

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE FRENCH COLONIES IN CHINA.

*To the Editor of The Open Court:*

I am just arrived from Hanoi, in Tonkin, French Indo-China, where I have been attending the exhibition and the Congrès International des Orientalistes. I went there ignorant of what the French have been doing of late years. When I was in command on the coast of China, etc., just forty years ago, I avoided the near approach to the land on account of pirates, being under sail alone. The "Flying Fish" had guns, but I could not depend upon the native crew and passengers, when under the Siamese flag.

Everything I saw and learned came as a surprise to me. Considering the difficulties encountered during the past twenty years, since the French determined to force open the Red River, and that it has only been quite recently determined upon to make Hanoi the seat of government, it is simply astonishing what has been achieved. A magnificent capital for the Franco-Indo-China Colonial Empire in the extreme Orient has been raised up; and no half measures. Everything is "up to date." Electric trams to the suburbs, and on the principle thoroughfares. Electric lighting, water works, sanitation, drainage, wide boulevards well macadamised (steam rollers used). Shade trees along the sidewalks. Clean and tidy everywhere. No unsavory smells or unpleasant sights. All natives well clad and clean, evidently prospering, contented and happy under the régime of the conquering race.

The Chinese were persistent in encouraging opposition to the French occupation, and hordes of ruffians were sent into Tonkin from the southern frontiers of China. The subjection of the country was only achieved after hard fighting; and severe reverses showed the seriousness and magnitude of the task. Then the restoration of law and order and the suppression of piracy and brigandage had to be undertaken.

The French recognise the bravery of the enemy; and having—by their valor—made themselves masters of the country, they exhibit their magnanimity by treating the natives and all comers, indigenous and Chinese, with consideration, eye and with courtesy. It is a contrast to Yankee and Japanese conduct, and the French are giving others also, including the British and Dutch, object lessons in governing Asiatics that they have conquered.

The Exhibition is doing what it was intended to. The buildings are very solid, and are to be permanently utilised as headquarters for the education of military and civil officials to govern the natives, to exploit the natural resources of the coun-

try. At one colliery on the coast three hundred thousand tons of briquets were shipped. Mines, plantations, and industries are working.

The indigenes are employed everywhere; and a large number of the pick of the natives are troops, police, railway station-masters and employees. In the public offices the natives hold responsible positions. The value of native labor has become enhanced, as well as prices for products; and new productions are being developed. The indigenes are protected from outlaws; life and property are safe, and justice ably administered. In the excursions, we visitors had cause to be satisfied that the French had "Come to stay."

The native head-men came to meet us, and all the denizens of the country side flocked to gaze upon the visitors. Festive flags were displayed by the peasantry and town folk, and we were served with refreshments in the large temples and village assembly halls.

I visited a number of the temples, and the bonzes performed ceremonies and read the Buddhist scriptures. I took with me some of the vestments given me by the Japanese Cathedrals (Dai Hon Zan). Thus there were opportunities for my seeing the natives. Early every morning I went to the markets—of which there are a number—and purchased fruits and flowers. The cafés not being opened until late, I had a morning meal of fruit, bread, and light wine; then took the electric tram and visited the temples, returning in time for the Congress meetings. The exhibits at the Exhibition illustrated what is being done, and the past efforts as well as future projects to exploit the Colonies. It was altogether a delightful trip.

KOBE, JAPAN, Jan. 8, 1903.

C. PFOUNDÉS.

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### NEW BOOKS ON SHAKESPEARE.

Three important books on the greatest figure of English literature have come to our notice within the last year. They are: (1) *William Shakespeare, Poet, Man, and Dramatist*, by Mr. Hamilton Wright Mabie;<sup>1</sup> (2) *What is Shakespeare? An Introduction to the Great Plays*,<sup>2</sup> by L. A. Sherman, Professor in the University of Nebraska; and (3) *Shakespeare's Portrayal of the Moral Life*,<sup>3</sup> by Frank Chapman Sharp, Assistant Professor of Philosophy in the University of Wisconsin.

The last-named work will receive more detailed consideration in *The Monist*, as it is rather of a scientific than a literary character, laying special emphasis on its treatment of Shakespeare's criminals,—a subject which it presents in the light of modern criminal psychology.

Professor Sherman's work is a practical book written "in order to aid those who would be glad to read Shakespeare and like authors more confidently and completely." And he approaches his task, in our opinion, in the right spirit and with the right method, giving a running analysis of several plays of the type of *Cymbeline* (supposed to accompany the reading of the play) and studying in later chapters more general topics. It is a book for persons taking up Shakespeare with the serious purpose of learning to read his works with enjoyment, and of deriving from them the full intellectual and literary profit which they are capable of imparting. Vast as the sale and distribution of Shakespeare's works are, knowledge

<sup>1</sup> With One Hundred Illustrations, including Nine Photogravures. New York: The Macmillan Co. Pp., 421. Price, \$3.50 net.

<sup>2</sup> New York: The Macmillan Co. Pp., 414. Price, \$1.50, net.

<sup>3</sup> New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Pp., 232. Price, \$1.25, net.