

# CHINA'S QUEER PEOPLE

Daily Life of the Celestial—the Religion and Habit of The Millions in the Far East—Empire Where Everything is Upside Down.

China and its dependencies have a total area of 4,218,401 square miles and a population of 402,680,000. In area it includes nearly one-twelfth of the total area of the globe, while its population includes nearly one-third of all the people in the world. As compared with the United States, the latter's island possessions being excluded, China has 800,000 more square miles of territory and more than five times as many inhabitants. The population of China proper per square mile is 292; that of the State of Rhode Island is 254, and that of Texas six.

China is the land where everything is upside down. Thus in Canton the women act as sailors and boatmen, while the men are employed as chambermaids, laundresses, and seamstresses. In salutation the Chinaman shakes his own hand instead of that of his visitor. As a mark of respect he puts his hat on instead of taking it off. Their signboards are perpendicular instead of horizontal. In reading Chinese print it is necessary to begin at the right hand side at the bottom and read to the left and up. The Chinese raise the toe of the shoe and depress the heel instead of raising the heel, so that they sometimes appear to be in danger of falling over backwards.

**THE RULING CLASS OF CHINA.**  
The Tartars, who overthrew the native Chinese dynasty of China in 1644, are the ruling class in China. There are in the neighborhood of 10,000,000 Tartars in the Empire. The "Chinese pigtail" dates from the Tartar invasion, when the Tartars forced the Chinese to grow queues after the Tartar custom, as a mark of subjection. Thousands of Chinese were killed for refusing to plait their hair, and even now the new China party has as one of its objects the abolition of the old rule. There are, or were until recently, less than 12,000 foreigners residing in China. Of this number 5000 are British, 1600 Americans, and 1200 Japanese.

Most Christian ministers wear black clothes. The Chinese priests stick to bright yellow. People on this side of the world signify their sorrows at the death of a relative or friend by putting on black garments. In China the mourning color is white. In the United States most people believe that the living have the first call upon their charity and care. In China more precautions are taken for the preservation of the body after death than before, and a Chinaman will lie down suppers on his mat rather than neglect to light the evening joss candle in honor of his dead relatives. In most countries the deathbed is surrounded by weeping relatives, and often a minister and a doctor are present. In China the dying are carried out of the house and left alone in some vacant space to die. There are three principal religions in China—Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. The latter is almost without forms or ceremonies, consisting chiefly in

study and contemplation of the teachings and works of the ancients. Buddhism and Taoism both have elaborate ceremonies. Taoism is the older, Buddhism having made its appearance about 1800 years ago. It is now the religion of almost eight-tenths of the people. In the north-east and south-west there are 30,000,000 Mohammedans. The Roman Catholics have more than 1,000,000 adherents and support 20 bishops. The converts of all Protestant churches are estimated to number more than 50,000. Back in the remote interior of the kingdom the hill tribes are still nature worshippers or heathen.

**A CHINESE BANQUET.**  
At a grand dinner the Chinese begin with sweatmeats and conclude with soup. Sometimes they sit at the table for five or six hours, with a midway interval or recess, during which bowls are brought in and the members of the party wash their hands and heads in hot water. Fricassee of dog is a favorite dish, a special breed of poodles being raised for eating purposes. Stewed rat is another delicacy, and the Chinamen are also fond of eggs when they have passed the point where even the cold storage man could call them fresh. Sharks' fins, bird nests, peacocks' livers, green ginger, cocks' combs, and fowls' hearts and brains are dishes which might be found on the menu of a high-class Chinese banquet.

During the year 1833 China imported from all foreign nations goods valued at \$146,000,000. During the same year the exports of China amounted to \$118,000,000. As an evidence of which nation has the greatest interest in China so far as trade and commerce go, it may be stated that of the total of Chinese imports Great Britain and its colonies supply goods to the amount of \$111,000,000, while of the exports it buys about \$60,000,000 or more than one half. Most of the English trade with China is transacted through the British Crown colony of Hong Kong, which was ceded to Great Britain by China in 1841. During the same year the United States imported goods from China to the value of \$13,000,000 and sent back in return American goods valued at a little more than \$9,000,000.

**IT IS AN OLD EMPIRE.**  
If the Chinese themselves are to be believed, the Chinese Empire has been in existence for more than 100,000 years. Other students say that it was founded 2,500 years before Christ, and by some Fohi, supposed to be the Noah of the Bible, is considered the founder. The great wall of China, portions of which are still in evidence, was completed 211 B. C. Printing is said to have been known in China as early as 202 B. C. In 1517, A. D., the first Europeans arrived in China. In 1575 Jesuits missionaries were sent to China from Rome. In 1632 a general earthquake shook the empire and more than 300,000 people were killed at Peking alone. Tea was first brought to England in 1660. Commercial relations between China and Russia began in 1719. The policemen of Peking are, or at least, were armed chiefly with small drums, which they beat loudly in order, it is presumed, to let burglars and other marauders know that they are coming. All night long the watchmen beat their way around the streets, and as a natural consequence are said to make few arrests. The pigeons of Peking have each a light whistle tied to their tails, which gives forth a loud sound as they fly. Sometimes five or six whistles of different tones are attached, and the result is a more or less melodious confusion of sound.

**CITY WITH BLIND PEOPLE.**  
The blind, and in Peking blind men and women are numerous, also use drums to announce their coming and warn other people to get out of their way. By the difference in the sound as it is reflected back from walls or pavements it is said that the blind Chinamen can always locate themselves exactly, so that they need no guide. The beggars of Peking are another peculiar institution. They are organized and have a ruler of their own, whose orders they are quick to obey. Sometimes a group of beggars will gather in front a merchant's store and make such a racket that he is glad to bribe them to go away.

Another method of extorting money is for a beggar to go to a merchant or householder and to announce that unless he is paid one or two dollars he will commit suicide on his victim's doorstep. If he is refused he is likely to carry out his threat, in which case the authorities may give the unfortunate merchant much to think and sometimes blackmail him out of a large amount of property.

The commencement of the establishment of the so-called "spheres of influence" in China was in 1897, when the Germans seized the Port of Kiau Chau, on the east coast of Shantung, and during the next month secured from the Chinese a lease for ninety-nine years of the town, harbor,

and district. Two months later Russia got possession of Port Arthur and Talien-want with their adjacent waters, on a lease for twenty-five years, with the privilege of renewal. Within the boundaries of the leased territory, which are as yet undefined, Russia has supreme control. Port Arthur harbor and the larger portion of the harbor of Talienwan are therefore closed to all except the war vessels of Russia and China. In June, 1898, Great Britain took possession of Wei-Hai-Wei and is to hold the port as long as Russia holds Port Arthur. Finally, the French in April, 1898, secured a "lease" of Kwang-Chau-Wan Bay, on the east coast of the Tien-Chao Peninsula.—Chicago Tribune.

**AROUSED AT LAST**  
To the terrible ravages of consumption in Ontario, the Government is petitioned to establish hospitals for consumptives. As a preventative to consumption there is no treatment to be compared to Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine which promptly and effectually cures every cough and cold. It has by far the largest sale of any remedy for throat and lung troubles 25 cents a bottle. Family size 60 cents All dealers.

**A Mother's Love For Her Son.**  
The autobiography of John B. Gough, the advocate of total abstinence, contains a touching account of his sailing, an emigrant, for America, when he was twelve years old. For he was born in England, and as his parents were poor, laboring people, they had made an arrangement with some neighbors, who were emigrating, to take him with them, teach him a trade, and support him until he should be of age. He says:

The evening of my departure, a neighbor invited me to take tea at his house. This I did, and my mother said to me afterward, "I wish you had taken tea with your mother, John." I too, was sorry in after years. The parting with my parents was a bitter one. My mother hung my old cap and jacket and my school-bag on the accustomed peg, and there they remained until, some years after, she quitted the house. As I passed through the streets many a kind hand waved "Farewell," and familiar voices sounded out a hearty "God bless you!" One old dame, of whom I had frequently bought sweetmeats, called me into her shop and loaded me with good wishes, cakes, and candies, although she could ill afford it.

I mounted the roof of the London coach and was about quitting the village, when I saw a female form crouching beside a wall. My heart told me it was my mother, who had followed after to steal one more glance at her beloved child. I never felt that I was loved so much as I did at that time.

When the ship passed Dover a dead calm fell, and we anchored off Sandgate, my native place. During the day boat after boat came to us from the shore to pay the other emigrants visits; but my relatives did not come. After long and weary watching, I saw a man standing up in a boat.

"That's him!" I shouted. "That's my father!" But since it was Sunday my mother and sister had gone to church in a neighboring town, and did not know I was at hand. As evening came on we sang a parting hymn, and our visitors went away. I went gloomily to bed, but about midnight I was called on deck. There were my mother and sister, who had paid half a guinea—money hardly earned, but cheerfully expended—to be rowed to the ship. They stayed one happy hour, and then I went back to my bed, to sob away the rest of the morning.

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### CHARLOTTETOWN MARKETS.

(Corrected every Tuesday.)

Lamb (quarter).....	\$0 50 to 1 00
Beef (quarter) per lb.....	0 06 to 0 09
Beef (small) per lb.....	0 06 to 0 14
Butter (fresh) per lb.....	0 18 to 0 29
Chickens.....	0 55 to 0 63
Cabbage (per doz).....	0 55 to 0 60
Cabbage (per head).....	0 00 to 0 12
Eggs.....	0 10 to 0 15
Fowls per pair.....	0 65 to 0 75
Flour per cwt.....	0 00 to 2 00
Oatmeal, new, per cwt.....	2 25 to 2 50
Hides per lb.....	0 64 to 0 07
Hay per cwt.....	0 35 to 0 49
Oats.....	0 30 to 0 32
Turnips, per bunch.....	0 05 to 0 10
Potatoes new.....	0 00 to 1 50
Mutton per carcass.....	0 06 to 0 08
Parsley (per bunch).....	0 00 to 0 05
Onions per lb.....	0 04 to 0 05
Squash per lb.....	0 00 to 0 04
Carrots, per bunch.....	0 00 to 0 05
Cucumbers.....	0 05 to 0 10
Radishes.....	0 30 to 0 05
Lettice per bunch.....	0 05 to 0 00
Cauliflower.....	0 05 to 0 10
Strawberries per quart.....	0 17 to 0 20
Peas quart.....	0 10 to 0 14
Celery.....	0 05 to 0 10
Raspberries.....	0 11 to 0 14
Cherries.....	0 08 to 0 10
Blueberries.....	0 08 to 0 10
Blackcurrants.....	0 08 to 0 10
Gooseberries.....	0 05 to 0 06

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Thursday 30th "	Thursday 6th Aug
Monday 13th Aug.	Monday 20th "
Thursday 27th "	Thursday rd St pt. 3
Monday 10th Sept.	Monday 17th "
Thursday 24th "	Thursday 1st Oct.
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