

# The Roanoke Beacon.

1.00 a Year, in Advance.

"FOR COUNTRY, FOR GOD, AND FOR TRUTH."

Single Copy, 5 Cents

VOL. XI.

PLYMOUTH, N. C., FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1900.

NO 30.

## OLD TIMES AND NOW.

### Bill Arr Talks About Days When He Was Young.

How fast the earth is shrinking How far away was Chira when we old men were boys. It took a three-years cruise around the world to find it, and even then our merchantmen only touched at the ports and learned but little of the vast interior. Her immense domain was set down as one-half millions of square miles, being one-tenth of the habitable globe and nearly twice the area of the whole United States. Her population was in 1860 500,000,000 and is now probably 600,000,000. Her government for at least 3,000 years has been one of revolutions, internal broils and changes of dynasty, but it has stood and still stands and no doubt will continue to stand. Travelers tell us that the stagnation and ignorance that has long been charged upon China does not exist; that they are an industrious peace-loving people, and all their troubles come from outsiders. I was ruminating about this China business and the war over there and the cable dispatches that come in a day, for we had an old-time district school in our town last night and old Mother Felton and myself were the two youngest scholars. She had on a draw-string frock and a pair of pantalettes and was sucking a stick of molasses candy, and I had on a shirt and one gaiter and a pair of hobbles that come down nearly to the top of my blue home-made socks. She was Becky and I was Bill. We belonged to the infant class and had to stand up and spell "ba" and "bee" and "bo." Becky cried because she couldn't spell "ax" and had to go foot. I consoled her all I could. Kirby Anderson was the smallest boy in school and the largest dunce. He was in geography and said China was as big as Bartow county, and that's how I come to ruminate about China. All that I ever learned about China in my geography was that Peking was its capital and the people were all heathen and eat rats, and there was a great wall around the entire country. Our book makers ought to have known better, for Marco Polo had traveled all over that country and lived there for twenty-four years and was made governor of a large province, and he says he never mingled with a better people. Confucius gave them laws 2,500 years ago that they still reverence and obey. Families are faithful to each other and children are taught to obey their parents as long as they live. Confucius had such a reverence for his mother that he mourned for her for three years when she died. How many sons do that in this Christian country. Of course they have some race traits and customs that seem very bad to us, but they are not malicious nor selfish nor are they revengeful unless wrought up to it by bad treatment. Our Christian people massacred 200 of them out west a few years ago for no crime but because they were in the way and wanted work and accepted it at less wages. Who ever saw a more harmless and industrious people than those scattered Chinamen who are found in almost every town and village in this country. For thirty years I have observed them in my travels from Virginia to Texas and never heard a complaint. Betting and gambling is a national amusement, but it is on a limited scale and makes nobody rich or poor. It doesn't compare with our stock gambling, or high rolling on steamboats or Kentucky poker among the blacks. I never saw General John C. Breckinridge but once, and that was at a faro bank in Richmond during the war. Colonel Towers took me in there to show me how the thing was done and to our surprise Breckinridge was doing it.

But the great crime against China was the introduction of opium from India by the English. This began in 1810, and in 1828 had gotten up to 7,000 chests. In vain and in vain did the emperor and his counsellors protest and plead. They saw that the opium habit was spreading and ruining their people. In 1838 it had increased to 21,000 chests, and its importation was stopped by force of arms—and 21,000 chests were seized and destroyed. This brought on a war and the Chinese government had to pay \$21,000,000 for the opium destroyed, for its value was \$1,000 a chest. Then a treaty was patched up and the opium business increased to 74,000 chests in 1860. I wonder what it is now. But the English merchants now pay a duty, but that amounts to several millions of dollars annually. What will not Johnny Bull do for money? No wonder Chinamen have a suspicion of all foreigners and a contempt for our missionaries. The Chinese authorities passed a law against eating opium and gave it a death penalty, but it was smuggled in all the same and they declared that not even Buddha could stop it.

Now as to that great Buddha, my reading tells me that the common people do not express any great adoration for him nor faith in him. As Dr. Johnson remarked to Boswell, "it is necessary for every nation to have some religion, whether they understand it or not," and hence the superstition of the Chinese has taken hold of Buddha as the best they can do. But this unknown God has failed them so often in great emergencies they have no unwavering faith in him. And yet there are over 1,000,000 priests in the empire who make a beggarly living out of

Buddhism. Buddha has given them a little god for everything that concerns their temporal welfare; nothing for the heart or the immortal soul. They do not believe in either. They say that there is no future life, but if there is then good conduct in this life will ensure safety in that. If the rice wants rain, they appeal to the god of rain. If the drought continues long, they drag the little rain god out on his wheels and let him stand in the burning sun until it does rain. They want him to see and feel how hot it is. If the rain comes too much and lasts too long and the rice is sprouting in the fields they get their squirt guns and drench the rain god every day until he stops the pour down. We ought to have had him over here this June and put our Chinamen to work on him.

But the government—the government of 600,000,000 of people does not cost half as much as ours, with about 80,000,000. The per capita tax is about 75 cents, and all taxes are paid in rice. China has no bonded debt. No revenue from whisky or wine, for none is distilled or drunk. Nothing is in her way of peace and contentment save foreigners and opium. I do not know what is the salary of the emperor or empress, but all salaries are small. The prince who is to succeed the emperor gets only \$16,000 per annum. Then there are thousands and thousands of officials in every province, from the governor down, but their pay is small. A soldier in the standing army gets but \$4 per month. That army is composed of about 1,000,000 of men. The emperor has no arbitrary power. He must conform to the laws and must advise with his cabinet, and behind all is the great board of control that represents the people and is made up of two or more learned and good men from every province. This board does not act often or on trifles, but when any great emergency arises they meet at Peking and their word controls the emperor and everybody else. That is not a bad government, is it? The emperor is entitled to an empress and two other wives, who are called queens. If the empress leaves no son, then a son of a queena is taken, but nobody knows which son until the emperor dies, for Confucius said that if the young man knew that he was chosen it might make him arrogant.

Another peculiar and Democratic provision of the constitution is that the nobility shall not always be nobility. Every generation is reduced in rank and power down to the seventh, and then they become as the common people. This keeps the nobility on the down grade and keeps the government from being overrun by a pampered aristocracy. That's good. Yes, it is better than the English law of primogeniture, which gives all rank and the home estate to the eldest son and tells the others to go to grass. I saw a number of the grass fellows in Florida.

On the whole, I like the Chinese government and I have respect for the people. Bret Harte wrote:

"That for ways that are dark  
And tricks that are vain,  
The heathen China is peculiar."

Yes, I expect Bret was trying to win their money and they won his. This is enough of geography. I have written it for Kirby Anderson and Bert Morgan and their sort. Paul Akin called our little grandchild to come out on the verandah and kiss him good-night. She had put on her night gown and said to her mother: "Manma, Paul doesn't know any better, does he?" There are a good many big school boys who know no more about China than Kirby.

## DOWAGER EMPRESS OF CHINA AND FAMOUS LI HUNG CHANG.

### Story of Their Meeting When the Empress Was a Slave Girl and Li Was a Sailor Lad.

New York Herald.

Kuan Foy, a scholarly Chinese merchant, and one of the most prominent members of his race in New York, yesterday told the history of the romantic rise of the empress dowager from the lot of a slave girl, and of her meeting with Li Hung Chang while he was a poor sailor lad on a river boat and she was on her way in bondage to the imperial city in which she rose to supreme power.

Now, the resident manager of Yu Lung & Co., a large importing firm, Kuan Foy, in his native land of mystery and millions, was a military official. So far as may be in his own words his story of the empress and the statesman is here repeated:

"Tuen, the empress dowager of China, was once a slave. Her story is strange, and one of the most remarkable features of it is that Li Hung Chang, China's greatest man, was at the same time a rough, ignorant sailor lad, earning a living on one of the boats of the Hun-Ho, and that to the slave girl fell the chance of rewarding him for a very brave deed. Strange, indeed, that these two met by chance while both were in obscurity should rise to play two such different and important parts in what promises to be the last scene of the drama of the Chinese empire, or at least of the Manchu dynasty. The events of the past year point with certain finger to the end.

"Tuen, being a girl child of a Manchuian low grade official, suffered the contumely of Chinese females. However, her feet were not bound, and to this fact, a seemingly minor circumstance, the great things in Chinese history for the last 50 years are due. If her feet had been bound she would never have risen from slavery to the rule of the empire.

"A rebellion in her father's Yamen district rendered her family destitute, and though but 11 years of age she petitioned her father to sell her as a slave so that her brother might be educated and her mother fed. Her father consented and sold her to the then viceroy of his district, and little Tuen passed away from her family, never to know them again until years later her agents sought out her brother and she took him to live inside the imperial city, though she could not take him within the Purple Forbidden City. He was made a Manchuian prince and received great estates.

"Soon after she was taken into the viceroy's household she heard her master mention an elaborate tunic he had seen at court. She listened to his description of its elaborate embroidery, and 12 months later her child's hands finished one which was a duplicate by description. The viceroy was astounded and asked her to name any wish she had and it should be granted.

"She hesitated, and then, kneeling at his feet, begged to be taught to read. He told her that it was impossible for a girl to learn to read. She said it was not her fault that she had been born a girl, and that the gods had been so cruel to her. The viceroy was so impressed with her request, however, that he sent for masters to begin instructing her, and to his astonishment they found she already knew much and was well along, self-taught. She mastered Manchu, Mongol and Chinese, and there are some who say that in the last 10 years she has added English secretly.

"The viceroy was very proud of his clever little slave, and as she was developing into a comedy dame he sent her as a complimentary gift to the emperor. She became the favorite slave of the father of the present emperor, and when his mother, the imperial consort, died she became empress and saw to his bringing up, and was regent of the empire following her husband's death until she took the reins of government from Kwang Su's hands, less than two years ago.

"While she was on her way to Peking occurred the incident in which Li Hung Chang figured. The party conveying the pretty little slave girl in a sedan chair had occasion to cross the Hun-Ho river, and one of the young men fell off the boat. He was drowning, and Tuen employed the boatmen to save him, offering a ring she wore as a reward. Li plunged into the muddy current, and with a fine muscular effort saved the drowning man. She gave him the ring, and many years afterward recognized it on the hand of an official who came to court. He had won his way up through 14 degrees of officialdom, and since she was then empress regent and she had found him he was very quickly advanced to the first place of the land.

"Degraded time and again, it has never lessened his influence, for his name and might are the greatest in the empire.

"From the time the slave girl Tuen entered the walls of the imperial city, a tract within Peking about six miles square, she has never left it up to the present time, and there are no Chinamen but the very highest officials who have ever seen her in the last 20 years, for to her section of the vast enclosure she has lived alone, except for eunuchs and ladies in waiting, the latter some 20 in number."

## THREATENED WITH ARSON AND MURDER.

### Horrible Menace Against the Whites at Whitesett.

GREENSBORO, N. C., July 7.—A negro named Eli Wharton, made a boast in the presence of reputable white men at Whitesett, N. C., that if the amendment was carried, every house in Whitesett would be burned and that white men and women and children would be put to death. This conversation was overheard by Messrs. J. D. Oldham, George Davenport, T. G. Boone and O. M. Ingold, all responsible and trustworthy gentlemen.

GREENVILLE, N. C., July 7.—This morning Chairman Blow was assaulted by two negroes and his face badly beaten with metal knucks. The assault occurred in the public square fronting the court house. The police captured one negro. The deputy sheriff chased the other home and shot at him while running.

Reaching his house, the negro's brother drew a gun and forbade the officer entering. Citizens with rifles and guns followed and surrounded the house, which was searched, but the negro had gone through a back door and escaped. The negro who stopped the officer, and the one arrested by the police, were tried before the mayor and sent to jail in default of bond. There is much indignation among the citizens and threats among the negroes. Other trouble may follow.

### Butler's Mendacity at Statesville.

Statesville Landmark.

Senator Butler, who spoke here Wednesday, made his usual bitter speech of denunciation, equivocation and straightforward misstatement of facts. He put in a good part of his four hours' time talking about Democrats not meeting him in joint discussion and incidentally boasting of his own prowess as a debater. Referring to Congressman Bellamy, of the Wilmington district, he said that Bellamy got into Congress by shooting people in the back. He also referred to Col. Waddell as a coward, who had "deserted" his regiment during the civil war when the time came to go to the front, and had gone into a bomb-proof and studied for the ministry rather than go into the war. He also said that Waddell had incited other people to shoot negroes in the back but was too big a coward to get into danger himself; and in this connection he also referred to Mr. Aycock, the Democratic candidate for Governor, as one of those who shouldered his gun "to shoot negroes in the back." This, we are informed by an honorable and truthful man who heard him, is a sample of the chat Butler had in Statesville Wednesday. The idea of the Gate-faceted thing talking about cowards when he is too big a coward to go to Wilmington, or anywhere else there is danger, and have the talk be had here. But Butler's Statesville speech will do the Democrats more good than harm. It made the Democrats who heard it so mad that they will exert themselves as they never have before.

### Sewall Ordered to Move on.

LAURENSBURG, N. C., July 7.—H. F. Sewall who was to speak here today, was met at the train by a crowd of our citizens and advised not to do so. He took their advice and boarded the train.

The cause of this action by our citizens was not political, but personal. Sewall made a speech in Pittsboro in which he referred to a negro who was killed here in 1898. He referred to his slayers as cowardly murderers who killed an inoffensive negro in the very attitude of prayer.

The facts are that the negro was very impudent, had gone about armed with a shot gun, had threatened to burn and had also threatened the life of one of our good citizens. Instead of assuming the attitude of prayer he was found heavily armed and succeeded in firing several volleys into the crowd before he was silenced with a Winchester bullet. These are the facts. Sewall's speech was a gross reflection on our people, hence he was ordered to journey on.

We are greatly surprised that any body places reliance upon any statement or charge that Dr. Sigh Thompson makes. Have the people of Cabarrus county forgotten that only two short years ago this same Dr. Sigh boldly made the charge when he and Aycock spoke here that the former Secretary of State had not accounted for a sum of money he had collected, and that then Mr. Aycock in his reply produced Dr. Thompson's receipt check for the identical sum? Thompson did not know the receipt could be produced and was dumfounded when he was confronted with it. Aycock said that Thompson had either a bad memory or a bad motive.

How long will the country be willing to be ruled by 50,000 men in the indirect administration of an indefinite period.

## STATE NEWS.

Attention is called to the fact that Judge Starbuck, Republican, of Winston, is for the amendment. It has been known for some time that he would vote for it.

MOORESVILLE, July 8.—Prof. Chas. L. Grey, who has been in charge of Mooresville Academy for several years, has resigned that position and accepted the position of secretary and treasurer of the oil mills at Davidson.

Dr. W. P. Exum, who was the Populist candidate for governor in 1892—a prominent Populist and citizen of Wayne county—declares for the amendment, and will make two or more speeches for it during this campaign.

It is a well known fact that Anson has never elected anything but Democrats since 1870. Chairman J. G. Boylin reports the county in a fine shape and well organized. The white people will be nearly a unit for the amendment.

A republican of State prominence says he has it on the best of authority that at the National convention Spencer Adams, the Republican candidate for Governor, had Cheatham and several other negroes in his room, and he was drinking and fraternizing with them.

### Let Every White Man Register at Once.

The registration books under the new election law were opened to-day. An entirely new registration is required—no certificate on account of removal or change of residence, but a straight out-and-out new registration.

The books will be opened this morning at 9 o'clock and will remain open twenty days (Sundays excepted), which means that they will close for registration on July 21st, at sunset. The books will be open at the voting places of the respective precincts on each Saturday from 9 o'clock a. m. until sunset. Other days they will be at the residences of the registrars, who can legally register a voter any day except Sunday.

It is of the utmost importance that every really white man in the State register at the earliest opportunity, and vote for the Democratic party and the constitutional amendment. You may depend on it—the negro crowd (and by that we mean all who oppose white supremacy) will all be registered. The white men should register AT ONCE and not put it off a day.

Butler is sending out secret circulars to his henchmen, trying to scare the registrars, and on this Mr. Simmons, chairman of the Democratic committee, has the following to say:

"If any registrar in discharging the duties of his office is subjected to any threat or any prosecution by these Federal marshals, let him continue to do his sworn duty faithfully and fearlessly; they will not dare arrest him; they know they have no authority for such a course; they are simply trying to intimidate him. But, if in their desperation, they should arrest any registrar, bond will be furnished him; counsel will be provided for him, and he can rest assured no harm can come to him. Those who thus interfere with him in the discharge of his lawful duty under the laws of the State will be both criminally and civilly prosecuted, for the man who swears out such a warrant, and the man who executes it will be both criminally and civilly liable."

## Southern Railway.

STANDARD RAILWAY OF THE SOUTH . . .

The Direct Line to All Points. TEXAS, CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, CUBA AND PORTO RICO.

Strictly FIRST-CLASS Equipment on all Through and Local Trains; Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars, and Dining Trains.

## THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Baltimore Sun, 7th.

According to a dispatch from Washington the United States Government has decided to increase American military forces in China to about 6,000 men. Regulars ordered to the Philippines, it is understood, will be diverted on the way and sent to China, unless the situation materially improves.

Much criticism is developing in Washington official circles over the alleged inactivity of the Government. It is urged that much valuable time has been lost in getting troops to the disturbed districts in China. This sentiment is voiced strongly in an editorial in the Army and Navy Register.

Japan has officially notified the United States Government that Japanese troops in China will be increased to 22,000 men. It is said that 19,000 Japanese troops have been dispatched to Taku. Russia is said to have acquiesced in this action of Japan. England has given official permission.

Through London, Canton and Shanghai sensational stories still come of the extermination of foreigners in Peking. A Shanghai dispatch says: "Prepare to bear the worst." Dispatches received in Bremen from commercial agents in Shanghai are of like tenor. Other rumors say that the international troops are being closely pressed in Tientsin. It is indicated that the allied forces in Tientsin may themselves need relief. Each day it becomes clearer that the abandoning of the relief of Peking was a necessity, as the Tientsin forces are scarcely capable of holding their own in their present position.

Baltimore Sun, 9th.

The fate of foreigners in Peking is still uncertain.

Dispatches from the United States Consul General Goodnow, at Shanghai, say that the legations were holding out July 3. Attacks by Boxers had been repulsed with losses of 2,000 Chinamen killed, it was said. Since the repulse the hostile Chinamen had adopted the tactics of starving out the foreigners. A London dispatch says that the Consuls at Shanghai reported the legations safe July 4.

On the other hand unofficial Shanghai dispatches reiterate the statement that all foreigners in Peking have been huddled. It is founded on indefinite reports.

From Chefoo comes the information that 10,000 Chinese soldiers have occupied one of the arsenals at Tientsin and are fortifying the native city. About 80,000 or 100,000 Chinese surround Tientsin. Foreign nations have decided to send to China for the relief of Peking about 100,000 troops. Orders for the mobilization of this great army have already been issued, and many of the troops are already on the way.

Baltimore Sun, 10th.

Information has come from several sources that prince Ching, head of the Chinese Foreign Office, has taken issue with Prince Tuan, the Boxer leader, in Peking and is protecting the legations there with imperial Chinese troops. Prince Ching is practically, it is said, at the head of a counter-revolution. This fact has led to renewed hopes that the legations may yet be rescued.

The powers have consented to permit Japan to send as many troops as it desires to restore order in China.

Emperor William of Germany sent the first Chinese squadron from Kiel yesterday. He told the forces they must avenge the outrages of the Chinese, but must spare women and children.

There has been renewed fighting at Tientsin, according to Chefoo dispatches. The Chinese forces have again bombarded the town. Non-combatants have been ordered to leave. Foreigners are taking refuge on warships at Taku.

### Populists for the Amendment.

Here are the names of a few prominent Populists who say the Amendment is constitutional, and that they will support it:

- Maj. Wm. A. Gutwile, Populist candidate for Governor in 1896.
- Geo. E. Boggs, Populist candidate for Congress in the Ninth district.
- M. H. Caldwell, Populist candidate for Congress against Kluttz two years ago.
- A. D. K. Wallace, Populist candidate for State Senate in this district.
- Dr. H. F. Freeman, State Senator and leading Populist in Wilson county.
- L. C. Caldwell, ex-Railroad Commissioner, and Chairman of Populist State convention.
- J. Z. Green, Editor of Our Home, Populist organ in the Sixth district.
- Dr. W. P. Craven and Dr. J. B. Alexander, Populist legislator and senator from Mecklenburg county.
- W. B. Upchurch, member of Legislature from Wake county and for several years president of the Farmers Alliance.
- J. N. Price, Populist candidate for the Legislature in the Ninth district.