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HAD A FANCY FOR CLOCKS.

The Chinese Emperor's Recreation Was the Study of Mechanical Contrivances Was Completely Dominated By the Dowager Empress.

According to members of the diplomatic corps in Washington, in a position to know about the life of the Emperor of China, who died Saturday, his delicate health forbade free indulgence in outdoor sports. He found his greatest recreation in the study of mechanical contrivances. His envoys and intimates were able to please him immensely by sending him models and notes of inventions, and none of his subjects studied more carefully than he the reports on investigations abroad of mechanical devices, which he utilized for the improvement of conditions in the empire.

Particularly attractive to the Emperor were clocks and watches. In the Winter Palace at Peking and in the royal summer residence, some miles distant, were hundreds of clocks from all parts of the world, nearly all of different makes and styles. Nothing is said to have pleased the Emperor more than to tear a clock to pieces and then reassemble its parts. He became quite expert in the adjustment of these time-pieces. His collection of these contrivances is said to have been one of the most complete in the Orient, not only representing modern work, but the development of time-recorders through the centuries.

Kuang-Hsu's reign of 34 years was that of a sovereign feeble in mind and body, who has been dominated all-powerful influence of the Dowager Empress. Kuang Hsu's "reign" will be completely lost in the rule of the Empress.

The Emperor was born in 1870. His succession to the throne was one of the many arbitrary and illegal acts of the Dowager Empress, who adopted him into the succession from a generation the same as that of his predecessor, although the constitution of the Manchu dynasty and precedent provide that the succession shall go to the next following generation.

Kuang-Hsu was four years old when made Emperor, and his reign is third in point of duration in the history of the dynasty. K'ang Hsi and Ch'ien Lung having reigned and ruled 60 years each.

The question of the succession has agitated the imperial family since the autumn of 1907, when it was perceived that the health of the Emperor was seriously undermined. In January of 1908 the Dowager Empress adopted Pu Chun, son of Prince Tuan, the Boxer chieftain, heir-apparent, but she disinherited him in November, 1901, at the behest of the allied powers. Since then the matter of heir-apparent has been in abeyance, and the Dowager Empress, in whose hands the power selection was, gave no clue to her purposes or determinations.

The Dowager Empress and the Emperor were Manchus; in other words, foreigners in China, and under the ban of Chinese patriots and an increasing anti-Manchu party, which has sought the suppression of the dynasty and the restoration of a Chinese Emperor to the throne. It has been freely predicted that the demise of the Emperor would be followed by an attempt at a coup d'etat, but the imperial edicts mentioned in the dispatch from Peking appear to have forestalled any immediate action of this kind. Kuang-Hsu was a son of a brother of the husband of the Dowager Empress.

Kuang-Hsu succeeded to the throne 1875. In 1887 the Dowager

Empress intimated that she considered him fit to rule, and two years later she married him to her niece. Nine years then passed without China or the world hearing anything of importance concerning him or his policy as a ruler. Then, in 1898, after the seizure of Kiao Chau by Germany, he threatened to abdicate if not given full power. The Dowager Empress made a pretence of turning over control of the government to him and four months he was as near as he ever has been to being the actual ruler of his empire.

During this period a number of reform edicts were issued from the palace and it was evident that plans were under way for the Westernizing of both the government and the court. The Emperor was then fully under the influence of the reformer Kang Yu-Wei, who was the inspiration of those remarkable reform edicts. They included a decree for national loan, a house and opium tax, army reform and foreign education, the abolition of the "literary essay" as a test of fellowship and office, a bureau of agriculture, copyright and patent laws and schools and colleges of Western learning Kuang-Hsu, however, went too far in these matters and the Dowager Empress, in September of 1898, decided to put an end to his activity. She suddenly confronted the Emperor, denounced him, took from him the seal of state and put him under guard.

The Emperor's reformer friends were pursued with fury by the Dowager Empress, who executed six of them in Peking on September 28. On January 24, 1899, the Emperor was forced to sign the decree annulling his own abdication and he was kept a prisoner by the Dowager Empress for two years. It was believed that he had been killed. The foreign powers made representations on the subject of his health which resulted in being examined by a French physician attached to the French legation. It was a remarkable proceeding, reluctantly permitted by the Dowager Empress.

Nothing was then heard of the Emperor until the Boxer uprising and the siege of the foreign legations at Peking. He is credited with having interfered with the Dowager Empress in trying to prevent the carrying out of the decision "to fight all foreign nations on the ground that the making of war against all countries would make peace an impossibility in the future." On the day after the relief of the legations, April 15, the Emperor fled with the rest of the court, to Sian-Fu. He returned to Peking in 1902.

Kuang-Hsu has been described as being irascible and childish. Since the age of 18 he has been frail and has suffered from general debility. Mentally he has appeared to foreigners as unresponsive, and his pale face had never conveyed an expression of strength or power. He mingled with the native and foreign guests of the throne under constraint and only appeared at all in the presence of company in obedience to orders of the Dowager Empress. His court duties were distinctly perfunctory and routine. They consisted in appearing at all formal audiences to natives and foreigners, at the sittings of the grand council and at certain specified religious functions. In throne room he sat on a stool or chair beside the throne chair of the Dowager Empress and papers were passed to him after having been inspected by the Dowager Empress.

It is related that on one occasion

in the presence of the Emperor bored the Dowager Empress and she, in a temper, called to an attendant: "Take that away," referring to the Emperor. His Majesty overheard this characterization and when he reached his rooms he began smashing the bric-a-brac in his rage. Another description of the personality of the Emperor is as follows:

"The Emperor appeared to be a sickly person with a melancholy but not unattractive countenance given to violent fits of passion, which gratified in the relatively harmless way of smashing furniture. In the self-imposed seclusion of his palace, within whose precincts only women and eunuchs were allowed to dwell, he held no communication with the outside world except through the high state officials, who approached him on bended knees to present reports upon public affairs, in which the necessities of truth were largely subordinated to the considerations of court expediency. When he went forth to sacrifice in one of the imperial temples the streets through which he passed were carefully cleared and guarded, the houses on either side were shut off with heavy hangings, the ground strewn with yellow sand and everything removed that might offend the sensitiveness of imperial eyes or nostrils. Through the deserted thoroughfares the son of Heaven flitted, usually in the stillness of the night, like a ghost, borne in a lofty palanquin."

Burglar Gives Narcotic.

Spencer, Nov. 12.—Breaking through a glass door, an unknown burglar entered the home of Postmaster C. E. Fesperman in East Spencer at a late hour last night and after administering chloroform to the members of the family robbed Mr. Fesperman of a valuable watch, stole his keys to the store in which the substation of the United States postoffice is kept, went into the building and after ransacking the place left with a small amount of cash belonging to the government.

Before reaching the room occupied by Mr. Fesperman the intruder passed through a room occupied by Miss Emily Hudson and a young lady friend, both of whom were chloroformed and who were afterwards quite sick from the effects of the drug. Proceeding to Mr. Fesperman's room the narcotic was administered more freely. His clothes were pilfered and a watch taken from the pockets. His keys also carried off, with which the robber unlocked the store door. The money drawer was relieved of its contents, amounting to about \$9, after which the intruder left without detection.

There was also evidence showing that he attempted to open the safe in the store but in this he failed.

Early this morning neighbors discovered part of Mr. Fesperman's clothing in front of the store which aroused suspicion, and upon investigation it was found that the family had slept unusually late on account of the chloroform administered by the burglar. The store door was left unlocked with the keys hanging in the door.

The officers gained a clue today which it is believed will result in the arrest of a party having knowledge of the premises, the location of the keys and the cash that was taken, as well as the watch stolen from Mr. Fesperman's pocket in his room.

It is said this was the third attempt to enter the same home within the past month.

Judge Ward Terror to Asheville Blind Tigers.

Asheville, Nov. 19.—Judge G. W. Ward, presiding over the present term of Superior Court for the trial of criminal cases, which convened Monday, has struck terror into persons charged with retailing and other illegal sale of whiskey. In opening court Judge Ward announced that he would give the right of way for "liquor cases" and gave instructions that several defendants charged with violation of the law and out on bond be taken into custody. Then the trials commenced and when the smoke cleared five alleged "blind tigers" has been convicted and sentenced to the roads. They were given from twelve months to two years each. The quintette had been tried previously in city police court, convicted and fined. They didn't accept the judgment of the police court and appealed. It is declared today that Asheville is "drier" than at any time in its history. There is little evidence of whiskey being sold here now. In fact it is declared that persons having whiskey after learning how Judge Ward was dealing with "blind tigers" actually poured the "wet" goods on the ground. It is said that a "reform crusade" has been undertaken and that the city authorities have determined to stamp out "blind tigers" and other lawlessness which it is alleged has existed for months.

Sayings of Mrs. Solomon.

Hearken, my daughter, and hear my counsel. If thou hast a secret, tell it unto thy man friend

for he is as a patent ink bottle, wherein much goeth, but nothing spileth out. But a woman friend is as a paper bag with a hole in the side.

Yea, a man friend is as discreet as a hammock on the side porch or a cosy corner in a dark parlor; but a man that boasteth of his conquests and sneereth at other women, beware of him, for he is as a packet without hooks ready to betray thee and hold thee up to ridicule.

Lo! how wise is the man that hath been long married! He commandeth the barber that he perfume not his hair; he eateth cloves and cheweth sen-sen; he putteth on a soiled neck-tie when he contemplateth taking his stengrapher to Coney Island and changeth it at the barberdeshery. Verily, he avoideth the appearance of evil.

Yet, I say unto thee, it is as difficult to persuade him to stay with thee after thou has married him as it was to persuade him to leave thee before thou didst marry him.

For he desireth variety, and thou art of a sameness like unto the daily hash of the boarding-house luncheon.

When he taketh thee forth to a theatre he refused to don his dress suit; he smootheth his top hair and picketh up his cane, saying, "Behold, I am arrayed! Why tarriest thou?"

He walketh two feet ahead of thee and bundlith thee into a street car. He rideth four blocks out of the way that he may procure transfers and yawneeth beside thee in a seat in the first balcony. He hurries thee home that thou mayest not note the glitter of the restaurant signs.

And the deeper a man goeth in wine or love, the more surely will he awaken with "that tired feeling."

Pleasant, sure, easy, safe little liver Pills, are DeWitt's Little Early Risers. Sold by J. H. Gwyn.

Bad Negro Kills Eight.

Okmulgee, Okla., Nov. 15.—Eight persons were killed and ten others were wounded to-day in a fight between James Deckard, a negro desperado, and officers.

The disturbance began at the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad station where Deckard engaged in a fight with an Indian boy, Steve Grayson, and beat him into insensibility with a rock. Friends of Grayson called the police. When Policeman Klaber went to the station, Deckard fled to his house nearby and barricaded himself. When Klaber approached the house Deckard shot and instantly killed him.

Sheriff Robinson gathered deputies in a few minutes and hurried to the scene. This party contained several negroes whom the sheriff commissioned as deputies. As the attacking party approached the Deckard house Deckard opened fire with a rifle, firing as rapidly as he could load his weapon. The sheriff fell first, instantly killed. Then five of the negro deputies were slain.

Deckard's house was soon surrounded by a frenzied mob of armed men. Fire was set to a house just north of Deckard's. Volleys of bullets were poured into Deckard's house and he was shot down. He was seen to roll over, strike a match and set fire to his own house which was soon a roaring furnace in which his body was baked. Deckard evidently had a large quantity of ammunition stored in his house for many cartridges exploded.

Governor Haskell, at Guthrie, was advised of the fight and for the bad feeling between whites and negroes that had grown out of the shooting, he ordered the militia company at Muskogee to prepare to go to Okmulgee and a special train was made ready to carry the troops. The Governor remained at his office to keep in touch with the situation.

News of the preparation to send militia had a good effect on the disorderly element of both races and tonight the crowd dispersed. Further trouble is not expected. When it became known that no other negro had assisted Deckard against the officers the talk of reprisals subsided.

Preparing To Pay Bet.

The Charlotte Observer.

Mr. Charles O. McMichael, of Madison, Rockingham county, who has always been a crank about Bryan, bet a Republican of his county that the Nebraskan would defeat Taft this year. The conditions of the wager were that the man who lost should walk barefooted from Madison to Reidsville, a distance of twenty one miles, and roll a wheelbarrow. The Republican is going to hold the Democrat to his contract. Mr. McMichael came here yesterday to walk over the Macadam roads in Charlotte township and harden the epidermis on his feet.

Foley's Honey and Tar clears the air passages, stops the irritation in the throat, soothes the inflamed membranes, and the most obstinate cough disappears. Sore and inflamed lungs are healed and strengthened, and the cold is expelled from the system. Sold by J. H. Gwyn.

A Change Needed.

Statesville Landmark.

The fifth congressional district, with a normal Democratic majority of 5,000, was lost to the Democrats at the recent election by about 400 votes. The loss, in The Landmark's judgment, was due principally to the fierce and bitter fight for the nomination in the Democratic primaries. Notwithstanding this warning, various gentlemen throughout the district are already being mentioned for the Democratic nomination in 1910 and at least one, Col. B. S. Royster, of Granville, has announced his candidacy. Mr. J. C. Buxton, of Winston, was asked whether he would be a candidate and his answer is so sensible that The Landmark invites special attention to it.

"We have not yet recovered," says Mr. Buxton, "from our recent bereavement in the fifth district and it is not very becoming, in my opinion, for Democratic aspirants to open a campaign of pledging votes six months in advance of the time when Mr. Morehead, the successful candidate, will take his seat. I do not know what is going to happen to me in the next two years, and I do not want to pledge friends to me to be redeemed two years hence, regardless of whether I am the proper man to undertake the redemption of this district or not. The truth is we need a change in methods in this district in the manner of securing nominations. I shall never do anything, should I ever become a candidate for the nomination in this district, but announce my candidacy and leave it to the voters of the several counties to decide whose nomination will best

serve the interests of the people of the district. I shall never undertake to round up the township voters in my interest, regardless of my fitness for the position."

If the Democratic party is to continue in control of affairs in North Carolina Democratic managers and aspirants for place would do well to consider and put into practice what Mr. Buxton says. A change of method is badly needed, not in the fifth district only but in the whole State. The canvass for the Democratic nomination for Governor began last year about a year in advance of the meeting of the convention, and the whole State was set by the ears months before the convention. It has grown into a custom to undertake to fix things too far in advance of the meeting of conventions. Conditions may change and often do change and the people should be given reasonable time to consider calmly who they want and what is best for them.

In the fifth district, for instance, it was as certain as anything in the future could be that whoever obtained the Democrats nomination would be elected. With this view there was apparently small scruple as to methods Democrats fought each other more violently than they were accustomed to fight Republicans. The result is an object lesson. It means that no matter how large the Democrats majority the people can no longer be depended on to ratify whatever may be done in convention.

100 PIGS.

One hundred fine pigs on hand. Order before they are picked over.

JOHN A. YOUNG,
Greensboro, N. C.