

AS TO HUMAN ATTRIBUTES.

To begin with today, we present to you a selection of human attributes, and ask you to discuss and urge their respective merits.

The sinful heathen Chinese have a way of surprising you, once you begin to investigate their brand of heathenism.

The more you read of Confucius, the less you think of many "great men" of your own country.

The Chinese, living by rule in crowded conditions through long centuries, have reduced everything to method. They have decided that the really important virtues are five in number.

Their view is most heathenish, strictly considered, for their list includes not one of the cardinal Christian virtues.

Faith, love and hope, on which our religion is based, do not interest the Chinese gentleman of thought.

Here is his list of virtues, and after you read it you will admit that it is rather a dignified collection of virtues for a heathen to select.

First of the Chinese virtues comes sympathy, and then in the order named:

Justice.

Politeness.

Knowledge.

Uprightness.

We ask you to discuss these questions: Which of the five virtues named is most important? Which is of greatest value to the human race? Which is most admirable?

The most important need not necessarily be most worthy of admiration. You might think politeness most admirable, and justice most important.

A good plan, perhaps, is to make out a list, putting at the head of it your favorite virtue, and the four others in their order of importance.

In the office of this newspaper the question has been discussed.

This writer suggested that on the whole sympathy might be called most important of the Chinese five.

It unites society, makes human relationships possible, and by building up the weak makes society progress as a whole and prevents permanent formation of despotic classes.

Immediately a listener—one whom you all know by name and a very able man—objected to giving first place to sympathy.

"Sympathy," said he, "is all right, but if a man has a broken leg, what he wants is not sympathy, but a man who knows how to set a broken leg. The important quality is not sympathy. It is knowledge."

This sounds plausible, as most practical Americans will admit.

But the beauty of argument is this: There is no necessary end to it.

One man says knowledge is the important thing because without knowledge you cannot meet a broken leg.

That sounds convincing. But sympathy first prompted men to seek the knowledge that heals.

Among wolves there is no sympathy. If a wolf breaks his leg, the other wolves eat him, eat his leg and run on. If a butler has a badly hurt, the other butlers gore him to death.

A man, possessing sympathy, seeks to improve the condition of others and of himself, and knowledge, instead of being more important than sympathy, is really born of sympathy.

You perceive that in this question of the Chinese five there is much opportunity for discussion. We feel sure that fathers will find this a profitable discussion to present to their sons and daughters, to replace the usual talk about trivialities. We think that much good, wholesome thought will come from the debate suggested.

We shall be greatly interested to hear from our readers on this subject. Of course, many letters will not be printed. Our object in this matter is to promote discussion.

In time we hope to organize regular reports of debates and to carry on the work of discussing systematically, getting suggestions from our readers and presenting the most important views submitted to us.

Many able minds prefer justice to all other of the five qualities, and much to be said for that choice. A world devoid of justice would be a miserable world. It would perhaps be more miserable than a world free from knowledge, or sympathy, or politeness, or uprightiness. But that is a matter for our debates to discuss.

We shall bore you with only one more suggestion, and this is it: Are not the five qualities so closely related that it is impossible to separate them? They are not in the intellectual world like light, heat and motion in the world of material forces, practically interchangeable terms?

Knowledge comes from sympathy. Politeness is born of knowledge. A sympathetic mind is instinctively right. Justice is an admirable combination of the other four—all equally balanced.—Hearst's Chicago American.

A MAN WHO TAUGHT A LESSON.

Willis J. Abbott writes in Hearst's Chicago American as follows: It was Wendell Phillips, I think, who once said that he could advise no course so favorable for the development of strong character as for a young man to be a man of an unpopular cause, of the righteousness of which he was fully convinced, and press it incessantly, fearlessly, untriflingly, through the poverty and contumely it would bring until victory was won or his days of earthly struggle ended.

Henry George set himself such a task and faithfully bore its burdens until the very hour of his death. The cause he espoused was that of the poor, his end the abolishment of poverty. Strange that such a cause, such a mission, could be called unpopular, but so it was and long will be, for the poor are slow to recognize him who comes forward in their service, while the rich are only too quick to discover the man who attacks their privileges and to pursue him with ridicule, invective and persecution.

In the biography of Henry George written—and most ably written—by his eldest son, Henry George, Jr., one may trace the unfolding of a mind which has become possessed of a single purpose, the development of a character which has consecrated itself to the furtherance of a single great cause. The struggle never hardened him. He has so lately left us that there are thousands who remember that strong and forceful though his character was he retained to the last the sweet and sunny nature of a boy.

Henry George was thirty-two years

TYPHOID FEVER PERIOD.

Dr. James J. Walsh, in Hearst's Chicago American, says: Just before cool weather sets in every year there comes in most of the large cities of the world an outbreak of typhoid fever.

It is not a new disease, but it has suffered and is suffering from more cases of the disease than at any other time this year, or even during any time last year.

The reports of the boards of health of various American cities show a similar state of affairs. Even from distant Russia came the announcement that the czar is suffering from the disease, and in so severe a form that a for a time his life was despaired of.

It is a common remark of medical men that a normally healthy young person has a reasonably good chance of reaching a fair old age if he can only avoid typhoid pneumonia and accidents.

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The question of the power of water to produce disease has been revolutionized by recent advances in the bacteriological analysis of water.

It is the opinion at Washington that \$400,000 will be appropriated by this congress for river and harbor improvements.

Of this the western half of the United States will get, judging by previous records, a couple of billions or so.

Whatever are her possibilities, it is not contended that the west is as important or influential as the east.

She has not yet the dense population; but why should she not get at least a fair apportionment of the great amount of money?

Why should she not get a fourth of it, to be applied to the building of great storage reservoirs to be filled with flood waters for use in irrigation, under a system of internal improvements?

The government is spending large sums in aid of the development of foreign trade and the opening of foreign markets for American manufacturers.

It is believed that we should push our land and settling them with thousands of industrious home builders.

Eastern merchants are more than willing to see such an undertaking. The west should take the initiative.

THE WAR TAX REDUCTION.

The Changes in the Tax Which the Bill Provides for.

The bill to reduce the war tax will take effect 30 days after its passage, and will be passed some time before March 1 next.

It has already passed the house. Probably it will be pushed through soon after the Christmas holidays. In that event, the relief would take effect in February.

Following is a complete summary of the proposed changes in the tax which the bill provides for.

Commercial brokers—Tax of 20 per cent. reduced to 10 per cent.

Custom house brokers—Tax of 10 per cent. reduced to 5 per cent.

Dealers, etc.—Tax of 100 per cent. reduced to 50 per cent.

Circulars, etc.—Tax of 100 per cent. reduced to 50 per cent.

Exhibitions, etc.—Tax of 10 per cent. reduced to 5 per cent.

Bank checks, drafts, deposit certificates, etc.—Tax reduced.

Bills of exchange, inland and foreign—Tax reduced.

Bills of lading, etc.—Tax of 10 per cent. reduced to 5 per cent.

Telephone messages—Tax reduced.

Bonds—Tax 50 cents, repealed.

Certificates for marine purposes—Tax 25 cents, repealed.

Certificates of legal nature—Tax 10 cents, cancelled.

Charter contracts for shipping—Tax reduced.

Contracts for brokerage—Tax 10 cents, repealed.

Conveyances, deeds, etc.—Tax annulled.

Dispatches, telegraphic—Tax 1 cent, reduced.

Insurance, life policies—Tax reduced.

Insurance, marine—Tax cancelled.

Leases, agreement for rent, etc.—Tax reduced.

Manifests for custom house entry or clearance—Tax cancelled.

Mortgages, pledges of realty or personalty—Tax reduced.

Passage tickets by vessels to foreign ports—Tax reduced.

Power of attorney, proxies, etc.—Tax 10 cents, repealed.

Project for notes, checks, drafts, etc.—Tax reduced.

Warehouse receipts for storage, etc.—Tax 25 cents, annulled.

GENERAL NEWS.

A membership in the New York stock exchange sold Wednesday for \$47,000 to John H. McCallum.

Representative Hitt, of Illinois, has made formal announcement of his candidacy for the United States senate.

The Illinois Staats Zeitung was sold at auction in Chicago for \$200,000. The company will be reorganized at once.

Senator Clark, of Montana, has purchased a mine in Mexico, owned by parties in Fort Worth, Texas, consideration \$800,000.

The Western Union Telegraph company reports that for the quarter ending December 31, the net earnings will be about \$1,500,000.

At its 63d stated meeting the Baltimore Presbytery has gone on record as favoring a revision of the confession of faith by a vote of 47 to 24.

A rumor is in circulation in the Austrian capital that former King Milan is about to become engaged to Miss Avel, an American heiress.

Vermont continues to be a rural state. It is the only state in the north that does not contain a city with a population of 25,000 or more.

Edward Ryan, a millionaire merchant, died at his residence in Hancock, Michigan. He was at one time considered the wealthiest Irishman in America.

The brother of Professor Andree, the missing Arctic explorer, hoping for Andree's return from the polar regions, has deferred opening the latter's testament for 12 months.

The official vote in Texas was as follows: Democratic, 207,432; republican, 130,654; populist, 23,961; prohibition, 2,664; social democratic, 546; socialist labor, 162.

Emperor Nicholas, for the first time since his illness began, went into the open air Saturday sitting on a veranda. Subsequently he received one of the ministers in audience.

Benjamin R. Crocker, the first purchasing agent of the Central Pacific railroad, is dead at his home in Sacramento. He disposed of his railroad interests several years ago.

According to the North China Daily News, Prince Tuan escaped from Tung Kuan pass under the disguise of the Buddhist Bonze, and then went on his way to the west.

Many hungry men in Paris are resorting to holdups to relieve their distress. One night this week a street car was held up by masked men right in the heart of the city and the passengers robbed.

The will of the late Senator Davis who died November 27 was filed for probate at St. Paul. The will leaves all his estate to Mrs. Davis. The estate is valued at \$25,000 in personal and \$40,000 in real property.

Helen Keller, the deaf, blind and heretofore dumb student at Radcliffe College, recently astonished and delighted the freshman class of which she is a vice-president by making a short address. By study she has learned to make herself understood by speech.

President Scott of the Union Iron works at San Francisco, the holder of the new battleship, Ohio, saw the president and had his assurance that if nothing occurred to prevent he would go to San Francisco some time next May to witness the launching of the big vessel.

The people of the town of Sing Sing, New York, will make an effort to have the name changed to Osewing, which is the name of the township and an Indian name, on the ground that the present name injures the town because the penitentiary there bears the same name.

Discussing the attitude of the United States senate relative to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty the Westminster Gazette says that it is perfectly natural the United States should desire to exact guarantees against the use of the Nicaragua canal by an enemy in the event of a war.

A very remarkable case is that of Soldier Frank Riegnberg who was arrested in Oakland, Cal., on a charge of burglary, tried and acquitted for the reason that it was found that for years he had not been in his right mind because of the pressure of a piece of bone on his brain.

The London Post publishes an article by Major-Gen. Elwell S. Otis, formerly military governor of the Philippines, on "The Philippines Future," in which he points out the "importance for the destiny of the Philippine Islands of a repudiation of the anti-imperialistic doctrine by the American people.

According to the figures revised by the director of the mint, the world's production of gold for 1899 amounted to \$206,584,900; Africa, \$73,227,100, and the United States, \$71,063,400. The production of silver amounted to \$100,321,100, of which the United States produced \$33,367,300 and the United States \$32,858,700.

Keep the Local Paper Informed. If the people who seek courtesies from the county newspapers would only think to return them, much good would come of it.

Many people think they are neglected in print because some news item of interest to them does not, through the newspapers, find its way to the general public, and yet they seem to forget entirely that reporters are most unfortunately not mind readers and that if they would but call up the office by phone the paper would only too gladly give the item space.

A paper in the land that does not want the news, and every paper could and would be full of news if each person knowing something along that line would but give the office the slightest tip.

A Serious Runaway. A serious accident occurred on the Princeton stage line Saturday near Cleeks, the first station north of Princeton, in which three passengers were injured and the stage wrecked, owing to the reckless driving of an intoxicated driver. At the station near Cleeks, the driver attempted an exhibition of horsemanship, smashing one wheel of the stage and landing the passengers and baggage on the ground. Calvin C. Salton, of Hillsboro, W. Va., Calvin C. Salton, and B. N. Niles, of Walla Walla, were all thrown from the stage, badly bruised and shaken up. Mr. Feunton having one hip dislocated.

First Book About Oregon. Librarian D. P. Leach has just secured for the Portland Library Association a copy of what is believed to be the first book about Oregon ever printed, for which he has advertised. A Geographical Sketch of That Part of North America Called Oregon, Containing an Account of the Indian Title, the Nature of a Right of Sovereignty, the Discoveries, Climate and Seasons, Face of the Country, Mountains, Natural Divisions, Physical Appearance and Soil of Each; Forests and Vegetable Productions; Rivers, Bays, etc.; Islands, etc.; Animals, the Disposition of the Indians, Their Tribes, Together with an Account of the Advantages Resulting from a Settlement of the Territory.

The Sun and Mount Hood. The sun now rises almost squarely behind Mount Hood, says the Portland Telegram. When the sky is clear enough people witnessing its appearance see a rare sight. It is only in the winter time that the sun gets far enough south to rise behind the mountain. During that time there is generally a curtain of cloud that shuts off its view. This morning, however, was one of the few times that the curtain of clouds was rolled up so that the rising sun could be seen, and it was assuredly a brilliant spectacle. The rim of the sun was a fire with gold, and against this blazing background were chased the clear, cold, white lines of the stately mountain.

THE IRRIGATION MOVEMENT.

The holding of the National Irrigation Congress in the east, as it turned out, was a wise move. The people of that part of the country have had the subject of national irrigation brought home to them in a manner not otherwise possible.

The far-reaching importance of the problem has been presented to them and genuine interest has been awakened. Instead of finding opposition in the east, the congress found that eastern men of prominence were more than interested in a proposition which promised an increased western population of millions of people.

The "money" country" has been invaded, the myth of eastern opposition has faded away and its people are found to be anxious to see inaugurated a national policy of western arid land reclamation.

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