

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### SECRET DIPLOMACY AND CHINA.

Dr. Gilbert Reid, the head of the International Institute of Shanghai and worker for peace and international good will, is strongly impressed with the danger which now hangs over China through the Japanese intercession, and we quote from the Shanghai *China Press* of February 19, 1915, two passages of an article of his on "Secret Diplomacy and China."

"All of a sudden, like a thunderbolt out of the skies, an official document, a friendly dispatch with many demands, is handed by the Japanese Minister Plenipotentiary to the President of the Chinese Republic, and all the demands, meaning more to China than to Japan or any of her allies, are wrapped up in another demand, that China keep them secret under pain of worse calamities."

"For Japan to insist on secrecy is for the moment a great gain to herself. She is able to push her demands on China in an arbitrary and forceful spirit, beyond all reason and right, and at the same time is able to impress other nations with her mildness and moderation. In a letter just received from Peking written by one who knows, I am informed that while the demands, as stated in the press, are 'fairly correct' and 'very hard,' *the actual demands are harder.*"

The editor of *The China Press*, Mr. Thomas F. Millard, adds among other notes the following comment :

"These revelations merely bear out the position which we took several months ago, soon after Japan's intrusion in Shantung, that the open-door and integrity-of-China doctrines have been abandoned by all the powers except the United States. This leaves China practically isolated in her present crisis, since it need not be expected that any than moral support will be forthcoming from America until opportunity comes to present the questions before the Hague tribunal, or a congress of the nations, after the war."

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### BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

FOOTFALLS OF INDIAN HISTORY. By *Sister Nivedita (Margaret E. Noble)*. New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1915. Pp. 276. Price \$2.00 net.

This very attractive book contains many illustrations, all of them on Indian subjects. Among them are six colored pictures, two by members of the prominent Tagore family. The frontispiece by Gaganendra Nath Tagore represents a pilgrim sitting on the ocean beach contemplating the surf, while another by Abanindra Nath Tagore depicts the birth of Buddha. Four other colored plates are by Nanda Lal Bose, and all are distinguished by delicacy

of tint. In addition we find twenty-two half-tone illustrations, mostly views of the Ajanta and other sacred caves.

The book is on the subject of Indian history, but it is more a recognition of the awe in which our author regards the results of Indian civilization than a treatment of the historic facts themselves, and she takes a view which is quite conciliatory between the ancient Brahmanism, Buddhism and the modern Hinduism. The spirit in which she has explained the contrast between Buddhism and its antagonists may appear from the following quotation which opens the chapter entitled "The Relation Between Buddhism and Hinduism":

"Buddhism in India never consisted of a church but only of a religious order. Doctrinally it meant the scattering of that wisdom which had hitherto been peculiar to Brahman and Kshatriya amongst the democracy. Nationally it meant the first social unification of the Indian people. Historically it brought about the birth of Hinduism. In all these respects Buddhism created a heritage which is living to the present day. Amongst the forces which have gone to the making of India, none has been so potent as that great wave of redeeming love for the common people which broke and spread on the shores of humanity in the personality of Buddha. By preaching the common spiritual right of all men whatever their birth, he created a nationality in India which leapt into spontaneous and overwhelming expression so soon as his message touched the heart of Asoka, the people's king."

The last chapter is a study of Benares, the venerable metropolis of India's past, and the author concludes her book with this comment:

"Prostrate, then, under the disintegrating touch of the modern era, lies at this moment the most perfect of medieval cities. Is she to become a memory to her children after four thousand or more years of a constant growth? Or will there prove to be some magic in the new forces of enthusiasm that are running through the veins of the nation, that shall yet make itself potent to renew her ancient life-streams also?"

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In his article on "The Present Prospect of China" in the February *Open Court*, Dr. Gilbert Reid, of Shanghai, assumes that German China has passed into the possession of Japan, and that German influence in the Far East has been wiped out. He has not considered the possibility that Germany may maintain herself in Europe between Russia and France, and may even succeed in vanquishing Great Britain. Would Japan be able to keep her dominion over China if England could no longer support her? Would not Germany be willing to sacrifice her colonial possession for an *entente cordiale* with China by which Germany would be assured of undisturbed trade in return for her educational influence? In this way Germany could strengthen the Chinese army and navy so as to enable the Celestial Empire to hold her own in spite of the influence of the other great European powers, England, Russia and France. We may assume that Germany would not be reluctant to undertake the task.

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In the picture entitled "King Albert and his Staff" on page 44 of the January *Open Court*, the Belgian ruler is shown dressed in a German uniform. The occasion was a reception tendered him by the officers of the German regiment of which the Kaiser had made him chief as a matter of official courtesy.