

the Church by the State. The people are disturbed from one end of France to the other—in the north and south and from Brittany to Bescancon. Capital is being taken out of the country to England, Belgium, and Germany, or wherever the outlook appears more settled than it does in France, and the French rentes—an excellent political barometer—are most unstable. Admirable as the French foreign policy is, the domestic policy is altogether wrong, and must sooner or later result in very serious internal trouble. Who can tell that the harsh treatment meted out to the churches may not be the spark that will set the whole of France in a blaze? The situation is really very serious indeed, and no person by a mere perusal of the newspapers, either French or English, can accurately appreciate the true state of affairs. One must be in the country to do this.

The San Francisco Disaster

His Grace the Archbishop of Wellington has just received a letter from the Most Rev. Dr. Riordan, in which the Archbishop of San Francisco thanks Archbishop Redwood for his sympathy, and also for his words of consolation and encouragement. 'We are not at all dismayed by the great disaster that fell upon us,' continues his Grace, 'but we have not the strength and vigor of early days to meet such gigantic difficulties as confront us. However, we are full of hope and courage, and little by little I think we shall be able to replace the institutions ruined by the earthquake.' The Most Rev. Dr. Montgomery, Co-adjutor Archbishop, after thanking Archbishop Redwood for a kind letter of sympathy, says: 'I am glad, however, to be able to tell you that it is astonishing how the Archbishop bears up under the calamity. He has given his residence in the city to two convents of the Presentation Nuns, who were burned out in the fire, and he himself has taken a little cottage in San Mateo, a few miles from the city.'

The following list of the losses in the archdiocese of San Francisco by earthquake and fire has been supplied by Archbishop Montgomery:—In the city twelve churches were burnt, and the parishes absolutely wiped out of existence. In the burnt district we lost along with the churches every institution within it—the parish schools, colleges, academies, hospitals, Homes for aged, and abandoned children, including the large Church and College of St. Ignatius, and the Sacred Heart College of the Christian Brothers. Four churches in the city were destroyed by earthquake and several others seriously shaken, and several schools likewise in the same district more or less seriously injured. The Cathedral was seriously damaged. The altar was ruined by earthquake. The Archbishop's residence and the residence of the Cathedral clergy are within the district saved. Outside the city two or three churches were destroyed by earthquake, and several others, and schools as well, seriously shaken. The St. Patrick's Seminary at Menlo Park was badly damaged. There is no loss of life among priests, nuns, or children under their care.

The Newspapers of China

Mr. Archibald R. Colquhoun contributes to the 'North American Review' an interesting article on 'The Chinese Press of To-day.' Peking is the home of the oldest newspaper in the world, the 'Pekin Gazette'; and, long before the modern newspapers made its appearance in China, there was an extensive use of placards and broad-sheets, which, though they often contained criticisms of the government, were not censored, and indeed there are no press laws in existence in the middle kingdom to-day.

The first modern newspaper was published in China in 1870, but the growth of the Chinese press was slow until after the Boxer rising. Now Peking has three daily papers and two fortnightly ones; Tientsin three dailies; Shanghai 16 daily papers; Foochow, Soochow and Canton between them have some six or seven dailies, while there are five in Hong Kong and one in Kiaochow. Besides, several papers are now published in the interior.

In all these, there are, as in American and English papers, leaders and leaderets, news items, telegrams, scraps of general information and advertisements.

In describing the Chinese paper, Mr. Colquhoun says: Along the top, where we are accustomed to see

the title, runs the pious exhortation to 'respect the written word,' and the custom of reverently collecting and burning all printed matter still survives, although it is neglected in some of the treaty ports.

Special correspondence is 'conveyed' from the foreign press, and not always well translated, which leads to many ludicrous mistakes. The acknowledgment is made to a 'Western Friend,' and the leading papers have a foreigner to advise on foreign news, but some of the more advanced statesmen have men to translate direct to them, as had Li Hung Chang.

Advertisements in the more popular papers are much in evidence, as in our own papers, and war news is given prominence. This is a modern development, for at the time of the China-Japanese war the defeats of China were never chronicled, but imaginary victories were dithyrambically described, and the same happened in some parts of China at the time of the Boxer movement.

As a rule, the articles in Chinese papers and magazines are not signed, but the niceties of style are such that the authors are soon recognised locally; whereas, in Japan, the leading writers enjoy quite a national reputation.

Spiders and their Webs

All spiders spin, but not all of them spin snares, those orbed and radiated webs that we see pictured so many times and every time pictured wrong (says a writer in 'Ainslee's'), but that only goes to show that the lower animals are not the only ones that possess instinct. I think it will be generally agreed that artists may be classed among the higher animals. Here of late, though, I think I have noticed a little improvement in artists. They have begun to notice that the spider always stands head downward in her web, if it be a perpendicular one, and if it is horizontal hangs back downward. Some flat web spiders can hardly walk right side up. But the spider of art never has more than six legs, while the real spider has eight, and the spider of art often has three sections of the body, while the real spider never has more than two. The head and chest are in one department, so to speak. There are their eyes, from four to eight in number, and disposed in different patterns according to their political affiliations; their jaws, which work sidewise instead of up and down; their poison-bag and a few other arrangements, and in the abdomen, or silk department, are the heart (a banana-shaped affair), the liver, the slit and tubes that do duty for lungs and the spinnerets. These last are warty looking affairs that may be spread apart and brought together exactly like the thumb and fingers of the hand. Each wart is covered with hundreds of little hollow hairs through which is expressed a gummy liquid that turns to silk when it dries. Mrs. Spider slaps her spinnerets broad against the wall and sticks fast (I don't know how) many hundreds of fine filaments. Then she pulls away the spinnerets and shuts them up, and all of those fine filaments melt into one rope, in thickness about one five-thousandth of an inch. Insects' silk is a simple thread; spiders' is compound.

The burglars who broke into the office of 'Coatomudra Herald' the other night, and found only a few shillings in the safe, must have been amateurs. It is not likely that they will ever again waste time trying to rob newspaper men.

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