

years amused the public, both in every part of Great Britain and throughout the American States. One of his letters from Dublin gives an account which is very naive, and curiously descriptive of the national character a quarter of a century ago, so much the same as it is now.

Dublin, Jan. 24, 1846.

MY DEAR JERDAN,—I start for the south to-morrow, after having my two last nights, of the most triumphant character, highly fashionable and crowded to excess; in short, after the platform being crowded, and all the standing-room exhausted, hundreds went away who could not get admission. I wish I could stay, and make a *run* of the success, but I am engaged to the south, and must only hope on my return my welcome will not have worn out. Only fancy "The Royal Dream," that which you and I fancied would be what the Italians call a *furor*! Not at all. The fact is, the little lady [so they called the Queen] is not popular here with any party; they think, one and all, they have been neglected in not being visited sooner. So I must only hope the spirit of my song will do me good *elsewhere*. But St. Kevin—that's the fellow; no mistake, they *do* like St. Kevin! However, finding my Queen's Visit was not of the catching nature I hoped for, I have done some of my other entertainments, and they are liked; but the judicious—those who know "what's what"—say the Visit is the *best thing* I have done. I worked up the second part *very well*—I think you will say so when you hear it. I don't know if you saw or heard of a furious attack upon me in the "Nation." They "*denounced*" me and my praises of the Queen, and I was blackguarded, body and sleeves; but the rascality of the attack foiled its object. It did me more good than harm. I met Mr. Duffy, the editor, at a public dinner (the *Press* dinner) the day the attack appeared. My health was given with *enthusiasm*. In returning thanks, I made a hit at Mr. Duffy to his face. I was "cheered" like anything. I send you the trifle. The "Nation" has been silent since. I think *Vinealy's* dirty work was somehow in it. A man named Barry, of Cork, did the dagger work; but my public triumph here is the best answer. However, that the author of the novel of "Rory O'More" should be stabbed by the "*Patriots!!*" is too bad.

Yours ever,

My dear Jerdan,  
SAMUEL LOVER.

Wm. Jerdan, Esq.

In the autumn of the year he sailed for America, and was applauded and *fêted* (as more recently Dickens) at New York, Boston, and throughout the Union. In 1848 he returned home, and resumed his entertainments with American bits and other novelties. But as this sketch is not a biography, I pass over his epistolary descriptions of his transatlantic successes, darkened by the lamented death of his wife at home, and anxiety for his two orphan daughters.

Three years ago, having sought retirement and repose at Sevenoaks, Kent, he suffered a dangerous attack on the lungs, and was with difficulty restored, to seek Jersey as a change. There he died, and the body was brought to be interred in Kensal Green—being met and attended by the London Irish Volunteers. And well he deserved the honour; for he was a fine type of the loyal, liberal, warm-hearted Irishman, richly gifted with delightful talents, ready witted, and amusing in social life, and above all sterling and honourable in principle and conduct. I cannot bear to dwell on our long, unchangeable friendship and mutual attachment; but my readers can have no deep sense of my grief for his loss, and I will bid farewell with a cheerful letter, among those of my latest dates.

Sevenoaks, Jan. 13, 1865.

MY DEAR JERDAN,—I have been not very well since I had the pleasure of receiving your last letter, and I do not expect to be much if any better as long as the cold weather lasts.

All you say of the ——— Club is quite true. We may quote the lament of Ophelia—

See what I have seen—  
See what I see!

"'Twas a pleasant place once upon a time," as the nursery tale initiates its pleasantries.

Had it continued to be pleasant, it would have cost my self-denial more than it has done in taking my name off the list of members. Well, grumbling is no use, so "there an end," as Mr. Pepys says.

I send a photo-proto-type of a owld sojer boy, for Mop [his god-daughter]. I am only an honorary member of "The London Irish" now, but I was one of the first to drill in Company No. 1, when the corps was first established, and I have "*marched through*" London with them. Now don't think of *Coventry* when you read "*marched through*."

Why should so old a fellow join the volunteers? I'll tell you why, as far as I am concerned. Ireland was behaving so badly at that time, and about that grand movement, that I thought it incumbent on every Irishman in England with a spark of gentlemanly feeling and loyalty in him, to enrol himself among the volunteers. And now good-bye for awhile, dear old friend.

Yours, very truly,

SAMUEL LOVER.

### THE CHINESE EMBASSY.

If the rulers of the Flowery Land have sent an embassy to the English barbarians, they will be received with all due welcome. John Bull will be very happy to see John Chinaman. Let bygones be bygones. For three centuries the English merchants have been left to be bullied at outposts by insolent mandarins. English envoys have been exposed to humiliation and treated with trickery. But things are changed since the capture of Peking and the embassy of Lord Elgin. If the present embassy is a genuine affair, it shows a wonderful progress in Chinese life, and should be met in a spirit of amity and conciliation.

But is it a genuine embassy? A clever American is at the head of it.\* An Irishman "plays second fiddle." They are accompanied by a retinue of Chinese interpreters and officials. There are two mandarins, but not of very high rank, and the others are ordinary Chinese scholars not receiving large pay. When we consider the enormous extent and wealth of the Chinese empire, this mission appears a paltry affair to represent her grandeur at the courts of Europe, especially if compared with the British embassies to the court of Peking. Moreover it is noticeable that they bring no presents to the monarchs to whom the envoy is accredited. This omission is significant, as, according to Chinese etiquette, no ambassador could have audience without bringing costly gifts to the emperor; so that cannot be considered a true embassy which does not bring some valuable presents to our Queen, or the Emperor of the French. But then, if they did so, it might be said that the mighty Emperor of China had fallen so far from the high estate his predecessors held as the supreme rulers on earth that he sent *tribute* to the barbarian princes of the west, the presents of all ambassadors being so named to show the supreme grandeur of the Chinese emperors. Under these circumstances this cannot be considered an embassy representing the court of Peking, and may be repudiated by the emperor if the mission fails in its object.

However this may be, it is useful to recall the state of matters between China and other powers, since the treaty of Lord Elgin. Before that treaty was signed,

\* We have been favoured by the Chinese Ambassador with the following note relative to the names, the quality, etc., of the different members of the embassy:—I. Poo An-Chen (Hon. Anson Burlingame); Choong-Kwo Chin-Chai Ta-Chen. II. Chee Kang, called Chee Ta-jin. III. Sun Chah-Kuh, called Sun Ta-jen. Secretary, Poh Choh-An (John McLeavy Brown, Esq.); Secretary, Teh Shen (Monsieur E. de Champs). Student Interpreters—(1) Lwan Fang; (2) Tah-keh-shi-nah; (3) Foong Ee; (4) Teh Ming; (5) Kwai Yung; (6) Ting Chuen.—*Fighting Dragon Reporter.*

in 1858, the only western nation which had a representative at the court of Peking was Russia, in right of her Asiatic territories bordering on the Chinese empire. All other nationalities approaching China by the seaboard held their intercourse with the Government through the provincial authorities at the ports open to foreigners. From this cause arose the constant quarrels between traders and native officials, and the continued hostilities of the naval and military forces sent out to protect our trade. It was obvious that this state of affairs would remain with its evil results until such time as England and France should have representatives at the court of Peking. Accordingly this was provided for in the treaty of Tientsin; but it cost a war, which upset the government, and accelerated the death of the late emperor.

The success of England and France in this matter led the way to the appointment of an American minister, who secured all the privileges of the belligerent powers without incurring any warlike expenditure on the part of his own country. Lord Elgin's policy in enforcing the articles of the treaty for a British representative at Peking, as the only remedy for maintaining pacific relations, is proved by the result that hostilities have not once been renewed since, and our relations with the Chinese were never on a more amicable footing than they are at present. There are now thirteen treaty ports open to foreign trade; and if any disputes arise between the foreign merchants and the local authorities they are referred to the Central Government and ministers at Peking for their decision. Many such have occurred, and if there had been no access to the supreme authorities, in all probability we should have been again at war with China, maintaining costly naval and military forces to enforce our demands.

Meanwhile the personal intercourse of the foreign ministers at Peking with the high state officials, more especially Prince Kung, uncle to the juvenile emperor, and head of the Foreign Office, has had the effect of enlarging the political views of the Government, and showing them the defects of their own national polity as compared with western civilisation. They saw the deficiencies of their system of education, and, to their credit be it said, candidly acknowledged them by instituting a college at Peking for the education of native youth by foreign professors in the arts and sciences. It must be admitted, however, that their greatest anxiety has been to train up their students in a knowledge of those arts that instruct in the manufacture of implements and munitions of war, in order that they may be qualified to superintend the factories being established for such purposes by foreigners in the provinces. Of the general scope of the institution, and the nature of the classes, with the reasons given for departing from ancient custom for modern practice, we find a full statement in the memorial presented to the emperor by the members of the Foreign Board, praying for the foundation of the college. "It is not impelled by a sentiment of blind admiration for knowledge of this kind possessed by Europeans, nor by an extravagant love for novelty. The reason is that in reality the construction of machines for warlike and industrial purposes, so important in our days, is based entirely on the sciences. China wishes to construct her steamboats for herself; but to enable her to do so European masters must initiate her in the principles of the mathematical sciences, and point out the course to pursue. It would be a mistake and a fruitless expenditure of labour and money to hope that the Chinese could attain such a result by their imagination alone. To those who may say that

China humiliates herself in seeking instruction from foreigners, we shall reply that if one thing in particular can make a nation blush, it is to be ignorant of that which others know." These sentiments are honourable to the memorialists as indicating the true spirit of progress.

Having so far adopted the educational institutions of foreigners, the step naturally followed to conform to some of their political institutions upon the earliest occasion. An opportunity has occurred this year in connection with the treaty of Tientsin, which the Chinese have availed themselves of. That treaty, we have stated, was signed in 1858, and it contains a clause providing for its revival after the lapse of ten years. As the period approached, there were numerous discussions by the chambers of commerce at the treaty ports, upon the articles that should be revised, and additional clauses were suggested to give foreigners increased privileges in trading throughout the interior, in opening up mines, and constructing railways and telegraphs. In these proposed alterations of the treaty, the British residents took the leading part, embodying their views in memorials to Sir Rutherford Alcock, our minister at Peking. At first it was intended that the revival of the treaty should be executed in China, where it was made. But the Chinese authorities took alarm at the sweeping changes proposed, and they resolved to submit the question to the treaty powers themselves, through an envoy accredited by the emperor to the European courts. This was acquiesced in by the foreign ministers, as it would relieve them from an onerous and disagreeable task.

At this time Mr. Anson Burlingame was American minister at Peking, and had made himself unusually friendly with the Chinese Government on account of his leaning towards the nation in his diplomatic intercourse. He was also on the best of terms with his colleagues, and had acted impartially as arbiter in difficult matters of diplomacy to their satisfaction. In December, 1867, he was proceeding to visit the treaty ports prior to resigning his appointment, when a farewell dinner was given to him by Prince Kung, at which he expressed regret at his leaving China, while a minister of state named Wenseang asked if he would represent the Chinese Government officially at Washington and the courts of Europe as their envoy. To this he agreed, and the embassy now in England was formed.

When it was officially announced in China that an embassy would proceed to Europe with the late American minister as ambassador, much surprise was expressed by the British residents, and the subject was freely discussed in the local newspapers. Some looked on the mission as a job got up by the foreigners in the service of the Emperor of China, who are supposed to be hostile to the interests of British and other foreign merchants and bankers, through whose hands the external commerce of the country passes in exports and imports to the value of more than fifty millions sterling, and paying duties to the Chinese treasury of the high annual figure of £2,700,000. The reasons advanced in support of this supposition are connected with the staff of employés in the Chinese Foreign Maritime Customs, which was originally instituted by the English and French plenipotentiaries, to raise means in payment of the indemnity moneys which have been levied for the expenses of wars incurred to enforce the demands of the allies. At first the Inspector-General and Commissioners of Customs were, perhaps, more favourably disposed towards their own nationalities than their Chinese masters. But many changes have occurred in the officers of this establishment; and the present In-

spector-General, an Irishman, espouses the interests of his employers as against foreign innovations, with as much, or, as it is alleged, with greater prejudice than if he were a Chinaman. He is a perfect master of the Chinese language, and resides at Peking, where he is in daily communication with the members of the Government, who look upon him as their adviser in all foreign affairs; acting upon his advice, with a promptitude that is all the more remarkable that former Chinese Governments exhibited the most utter contempt for the outside "barbarians"—as Europeans were until lately designated—and their policy. Evidently the secret of Mr. Hart's success is his conservative feelings regarding China, while he advocates the introduction of foreign institutions so far that they will be entirely under the control of the Chinese. This he has shown in his regulations for the commerce passing through the Customs under his control, where he endeavours to check the efforts of foreign traders, especially British merchants, in extending their operations through the country. It is not necessary to enter into the questions that have arisen between them: suffice it to say, that the levying of transit dues on merchandise sent into the interior, besides the Customs duties, is considered obstructive to mercantile interests, and the prohibition against foreigners trading in the interior, with the privilege of working coal mines, and constructing railways and telegraphs, is contrary to the policy inaugurated by the treaty of Tientsin. In withholding further privileges, and abolishing obnoxious clauses in that treaty, the Inspector-General of Customs concurs with his Chinese masters, and opposes their introduction into the revisal about to be concluded. In these views he has been supported by Mr. Burlingame, when acting as American minister at Peking, and in some measure by our own minister, Sir Rutherford Alcock, while the French minister disagreed with them. When the time for revising the treaty approached, it was evident to the philo-Chinese foreigners that their views could not be carried out on the spot without serious disputes with the foreign mercantile community, and there can be no doubt that this mission originally emanated from them, which the Prince of Kung and his coadjutors only too gladly adopted, as in accordance with their traditional policy of delay and obstructiveness.

In April last the Chinese embassy crossed the Pacific in one of the American line of steamers to California, and from thence by way of Panama to New York, where they arrived in May, and were presented to President Johnson at Washington, who received its members at a special audience. Of course it was natural for Mr. Burlingame to visit his native country first, as America is included among the treaty powers with China; and, geographically speaking, it is the nearest state to the empire he is considered to represent. That the ambassador should seek preference for his own nation when opportunity offers is also natural; but no benefit can at present accrue to the United States that is not shared by all treaty powers, as each treaty contains what is generally called the "favoured nation clause," which conveys all the privileges, immunities, and advantages that may have been, or may be hereafter, granted by his Majesty the Emperor of China to the Government or subjects of any other nation.

#### THE QUEEN'S MESSENGER.

MANY a young man who is leaving school or his private tutors will exclaim, "If I cannot get a commission in a

cavalry regiment or be a paid *attaché* to an embassy, let me, by all means, become a Queen's Messenger. It must be so delightful to be constantly rattling about over the world—visiting strange places, seeing strange people, and meeting with strange adventures—to have to talk German, French, Spanish, Italian, and Russian, all in one breath, as it were; to start away at a moment's notice to the other end of Europe, and to be back again in the course of a few weeks or so." Those who have tried this life assert that a man must have a very strong head and stomach and nerves, that he must possess perfect temper and decision and self-command, that he must be firm and gentle and fearless, be able to stand heat and cold and wet and fog, and bad food and damp sheets; in fact, that unless he possess qualities of which not many men can boast, he will be very unfit for the office of Queen's messenger, however he may be suited to become Lord Chancellor or Archbishop of Canterbury.

My friend Mr. F——,\* who had held that much envied post in the Civil service, was seated one evening in his comfortable parlour. The fire was burning brightly—the winter was drawing on—his family were around him, when the usual official missive was put into his hands, directing him to start with important despatches forthwith for the land of the Czar. Friends expected were put off, his portmanteau packed, and a very short time saw him rattling away in the mail coach to Dover, to cross to Ostend. His route lay through Cologne, Berlin, Königsberg, to Koono, on the Russian frontier. Wheels took him thus far, for the railway system had not at that time shot forth its tentaculæ-like arms to embrace the whole of Europe within its grasp, although on our snug little island it was already coming into existence.

At Koono, where the Kiemen is passed, onward to Luga, to St. Petersburg, the snow having come down and formed a hard frozen road, the carriage was put on runners, and reversing the usual order of things, it was turned into a sort of terrestrial cephalopod by having its wheels fastened on to its head. With snow above, snow below, and snow on every side, the Queen's Messenger reached the giant city built by the great Peter on the mud banks of the Neva. Two or three days were allowed him to thaw and rest, and he was started off to the south of Russia.

Once more he had to take his seat in his travelling sledge, habited in his fur pelisse, with bearskin rugs, and wrappers innumerable, and hot bricks for his feet, for a journey of a thousand miles or more over frozen snow. Still, in spite of the bitter cold, the thermometer many degrees below zero, travelling in Russia is pleasanter in many respects during winter than in summer. In summer there are the heat, and flies, and dust, and rough roads, and rivers to be forded or crossed in ferries or by rotten bridges, and innumerable other inconveniences to be surmounted; while the snow is a wonderful leveller of roads, and the ice forms a trustworthy bridge over every stream. It is possible to drive into a snow-drift and to stick fast; and a break down in the middle of the night of a Russian midwinter is undoubtedly to be dreaded.

My friend had got about three-quarters of the way between St. Petersburg and Moscow, and, there being a moon, was travelling on through the night, when the sleigh driver suddenly pulled up his horses.

"What is the matter—what has happened?" he asked.

\* The late F. Fricker, Esq., Queen's Messenger.