

it which the casual observer does not see. . . . I wish never to be resentful nor unkind, nor even disposed to keep things in the path of the storm, and yet I am certain that were Bryan again to be called to lead the Democratic party in a national campaign, many of these elements that now are crying for "forgetfulness" would rear to their hind legs, snort like wild steers and produce a stampede in the other direction. While no one could wish for peace more than I do, still I would rather have war, and to the finish, than ever to surrender to the Interests that have polluted government, that so long have controlled the political parties of this country, and now, as they behold an outraged people rising against their infamies, cry peace. They cry peace because they are trying to substitute a tractable watchman in place of the intractable one—Bryan. I regret to say that most of their pleas for peace are too near akin to the "hush" of the night raider and assassin.

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#### THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH.

For The Public.

Away with parasites and thrones,  
For Tyranny is dead!  
He is a king among the drones  
Who earns by toil his bread.

Life is a fight—what is it worth  
If you your duty shirk?  
Ah, the happiest man on earth  
Is he who loves his work!

HENRY COYLE.

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#### THE UNITED STATES OF CHINA.

Editorial in Cleveland Plain Dealer of November 21.

For a clear understanding of conditions in China it must first of all be recognized that the "Middle Kingdom" is a federation of states or provinces. The provinces accept the authority of governors appointed from Peking, but they nevertheless maintain great independence in local affairs. The present revolution, in fact, was precipitated because of the interference of the Peking government in matters that the people of Sze-Chuen province believed to appertain wholly to themselves. Instead of allowing Sze-Chuen to build its own railways, the Peking government undertook to assume the responsibility. That the great upheaval should have originated from so insignificant a cause is a good indication of the basic democracy of Chinese society.

The provincials throughout China, who do not even understand the language of Peking, have borne with the Manchu rule because of the large degree of freedom granted by the central govern-

ment. Chinese, not Manchus, have been sent as governors. The most absolute monarchy of the world has actually stood upon a foundation of democracy.

Yet, with all these concessions, there has always been smoldering discontent against the Manchu rule. The dishonesty of the governing classes. Chinese proteges of the Manchus, as well as the Manchus themselves, has year after year become more unbearable. In time race hatred would have flamed forth in rebellion. Even without the small incident of the railway troubles in Sze-Chuen!

It is just this independence, this sense of democracy, which is characteristic of the Chinese. That will be the greatest difficulty in the establishment of a republic. Such a condition is doubtless paradoxical, but it none the less exists. The Chinese sense of independence is wholly provincial. Not different dialects, but actually different languages, are spoken in the different provinces. Common hatred of the Manchus has been strong enough to bind the Chinese together in the present war, but with the removal of the Manchus, dissension and disorganization would be inevitable. With men of great ability at the head of affairs these difficulties may in time be overcome, but it will be a work of years and patience. An entirely new governmental idea and an entirely new conception of patriotism will have to be taught. China will have to be changed from an agglomeration of independent and unsympathetic provinces into a strongly united nation.

When the idea of a Chinese republic was first suggested, Europe and America joined in a laugh. The thing was preposterous. It was declared that the Chinese, after their countless centuries of despotism, could have no conception of liberty.

Exactly the opposite is true. The Chinese have a very keen conception of liberty. It is so keen that it carries with it a lack of conception of national unity. The Chinese are not to be taught republicanism, but merely a larger patriotism.

If a Chinese republic is to be established, Europe and America must exercise patience and forbearance. Undoubtedly the Chinese masses would prefer to see the empire split up into a dozen wholly independent states, thereby abandoning the promise of future greatness and offering a fine field for the land grabbers of Europe. Whether or not the occidental powers will aid in the process of coalescence and assist the Chinese to become a great and powerful self-governing nation depends wholly on the point of view. Selfishness would suggest that such a consummation is not desirable.

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**Bookworm:** "Yes, I have about three thousand volumes. These in this corner are the ones I read."

**Visitor:** "But what are all the others?"

**Bookworm:** "Oh, those are the books no library is complete without."—Life.