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THE PALE POET AND THE PRESIDENT.

A pale poet who wrote pale poetry was taken to the White House one day and presented to President Roosevelt by a friend. The friend and the President had occasion to go downstairs, followed by the pale poet, who lagged a few steps behind.

"I don't like that man's poetry," said the President. "It's anaemic."

When the President left, the poet turned to his friend and said: "Did I understand the President to refer to my poetry as anaemic?"

"Anaemic?" said the friend. "Oh, no!" And then, working his wits overtime, he added: "You misunderstood. He said it was academic."

WOMAN'S INGENUITY.

A detective was testifying in a case of a woman shoplifter whom he had arrested in her bedroom.

"And, o'Yur Honor," he said, "when I told her the charge she turned her back to me and swallowed a purse, six suits of silk underwear, a silver candlestick, a chaffing-dish and—"

"Hold on; hold on!" the magistrate said.

"Excuse me. What I mean to say, Your Honor," explained the detective, "is that she swallowed the pawn-tickets."

IT WAS NEW TO THE BISHOP.

At an unusually large dinner-party, where the guest of honor was an English Bishop, the butler, an elderly man, was obliged to bring in from a friend's house an inexperienced lad to help him in the dining-room. The awkward helper annoyed the butler beyond endurance with questions as to his duties.

He continued interminably until the butler, worn out and nervous, said ironically:

"All you will need to do is to stand behind the Bishop's chair, and whenever his Lordship puts down his glass you must reach over and wipe his mouth with a napkin."

That silenced his assistant. But the young man actually took the order seriously, and as soon as dinner began he stationed himself behind the Bishop, waited till his Lordship had drunk and put down his glass, and then, as deliberately as his nervousness would permit, he opened out a large napkin and wiped the dignified gentleman's mouth!

THE SWAY OF YOUNG HSUANG TUNG, EMPEROR.

On February 9th, our calendar, the New Year's of the Chinese was celebrated the world over. It was the beginning of the 2452d official year of the empire, and the day after the birthday of the Emperor, who was then four years old, having been born February 8, 1906. His father, Prince Chun, acts as Regent of the Empire, during the minority of the Emperor.

Emperor Hsuang Tung is the youngest ruler in the world, so young that he is but little more than a baby, but according to Chinese customs he must receive the same honors as though he were the age of King George or President Taft. He sits on one of the most powerful thrones the world has known, and his dominion extends over an area of land and a number of people such as no child of his age has even dominated before.

A little investigation will show what this boy of four rules through the direction of Prince Chun and a cabinet of ministers, most of whom are favorable to modernizing China and having Western civilization affect its customs and laws.

In 1906, when Hsuang Tung was seated upon the throne, the official census showed that the area of the land he controlled was 4,376,000 square miles, and the population therein 438,214,000. This population is four times that of the United States. Outside of China—that is, in foreign countries—there are 6,800,000 Chinese who owe allegiance to the emperor and are subject to his call.

There are living in China but 69,000 foreigners, and most of these are merchants. The capital, Peking, has a population of 693,000, but the cities of Siantan and Sibnan have each a million population, while Tientsin has 800,000, Chung-king 705,000, and Shanghai 651,000. About one-fourth of the world's raw silk supply comes from China, but under imperial laws and edict it will have ceased to be the center of the world's opium supply in about eight years more.

The empire has but 3,700 miles of completed railway, and 1,600 miles uncompleted but under way. But there are 192,000 miles of waterways under the Emperor, and he controls 23,400 miles of telegraph and 2,800 post-offices. The limited number of post-offices may be explained in one way—a native Chinaman wishing to communicate with a friend living at some

distance does not write a letter. He gathers his robes about him and takes a leisurely journey on foot or by scow to his friend. It might require several days or weeks for him to make the journey, but that did not trouble him, and he never appreciated a letter and cheap postage until the English and Americans introduced the idea.

Another phase of human life which the Emperor rules (it is not well understood by foreigners) is gardeners and small truck farmers. The Chinese are the most economical and skillful truck or small gardeners in the world. In their empire there are 150,000,000 boys and men engaged solely in this work, and the results they produce would put to shame the skill of any German, French or American gardener.

"Why," said General Otis to me, when I was talking with him in Manila one afternoon, "a Chinaman can make things grow where no other human being can. I have studied their methods, watched them, and they are the most scientific cultivators of garden produce this world has."

As proof of this, I cite the fact that agricultural reports from China, dated 1909, show that China has more cultivated gardens under an acre in size than America, England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain combined, and produces annually more green vegetables, ton by ton, than all of Europe and America combined.

This is the China over which a four-year-old boy rules, and which he must learn to govern personally with intelligence by the time he is eighteen.

THE VINDICATION OF KOHLER.

("Literary Digest.")

The amazement of the press when Cleveland's "GoldenRule" Chief of Police was charged with serious misdemeanors is now changed to gratification that the "best chief" has not turned out to be the worst. After a month's consideration of the evidence, during which Chief Kohler was suspended from office by the Mayor's order, the Cleveland Civil Service Commission have acquitted him on all the charges. In fact, during the hearing 13 of the 23 counts against him were withdrawn by the prosecution. As soon as he had again taken up the duties of his office, the Chief called his men together and made a little speech to them. He would have been justified in "swinging the big stick," says

the Indianapolis Star (Rep.), as a number of his men had aided the prosecution, "but his own 'golden rule' confronted him and he had to abide by it." This paper quotes his words thus:

"I am starting you all in new to-day. I do not care what you did for or against me. For those of you who have worked against me I have only the best of feeling and I want to thank those who stood by me. I do not propose to be revengeful. I have very little of that kind of a thing about me. I am not that small or cheap. I know I have made human mistakes, but I hold myself as an example to every man in the department. So to-day wipes the slate clean as far as I am concerned. While this demoralizing trial has been going on you have allowed the thieves and thugs to take the city. Now let us have an end of that. Go out and do police duty and clean up the town. That is all I ask of you. Every man will stand on his own merit. The Golden Rule, which was attacked in every way, is now applied to every one of you. The Golden Rule is here to stay and will be exercised stronger than ever. It is up to you when I leave the department, and I assure you that will not be for some time."

While there is some evident skepticism as to the merits of Kohler's "GoldenRule" system, we find the press substantially unanimous in expressing their satisfaction at his acquittal. The news will be read with pleasure "far beyond the borders of Cleveland," exults the Knoxville Sentinel (Dem.). That his rehabilitation means much to the cause of good government in our cities, is believed by the Richmond Times-Dispatch (Dem.) and the New York Evening Post (Ind.). The Dayton Journal (Rep.) calls attention to the "marvelous" results of the "GoldenRule" policy in Cleveland. Kohler, says The Journal, was simply fighting a combination of "divekeepers and pickpockets and barflies and gentlemanly silk-hatted politicians 'higher up.'" When Tom Johnson was defeated and the Baehr Republican administration went into the City Hall, these people "thought their opportunity had come." So they preferred these charges. The Journal continues:

"At last," croaked Vice, "we've got him."

"The trial board which heard the charges and testimony was Republican. . . . Though adverse to the administration that had put Fred Koh-

ler in office, these Republican officials could only see their duty one way, and that was the RIGHT way. So they kicked Vice down the back stairs and put Kohler back on the job.

"The defeat of Fred Kohler would have been a victory for Vice; his vindication is a credit to Cleveland."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (Ind. Dem.), which has supported Kohler throughout, says of his "splendid vindication":

"Thus ends a fight against the head of the police department which, conducted covertly for many months, finally reached the stage of open formal charges filed with the Mayor exactly a month ago to-day. The animosity engendered by Kohler's years of vigorous conduct of the police department was focused in the attack.

"Kohler's enemies, intent on 'getting' the chief, entered upon the task of proving him guilty of conduct unfitting him for his office with all the energy of firm conviction and all the skill that able lawyers could supply.

"And they failed signally. The evidence they produced was flimsy and inconclusive. They proved nothing more thoroughly than that the man they assailed had conducted the police department with efficiency and unparalleled success.

"Out of the conflicting impressions of the trial emerged one striking figure, that of a man well fitted for the public duties he had been chosen to perform. The character dominating the trial of the accused Kohler was Kohler.

"Chief Kohler goes back to police headquarters with a large share of public esteem than he has ever enjoyed before. He has a rare opportunity now to show that this increased confidence is not misplaced. Cleveland expects her 'best chief' now to become still better."

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