

# SAD OFFENSE TO THE GREAT JOSS THAT RULES ALL THE CHINESE FASHIONS.

A HOTEL suite has recently overflowed with some of the most distinguished Chinese ever entertained in this city. They were his Excellency Wong Kai Kah, his family and retinue of thirty, en route to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, to which Wong is Chinese Vice Imperial Commissioner.

Mr. Wong is a graduate of Yale of the class of '83, and speaks far better English than the most of us. He also speaks various Chinese dialects. His wife is a Kiang Su lady, the first who has ever arrived here.

They promised to go to the photographer's en masse for a picture, the whole seven of the Wong family.

"As a great favor, Mr. Wong, will you not wear the 'steel wire coat'?" I begged. "Certainly."

"And the peacock feather?"

I do not know just what Joss I toppled, but I am sure that I can never be the same again in Mr. Wong's esteem.

"The peacock feather with the light costume—impossible!" he said, with horrified face.

But he wore the wonderful coat of wire-like silk thread woven in lacy pattern, and Mrs. Wong, who toddled in on tiny triangular feet, wore the most wonderful phoenix robe of turquoise satin heavily wrought in deathless phoenixes. Her little wrists were heavy with bracelets, and from her shoulder fell a string of pear-shaped pearls, milky white; of great green jade beads; of amethysts and pale rose crystals.

"And where are the children?" I asked, as the two arrived.

Mr. Wong spoke casually. "We couldn't find them," he said. "They seem to have wandered out of the hotel. They must be around the city somewhere. I don't suppose they'll get lost—they never do."

So that is why only Mr. Wong and his wife appear before you.

SARAH COMSTOCK.

## "CHINA IS AT LAST SITTING UP AND TAKING NOTICE"

By Wong Kai Kah.

ONE of the greatest mistakes that Americans make is their ideas of the new China.

They talk about our country as if she were now for the first time beginning to live. "China is at last sitting up and taking notice," I have heard some one say. It seems to me that you are just beginning to "sit up and take notice" of the land across the Pacific.

The United States is a great country. China appreciates this fact and feels the strongest sentiments of friendship toward your people who have treated her so well in many ways. We want to build up a firm friendship between the two nations; but in order to do this there must be a thorough understanding between the two. We have much to learn about you; and, believe me, you have much to learn about us.

It is in view of these facts that my Government is sending so large a delegation and exhibit to the Exposition at St. Louis. The United States conferred the honor of requesting this and the Government felt that it was the least acknowledgment it could make to send this important representation. It wishes to show America and as much of the rest of the world as may be there to see something of China's achievements.

I find the prevailing impression that she is narrow. "What?" an American said to me the other day. "Is it not true that China is showing great broadmindedness of late? We hear that she is taking up American and European ideas."

"So you think that her broadmindedness is a novelty," I replied. "Do you not realize that China has been and is one of the broadest nations in the world? It is strange how little is known about her ways."

I hear people say that she is slow to take up modern inventions. True enough in a way. How many useless patents are thrust upon the market! China takes her time, is conservative, separates the wheat from the chaff and in due time adopts all that is worth adopting. Yes, our country is slow, but it is very sure and it does not reject new things because they are new.

But as to commercialism: in that respect possibly we may speak of a new China, for it is quite recently that we have had such an amount of commerce as we have now. We want that to increase many fold. It will be of mutual benefit, helping us and helping the nations that deal with us. Commerce is a great educator. It is commerce that first brings nations in touch with one another and that contact results in much learning. There is no race too wise to learn, no race too ignorant to teach. The more that men know of men the better all around.

China and the United States are in the very beginning of their acquaintance. They have each made their bow of recognition, as it were, and now the conversation opens. May it grow and continue is the wish of our Government and people.

The greatest amount of our commercial intercourse is with England. England had at the last time I took account of the matter 55 per cent of the shipping and a large per cent of the other trade interests. There should be a far larger amount of dealing with the United States than there now is. We are neighbors—only an ocean, no land, between us, so that communication is direct, even though slow.

Most of our railroads are built according to English style. There are a number of them running in different directions back into the interior of China. I might give you their names, but I am afraid they would be entirely meaningless and unpronounceable, for they go by long Chinese names instead of English ones. These roads are traveled by the regulation English coaches, entirely different from your cars that hold so many persons.

There is now one line built by American enterprise and conducted according to American ways. It has your style of cars. It is in every respect entirely American.

Of course, much traveling is still done by means of sedan chairs, as in olden times, and they are a most excellent means of conveyance. They have been much improved in comfort. One of the exhibits at St. Louis will be of old chairs such as our forefathers used, and it will be seen how they have changed. Wheelbarrows are used to some extent now as vehicles. China has as yet no streetcars.

But the modern and carefully perfected railroads are only one feature of China's modernity. "The New China," like "the New America," uses many forms of electricity. You will no longer find our important business buildings and houses lighted by little nut oil lamps of the type that you buy in Chinatown for souvenirs. We have electric lights just as other countries do. You will also find telephones and telegraphs when you visit us—may that be at an early date!

Buildings in the large cities are much like yours, especially in Shanghai and Hongkong, where the foreign settlements are large. They are not high enough yet to satisfy lofty ambitions nor to make elevators an essential. There are no skyscrapers. So far as I know China has only one elevator, which is in a building in Shanghai.

The European style of architecture is creeping more and more into house building there. Certain royal buildings show no sign of this, for they have always been magnificent and tradition or law insists upon particular styles. For instance, the imperial roof that you often have seen in pictures can be used by royalty alone and it certainly will continue to be used by those who are entitled to it.

Much English is taught in the Chinese schools and universities. It is more studied than any other foreign language. Our constantly increasing commerce and general foreign relations make this important.



MRS. WONG  
IN  
PHOENIX  
ROBE

STANFORD  
STUDIO  
PHOTOS

MR. AND MRS.  
WONG KAI KAH

The Chinese Vice Imperial Commissioner  
to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition  
Says Americans Are Densely Ig-  
norant of the Real Broad-  
Mindedness of the Great  
Oriental Empire.

Our exports are largely tea, silk and ornamental goods, such as china, carved furniture and embroideries. In return we receive piece goods from Europe; for instance, Germany sends us a large amount of housefurnishings. Opium from India is one of our extensive imports. In time we hope to have railroads making a network all over Asia and connecting us far better with Europe.

While Europe and America keep on improving their own manufactures, China does the same. The porcelain is of the most beautiful in the world and the Chinese are always alert to make it better. They adopt designs from foreign goods and use them in china decoration and in embroideries. The Chinese like these foreign designs just as you like the Chinese. Every one wants what is a novelty to him.

The great feature of the Chinese embroideries is the wonderful blending of colors. In many cases you will find colors that you are accustomed to say "swear at each other," put side by side and the whole is always harmonious. I am carrying many of these beautiful robes to show the people of this country what our people do, for the best of our embroideries and fabrics have not been brought out of our country. One piece that I have is the Robe of the Hundred Butterflies. It is of lavender silk with a hundred butterflies wrought upon it by hand; no two alike and all in countless different colors which blend into a perfect whole.

This is the first time that our Government has sent an exhibit to one of these World's Fairs. There have been only small private exhibits before. So there will be much to show that is new to the world. We are making a particular point of showing the development of China by object lessons in her history. We have ancient war chariots to show heavy affairs something like those of the old Romans. They held four men besides the archer. We have old implements, crude things used in agriculture and other forms of labor, and our modern ones to show for comparison. The development of the Chinese boat will be similarly shown. The history of our China making will be displayed in specimens of the wares of different periods down to the present day.

The main building will be the one occupied by his Highness Prince Pu Lun and it is to be begun by Americans and finished by Chinese workmen, for they alone know the delicate architectural methods that are used in China. My wife will design the decorations to be used in the interior. The building will have the imperial roof, for it is to be the headquarters of a Prince. Next winter I shall return to China to escort him to St. Louis.

A mineral exhibit will be one of our features. China has great mineral wealth and she has been slow in making the most of it, but now that there is to be a new code of mining laws in our country we look for a great impetus in the direction of mining. Wallace Broad of England is to help us in the forming of these laws. As to the "New China"—what country is not new in these days? We all are if we are progressive, and we all hope to be new again at every milestone in our career.

China is one of these progressive countries as is the United States. In behalf of the Chinese government—to our better acquaintance!

### Danger Lurks in Exhausted Brain Cells.

Nerve specialists say that a great many suicides are the direct results of exhausted brain cells.

When you find yourself becoming morose and despondent, when you are conscious that the zest of life is evaporating, that you are losing the edge of your former keen interest in things generally and that your life is becoming a bore, you may be pretty sure that you need more sleep, that you need country or outdoor exercise. If you get these you will find that all the old enthusiasm will return. A few days of the sunshine in the country, rambling over the hills and meadows, will erase the dark pictures which haunt you and will restore buoyancy to your animal spirits.

No man is in an absolutely normal condition until he enjoys bare living, and feels that existence itself is a precious boon. No one is normal who does not feel thankful, every day, that he is alive, and that he can think and act with vigor and effectiveness.

Oh, to be strong; to feel the thrill of life in every nerve and fiber in middle life and old age as in youth; to enjoy existence as do the young lambs and calves which chase one another over the fields and meadows and pastures; to exult in mere living as boys do when they glide over the fields of ice in the crisp air of winter!