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FRIDAY, - - - MAY 5, 1893

ARGUING WITH CHINA.

This is the last day allowed for the Chinese to register under the provisions of the Geary act. Not one out of ten of them have complied with the law, and the next steps on the part of the government will be watched with interest.

The Geary act was passed in the Fifty-second congress, and was framed to regulate or stop the immigration of Chinese. The first step made in a course for restriction of immigration and exclusion was the so-called Angell "treaty" of Nov. 17th, 1880. In this treaty it is agreed that the government of the United States may regulate, limit or suspend "the coming or residence of Chinese laborers," but "may not absolutely prohibit it," and that "the limitation or suspension shall be reasonable." Up to this time our relations with China had been the most agreeable of any other nation. England and France, being treated indifferently by China in their efforts for trade, had invaded their ports by powder and ball, and compelled their attention of not their respect.

This invasion was known as the "opium" war. These warlike nations in the early part of the present century had introduced and supplied opium to Chinese, just as tobacco was introduced into England from savage America. They did an exceedingly profitable trade, but as the energies of the Chinese were being sapped by the deleterious drug, a commissioner (Lin) was sent by the emperor to Canton to stop the traffic. He demanded that all opium in the hands of foreign merchants should be delivered to him, and more than 20,000 chests were delivered into his hands. The entire quantity was destroyed. An American merchant who witnessed the destruction was astonished "that while Christian governments were growing and farming this deleterious drug, this pagan monarch should nobly disdain to enrich his treasury with a sale which could not fall short of \$20,000,000." This was the beginning of hostilities against the Chinese and in a short time trade was resumed and opium smuggling went on as before.

The policy of the United States, however, has been one of peace, and it is a notable fact that the only two foreigners who have ever received posthumous honors at the hands of the Chinese emperor have been Americans—Frederick Ward and Anson Burlingame. The latter became minister at Peking in 1863 and was later employed by the Chinese government as their representative to all foreign powers with which they had treaty relations. Mr. Burlingame had encouraged the immigration of Chinese in 1866 by saying that a million Chinese would find employment on the Pacific coast. At this time they were welcomed by California, which rendered possible the development of their vast resources, and up to even 1881 the cry was still for more, as the farmers were unable to find enough laborers to carry on their work.

In 1882 the first act was passed restricting their immigration, providing the suspension of their coming for ten years. It also provided for the issue of certificates to Chinese residents in this country who desired to go home and return. They were issued, accepted in good faith by the Chinese, and when they returned with their certificate it was arbitrarily refused at San Francisco. The United States had violated their treaty obligations formulated many years previously, which related that "China should be accorded privileges granted the most favored nation." Then came the Scott act of 1888, which was a more open repudiation of the treaty, and since then the Geary act of the Fifty-second congress. It remains to be seen whether it will command respect at the hands of the highest judicial tribunal of the United States, and if so in an international court. It would seem that if international treaties mean anything, our course cannot be upheld, and it is evident that China is resting upon this assumption, since the Chinese of the United States have been ordered to pay no attention to the demand to register. The Chinese are skilled diplomats, and they are so egotistical as to believe that no nation is their equal. They have a right to be proud, since they can boast of a civilization thousands of years old, while our enlightenment dates from a very recent period. Five hundred years ago Europe was still in such a chaotic state that we have but little record of any man or achievement from that time to the beginning of the Christian era. The Chinese are unfeeling. With a "smile that is childlike and bland," there is no telling what notions are flitting through their steely-chase of thought. They have an entirely different process of reasoning than ours, leading to conclusions that seem ridiculous. For the first time in recorded history they will measure

swords on the judicial arena with men of Anglo-Saxon origin. It will be interesting to follow their mode of argument, and we shall await the contest with interest.

THE OLDEST DEMOCRAT.

His First Vote Was Cast for President James Madison.

It is claimed for Edward Embry that he is the oldest democrat in the country. He was born in or near the hamlet of Summer Duck, Va., in the summer of 1788, and it is supposed that he first voted for James Madison, the fourth president of the United States. He has always been a democrat and told a Boston Globe man that he took much pleasure in voting for Grover Cleveland last November. The old gentleman seems to have passed a rather quiet, uneventful life, notwithstanding his



EDWARD EMBRY.

great age. He was drafted for the war of 1812, but was not called upon for actual service. His age at the breaking out of the civil war, 73, naturally exempted him from service. Mr. Embry was married in 1824 to Miss Harriet E. Embry, and by this union had ten children, seven of whom are living. The oldest son is now 65 and the youngest 45. The old veteran makes his home with his two youngest children. Besides the seven children there are sixteen grandchildren and twenty-seven great-grandchildren, and if the old gentleman ever gathers his descendants about the family hearthstone the house must be of a good size to accommodate them all. Until within a few years the family has made their own clothing, weaving the cloth on hand looms, and the counterpanes now in use in the family home are home woven. The clothing worn by the old gentleman as shown in the picture is homespun. During his active life he was a hard worker, eating plain food and being simple in his habits. His life has been quiet and peaceful. He has hardly been outside his native county. During all his life he never rode on a train of cars.

He is below the medium size and his hair is comparatively black, even at his advanced age. His memory of old times is still good.



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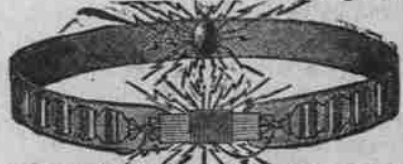
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J. F. FORD, Evangelist,

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