

Other Wars With China.

The Causes Which Led to the "Opium War" in 1840.

Baltimore Sun. The German Emperor William—like Saul of Tarsus, an unconverted Paul—is "yet breathing threatenings and slaughter" Addressing the first naval division, destined for service in China, which sailed on Monday from Kiel, the little emperor said: "Yours is the first division of armored ships which I send abroad. Remember you will have to fight a cunning foe, provided with modern weapons, to avenge German blood which has flowed. Spare the women and children. I shall not rest until China is subdued and all her bloody deeds are avenged." It is, perhaps, too early in the game to talk thus lightly of subduing China, a country of vast extent, inhabited by 400,000,000 of people. It is gratifying to know that in deference presumably to the spirit of modern civilization, if not of Christianity, the Kaiser does not propose to exterminate the entire Chinese population. He tells his warriors to "spare the women and children." For thus much, to this great and terrible war lord, in the name of humanity—thanks!

It is to be hoped that neither the example of foreign powers nor the urgency of our own jingoes will cause the administration at Washington to deviate a hair's breadth from the sober policy of moderation and justice already announced by Secretary Hay. It is all important that President McKinley, whose backbone is notoriously none of the stiffest, and who is lamentably prone to change his mind, shall have the support of the intelligent, conservative public opinion of the country in adhering to the policy marked out by his secretary of state. To save the lives, if rescue be possible, of our own fellow citizens in danger of death at the hands of the Chinese mob, to assist in the restoration of order and stable government at Peking and to oppose anything like the spoliation or partition of China among the harpy powers, is for this country, obviously the policy of wisdom as well as justice. We should not permit ourselves to be blinded by the atrocities committed by the Boxers—atrocities not differing in kind and not comparing in extent with those committed by the sans culottes of Paris, and indeed throughout France, during the Reign of Terror little more than a century ago—to the fact that in all her dealings with European powers China has been treated with scant justice, if not with positive injustice.

Although the oldest, the most populous and in some ways the most powerful empire on this globe, it is a noticeable fact that in all her long history, dating back beyond the beginnings of Christianity and modern civilization, China has never been guilty of any act of aggression upon any other nation, leastwise upon any European power. She has invaded the territory of no other power, has interfered with the plans and ambitions of none. As an accomplished writer and historian of our own day has said: "The one thing that China has asked of European civilization and the thing called modern progress was that of Diogenes to Alexander—Pray stand out of my sunshine!"

The Chinese did not seek intercourse much foreign nations. They would with rather have lived without seeing the face of a foreigner. As it takes two parties to a quarrel, China lived in peace with all the world until 60 years ago her first foreign war was forced upon her by the insatiable greed and rapacity of England. It was soon after the accession of Queen Victoria that the war designated by all historians and destined to be remembered in all time as the "Opium war" broke out. By many wise and patriotic Englishmen it has been described as the darkest blot upon the pages of English history. But that was before Chamberlain and Rhodes and the London Stock exchange got up the war for the destruction of the independence of the Boers and the capture of the gold fields in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal.

The causes which led to the "Opium war" are now known to all the world. They are of record in British State Papers and in the pages of historians whose accuracy and fairness are beyond all question. The importation of opium into China has been prohibited by the Peking government since 1796. The drug originally introduced by Portuguese traders was smuggled overland from British India, where it was produced in large quantities from the poppy, extensively grown for the purpose. The trade, grown to be a branch of commerce by sea and at one time a monopoly of the English East India company, afterward fell almost entirely into the hands of British merchants. When the attention of the house of commons was called to the growing evils of the trade and the efforts made by China for its suppression, a select committee of the house declared that it was inadvisable to abandon an important company. In 1837 the Chinese government adopted a fresh and more stringent policy. It decided on rigorously

stopping the trade, and the celebrated Chinese official, Lin was sent to Canton with orders to require the surrender and destruction of all opium, whether in the hands of what were called "Hong" merchants or Chinese merchants. As a further measure of prevention Lin established a blockade of Canton by Chinese forces and batteries. Dispute arose with Mr Charles Elliott, representing the British merchants. Collision occurred between the natives and British seamen, and although the Chinese government showed considerable desire to avert hostilities, no satisfactory arrangements could be reached for the suppression of the opium trade.

Finally, in 1840, the British began active hostilities; Canton was captured, but admitted to ransom by Elliott, whose clemency led to his recall and the appointment of Sir Henry Pottinger to conduct the war in his stead. The great Yangtze river was ascended, the city of Ciu-Kiang Fu, the port of Nankin, was taken by storm after desperate resistance and appalling destruction of life, thousands of the Manchu and Tartar soldiers committing suicide after killing their wives and children, rather than surrender. Everything was in readiness for a similar assault upon Nankin, when the Chinese made overtures for peace, which was concluded upon the payment by China of an indemnity for all the opium confiscated and destroyed, all the losses of British merchants and expenses of the British crown, the opening of the five ports, thereafter known as the "treaty ports," to British trade and the cession to Great Britain of the island of Hong Kong.

"Reduced to plain words," says an English historian, "the principle for which we fought in the China war was the right of Great Britain to force a peculiar trade upon a foreign people in spite of the protestations of the government and all such public opinion as there was of the nation. . . . We asserted, or at least acted on the assertion, of a claim so unreasonable and even monstrous that it never could have been made upon any nation strong enough to render its assertion a matter of serious responsibility." After explaining the machinery by which the opium trade was carried on and referring to Lord Palmerston's defense in parliament of England's participation in the infamous traffic, the same writer proceeds:

Let us find an illustration intelligible to readers of the present day to show how unjustifiable was this practice. The State of Maine, as everyone knows, prohibits the common sale of spirituous liquors. Let us suppose that several companies of English merchants were formed in Portland and Augusta and other towns of Maine for the purpose of brewing beer and distilling whiskey and selling both to the people of Maine in defiance of State laws. Let us further suppose that when the authorities of Maine proceeded to put the State laws in force against these intruders our government here took up the cause of the whiskey sellers and sent an iron clad fleet to Portland to compel the people of Maine to put up with them. In the case of such a nation as the United States nothing of the kind would be possible. But in dealing with China the ministry never seems to have thought the right or wrong of the question a matter worthy of any consideration.

This, be it remembered, was the entering wedge. The door of China was violently forced open by England in order that the profitable but infamous opium traffic might find free entrance. Who will say that England is not responsible for more than the bloodshed in the "Opium war"—the souls and bodies of millions of human beings ruined by the opium habit. It at least suggests that in dealing with western civilization China, if sinning, has also been grievously sinned against. It may be that it hardly became us to throw stones at England on account of the opium traffic, when today in the Philippines, in Cuba and Puerto Rico, under the kindly protection of President McKinley and his administration, the liquor trade, always the first to follow the flag, is slaying its thousands, proving more deadly than the rifles of our soldiers.

A Question in Figures.

Some mathematical, hard headed, practical fellow has reduced the Chinese problem to figures. Assuming that China is to be suppressed, he presents the following facts for consideration: It is roughly estimated that the population of China is 400,000,000. The natural increase is 10,000,000 a year. If the allies will start in and kill one million Chinamen a year for 100 years, there will be 1,000,000,000 Chinamen, approximately speaking, to deal with at the beginning of the next century. Or, at the normal increase of Chinamen is 10,000,000, and the allies kill off 11,999,000 of them or about 38,982 a day, it will only take 100 years to exterminate them. If the number of shots fired in past wars be used as a basis for calculation, 1,400,000,000 of an ammunition would be required, which, at 21 cents each, would only cost the allied nations of the earth a sum of \$295,000,000,000. There would, of course, be other minor items of expense attendant upon the campaign.

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More Benevolence.

McKinley Buying Two More Islands of the Sulu Group.

Madrid, July 27.—The cabinet is considering the proposition of the United States government for the cession of the islands of Cibu and Kaigayon in consideration of an indemnity of \$100,000. The ministry regards the proposition favorably; the negotiations for a treaty of accord between the two governments are proceeding rapidly.

Washington, July 27.—Arrangements have practically been completed for the purchase from Spain by the United States of the islands of Cibu and Cagayan, which were left in Spanish possession by the treaty of Paris, although part of the Philippine archipelago. The purchase price was not made public.

These islands lie without the Philippine archipelago as laid down in the Paris treaty of peace. After lengthy negotiations the United States determined to buy out Spain's rights to them. One important consideration in the negotiations was the desirability of excluding any European power from the possession of the islands for use as a naval station, which would constitute a constant menace to the United States sovereignty. There is reason to believe that schemes of that kind already have been put afloat which are now to be thwarted.

The two islands are insignificant in area and thinly populated, probably containing from six to eight thousand people in all. Cibu is a long, narrow island, 14 miles in length by 2 across.

Cagayan is about the same area, five miles by eight, with mountains reaching in height 1,100 feet. It is the largest of a half dozen tiny islets known as the Cagayan Sulu group, and owing allegiance to the Sultan of Sulu. Its chief products are cotton, sugar and similar tropical products. Both the islands are said to be mainly valuable for their pearl and shell fisheries.

Neely's Embezzlements at the Very Least \$131,000.

Washington, July 25.—The postmaster general has made public the report of Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow, who investigated the Cuban postal frauds. Mr Bristow finds that Neely's embezzlements aggregated at least \$131,713 and says he was justified in recommending the removal of Director General Rathbone. Whether or not the latter was guilty with Neely in the embezzlements, he says, there can be no doubt that in the matter of unauthorized per diem allowances, personal expenditures and warrants cashed and unaccounted for, he unlawfully appropriated to his own use money from the Cuban revenues, and for this, Mr Bristow says, he believes Mr Rathbone should be required to answer.

The report says there was no check whatever on Neely's transactions. From the accounts examined the report says the minimum of Neely's embezzlements may be summarized as follows:

Shortages as shown by his own records \$30,600; excess of credit by destruction of surcharged stamps definitely ascertained \$101,113; total \$131,713.

This will be increased by the discovery of additional sales of surcharged stamps, but will not exceed \$150,000 in the aggregate.

The report says that Rathbone appointed Neely, who had custody of the stamps, W. H. Reeves, the only man who could have a check on Neely's transactions, and D. Warfield, chief of the bureau of registration, a commission to destroy the surcharged stamps, of which Neely had received \$522,000, and that Neely and Reeves entered into a conspiracy to report a larger quantity of stamps destroyed than were actually destroyed. But, the report says, Neely's fraudulent transactions were not confined to these embezzlements, and while the amounts were small compared with the latter "they show the same official depravity and utter disregard of the interests of the public service."

DOES IT PAY TO BUY CHEAP?

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The death rate among the soldiers at M. increases about 1 per cent. exclusive of those who die on transports homeward bound. This is said to nearly double the death rate of the British army in India.

Lawlessness and Murder in New Orleans.

New Orleans was wild with rioting since last Tuesday and a bloody race war seemed at one time to be threatened. The latest dispatches however state peace and order has been restored.

A complete list of casualties shows that six negroes and six whites have been killed, and 10 negroes and 29 whites wounded since the trouble began.

The beginning of the trouble is stated as follows:

Two suspicious negroes were hanging around a quiet neighborhood and somebody took the precaution to inform the police. Several officers went to the scene, and instead of making explanations or going to jail, the negroes showed fight. Pistols were soon in play and Officer Mora was seriously shot. One of the negroes was arrested but Robert Charles, who did the shooting, since said to be a desperate burglar and ex-convict, got away, although wounded. The police organized a pursuing party and succeeded in locating the fugitive. Captain John T. Day, commanding the precinct, led a posse of police to this shanty and tried to reach the refuge by a dark sally leading to it. They carried lanterns and were easily distinguished and when they got close enough Charles opened fire with a Winchester, killing Captain Day and keeping up the fusillade until the captain had five wounds in him. A negro opened the door of an adjoining room and told the police to jump in as Charles had rifles and ammunition and an impregnable position. They obeyed, thinking to hold Charles in his quarters until help or daylight came. Officer Lamb was the last of the three survivors to attempt to reach shelter, after emptying his revolver in the direction of the negro, and Charles reached out and dropped him with a bullet behind the ear. Nearly an hour elapsed before reinforcements came and these were placed around the block to prevent escape. It was then discovered that Charles had already left the room, though a shot at the pickets told that he was in the neighborhood.

Thousands of people gathered around the scene of the shooting and, lacking a victim or other excitement proposed vengeance on the property and on the negroes in the hovels around. The police promptly quelled the disturbance and jailed a number, but the guard had to be increased.

To suppress this lawlessness a citizens' police force of over 1,000 men was organized by the mayor, which with the State militia had apparently restored peace and order, when on Friday afternoon the desperate negro, Robert Charles, whose crimes caused the terrible events of the previous two days, was located in a negro's dwelling on Saratoga Street, and in effecting his capture the lives of four white men—two police officers and two citizens—were sacrificed.

Charles' resistance cost him his life and with him was killed a negro companion who had aided him in his war on the whites and his defiance of the authorities. The fresh violence revived the turbulence of the unruly element and added strength to their forces.

William E. Curtis, writing to the Chicago Record, gets off this good paragraph: "Col Bryao's house stands on the edge of the city, a modest cottage neatly painted in yellow with trimmings of Indian red. It bears the number 1625 in the street. The house next door is number 1621, and a wagish friend has suggested to him the advisability of trading numbers with his neighbors, so that the figures of his threshold may be the shibboleth of his campaign, 16 to 1 (A diagram will be furnished all who do not see the joke)"

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