART ECCENTRICITIES.

A Satire on the "Impressionist" School---Explanation of the Artist's Idea.

[New York News.]

One of the cleverest satires on the impressionists I ever heard was "La Cigale," a farce produced in Paris some years back. The hero is an impressionistic painter. You see him in his studio, surrounded by monstrosities, paste daubs, and smears of absolutely no intelligibility arround him in chaotic confusion. He displays them to a poor picture buyer. One immense canvas is covered with dirty yellow paint. The only object visible and comprehensible in it is a knife in the background.

"Very fine," says the visitor, dubiously, "but what is it?"

"That, my dear sir," answered the painter, "is a London fog."

"Ah! to be sure. But pardon me. The knife there, eh?"

"That is to express the quality of the—to show that it is thick enough to be cut, don't you see?"

Another eccentricity of genius is a canvas across one-half of which is a flat smear of vermillion, while the other half is similarly decorated with indigo.

"Now, there," says the painter, "is my greatest work. It is my chef d'œuvre."

"Indeed! Very fine it is, too. But, pardon me. I am not an artist, you know, and I look to you for information."

"Certainly, certainly."

"Now, what does that picture represent?"

"What! Is it possible that you do not recognize the ocean, with its sunset sky suffused with blood, and the great dark sea rolling beneath in all its immensity?"

"To be sure. Fine—very fine, indeed."

"But that is not the best of it. That picture is really two pictures in one. All you have to do is to turn it upside down. Now look at it."

"Wonderful! Wonderful! But really you must excuse me if—"

"What! Do you not see it?"

"Well, the fact is, I am a little near-sighted."

"Why, it is the desert—the vast and melancholy desert, with its blue sky above and its red sand below."

"This is very extravagant, isn't it? Yet, at the last water-color exhibition, one of our artists spent half an hour in ecstatic admiration of one of Currier's contributions which was standing upside down."

There is another hit in "La Cigale" which is too good to be passed by. A canvas is shown which has no meaning whatever. It is simply one diabolical and incoherent smear. The visitors asks what it is. The painter is in a quandary. He absolutely does not understand it himself. Suddenly an idea illuminates him.

"The name must be on the back," he says.

The visitor turns it and reads:

"A landscape."

"Ah!" says the painter, with a sigh of relief. "That's it. It is a landscape."

And he proceeds to expatiate on its beauties.

A Hint to Reporters.

[Chicago Herald.]

Mr. Vanderbilt was standing in the office of the Grand Pacific one evening when he saw a newspaper man whom he had met a number of times before. The Wall street Colossus took the newspaper man by the arm, walked him into the private office, and said: "I know I swear, and perhaps say things I shouldn't, but no man—no matter who he is, whether he is rich or not—likes to see these weaknesses of his nature in print. You have never made use of them in your interviews; you are now in another and more lucrative business. There can be no misunderstanding between you and me. Here is $100." This might not occur again in 100 years. But it is a fact.

Cupid and Psyche.

[Chicago Tribune.]

Why is the tear running down the Cheek of the Beautiful Girl? That is the law of Gravitation, my son, Getting in its work. If it were not for the l. of g. the tear might run up her cheek or stroll around into one of her ears, just as it felt like. But what is the Cause of the grief? The Young Man. Who is the Young Man? His name is Chawles. But why does she Grieve for the Young Man? Because he wore a cafe-au-lait hat and brindle gloves, and she was dead gone on them. But did not Chawles reciprocate her Affection? No. Why is he so cold to the Beautiful Girl? Because the Speculators are firm and the Box Office man will not wait till Next Week.

The Taxes of the Astors.

[Gath.]

The Astors figure among the heaviest taxpayers in the city. In 1882 they paid $350,000, and this year they handed in a check for $406,000. Even this large amount does not represent their entire taxable wealth, inasmuch as they lease a great deal of property with the stipulation that the lessees shall pay the ground rent and other taxes. It is authoritatively reported that these reach at least $100,000, so that a fair representation of the amount of taxes which the Astors' real estate contributes to the revenues would make it at least $500,000 per annum.

A Lover Among the "Gods."

[Chicago Tribune.]

The recent attack on Mlle. Van Zandt in Paris by a crazy admirer reminds The St. James' Gazette that Mlle. Dejazet received every evening for a long time a penny bouquet of violets from an unknown lover. At last came also a billet-doux begging for a recognition at the theatre, of which the most important part was the postscript telling how the writer could be identified: "Look up to the fourth gallery and you will recognize me; I am the man with his legs hanging over the railing."

FISH-BONES IN THE THROAT.

To remove fish-bones from the throat Prof. Vololini, at Breslau, recommends a gargle composed of muriatic acid, 4 parts; nitric acid, 1 part, and water, 240 parts. The teeth have to be protected by lard or oil. The fish-bones become flexible, and they disappear entirely after a short time.

Interesting Notes From Montana.

[Portland (Ore.) News.]

Miles City folks are very rapid sometimes. Last week a carpenter, who needed a house to live in, built in one day a frame residence, twenty-four by thirty feet in dimension, and moved into it in time for supper.

Consumptives are cured in France by visiting the wine presses and inhaling the fumes of the fermenting juice. Sometimes, at first, they become intoxicated and are borne away senseless.

Business-Like Apology.

[Inter Ocean.]

An Oil City deacon, being late at church, asked the congregation to excuse his tardiness, as he had been up the night before opening the finest lot of dry goods ever brought in town.

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1000	Pocket Silver Fruit Knives	1000	
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20	Gentlemen's Gold Watches	1600	
20	Ladies' Gold Watches	1300	
20	Boys' Watches	200	
3	Solitaire Diamond Finger Rings	450	
2500	Elegant Oleograph Pictures	1200	
500	Ladies' Gold Lockets	500	
500	Gold Finger Rings	500	
400	Ladies' Breast Pins	400	
200	Gentlemen's Scarf Pins and Watch Chains	200	
1000	Fine Mounted Oil Paintings (14x22)	2000	
500	Beautiful Nickel Clocks	2000	
100	Microscopes	500	
100	Magic Lanterns	500	
134	Telescopes	330	

Also, **90,000 OTHER USEFUL AND VALUABLE PRESENTS,** ranging in value from 25c to $1 each, making a grand total of **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PRESENTS,** so that each and every one who subscribes to the **FARM FIELD AND FIRESIDE** for one year will receive our twenty-eight page elegant and enlarged paper for one year, and a valuable present, ranging in value from twenty-five cents to $1,000. Our paper has now the largest circulation of any paper of its kind in the world. But this is not enough: we want 200,000 yearly subscribers. We have just completed an award of Forty Thousand Dollars to our subscribers, all of which was carried out and fulfilled to the letter of our promise. See the names of receivers in the other column.

All of the above presents will be awarded May 1st, in a fair and impartial manner by a committee of three responsible and reliable citizens of good character and standing where they reside. Persons living at a distance will have presents sent to them by mail, express or freight as may be required by the article awarded.

THE ONE DOLLAR which you send us is the regular subscription price for a yearly subscription and therefore we charge nothing for the presents. If you have failed to take advantage of our former offer you should not let this opportunity go by. We believe that you will like our paper so well that you will remain a regular subscriber, and say with others that you would not be without it for five times the cost.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FREE. Get five of your friends to join you by cutting this out and showing it to them. Send us $5 and we will send you the **FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE** for one year, and a numbered receipt for each of your subscribers and one extra for your trouble.

SEND TEN SUBSCRIBERS with $10 and we will send **12** subscriptions and twelve numbered receipts. We will mail the extra copy of the paper, to the extra receipt to any one you may designate. We shall limit the number of new subscriptions to 100,000, so we would advise all our friends to forward subscriptions early, as many of the last award were too late to get a Numbered Receipt.

THE FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE

is one of the oldest and ablest edited Family and Agricultural papers. It contains twenty-eight large pages, one hundred and twelve columns; the paper is magazine form, bound, stitched and cut. Its circulation is now over **100,000** and we are sure to receive the 100,000 called for at the time set, and the distribution of presents will take place on May 1st. The **FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE** has elegantly illustrated covers changed each issue illustrating our picturesque country, something never attempted by another paper in the world. **SAMPLE COPY SENT FREE.** Stories, Sketches, Poetry, Farm, Garden, Household and Agricultural Departments by the best Contributors of the day, as well as an Illustrated Fashion Department, Needle and Embroidery Work, Biographical Sketches of Eminent Men and Women. In short, it contains that which will interest, instruct and amuse the whole family. The Great Award just made shows that we have fulfilled our agreement to the letter. Our reputation is fully established and the people are satisfied that we have capital enough to carry out and fulfill any offer we may make.

ONLY ONE DOLLAR secures the **FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE** for one year, and a numbered receipt, which will entitle you to one of the presents in the $50,000 award. The paper is worth double the subscription price. As to our reliability we refer to any Bank or Express Company in Chicago and the Commercial Agencies. We are now known the world over. Money in sums of $1 may be sent in ordinary letter at our risk; larger sums should be sent by Registered Letter, P. O. Money Order or Express.

REMEMBER these are Presents to our Subscribers given to them absolutely Free. Cut this out and show to friends, acquaintances and neighbors, as it will not appear again. This is a great opportunity and you should take advantage of this extraordinary offer. Address (Mention This Paper.)

The FARM, FIELD & FIRESIDE, 89 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill., U. S. A.

A FEW WHO RECEIVED PRESENTS IN OUR LAST AWARD:

NUMBERED RECEIPT 12,645, Miss L. M. Snyder, Waterloo, Blackhawk Co., Iowa, $1,000.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 33,990, Miss Clara Merrill, Cove, Union Co., Oregon, $1,000.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 46,161, N. Willis Akers, Kansas City, Mo., $500.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 60,490, Mrs. George C. Woodkirk, Lowell, Mass., $500.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 88,005, Mrs. S. J. Wright, Monterey, Cal., $100.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 92,946, John Jeffers, Saline City, Clay Co., Ind., $50.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 81,080, S. H. Pfouts, New Franklin, Pa., $50.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 46,980, Mrs. R. B. Mitchell, Arlington Heights, Cook Co., Ill., $50.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 85,956, Hiram Granger, Detroit, Mich., $50.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 99,946, Emanuel Brown, Litchfield, Montgomery Co., Ill., $100.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 18,227, Marianne V. Jacobs, Hammonton, Atlantic Co., N. J., $100.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 67,099, L. A. Weyburn, Trumansburg, Tompkins Co., N. Y., Ladies' Gold Watch.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 78,805, D. Haven Smith, Staunton, Augusta Co., Va., Gents' Gold Watch.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 99,010, L. D. Vincent, Otterville, Ont., Canada, Gents' Gold Watch.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 75,051, Albert Derr, Flattsville, Shelby Co., O., Ladies. Gold Watch.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 57,220, Mrs. John Gaylord, Charlotte, Eaton Co., Mich., Grand Piano.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 70,976, Robert P. Follis, Litchfield, Ill., Silver Dinner Service.

NUMBERED RECEIPT 77,469, Wm. P. Burton, Obion, Tenn., $20.

If you write to any of the above enclose a postal for answer. For further awards, see our paper. Sent Free.

FISH-BONES IN THE THROAT.

To remove fish-bones from the throat Prof. Vololini, at Breslau, recommends a gargle composed of muriatic acid, 4 parts; nitric acid, 1 part, and water, 240 parts. The teeth have to be protected by lard or oil. The fish-bones become flexible, and they disappear entirely after a short time.