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EDITORIAL

CHINA'S AWAKENING.

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STEP by step, during the last twelve months, and every step taken in conscious or unconscious obedience to the canons that sociology decrees, the Chinese people have emerged from the thicket of autocracy to the clearing of constitutional government.

As the British revolutionists of the XVIIth century first seized Parliament; as the French revolutionists of the XVIII century first seized captured the Third Estate; as the Revolutionary Fathers of this country first elected themselves to the Continental Congress;—so did the revolutionary people of China first secure their Tzu Cheng Yuan, a Provisional Parliament in which they formulated, and under the shield of which they gathered the physical power wherewith to cause their demands to be heeded.

Nor is the Revolution of China likely to halt on that road.

As the Pym and Hampdens of the revolutionary parliament in England gathered appetite for “demands” in the measure that the throne made “concessions,” until the throne itself was swallowed up; as the Robespierres and Mirabeaus of the French Third Estate pulled all the harder in the measure that the “Ancien Regime” yielded, until, in that tug-of-war the “Ancien Regime” was pulled down prone; as the Adamses and Patrick Henrys of the Colonies’ revolutionary Congress gained in revolutionary spirit in the exact ratio to their successes, until the Declaration of Independence was issued;—so also, ten to one, will the horizon of the Yuan-Shi-Kais broaden with every surrender from the Dragon throne until the Manchu symbol of autocracy is stamped out.

It is a path, which, once stepped upon, leads and pulls onward to its logical consequences, and on which indefinitely to “rest arms” is not feasible. The first step is but the prelude to all the rest.

As in Great Britain, as in France, as in Germany, as in the United States, as everywhere else in civilization, the revolutions of the previous revolutionary generation were but portals for the oncoming Socialist Revolution to march through, so also may it be confidently expected that the present revolution in China, bourgeois tho' that revolution is and need must be, is the raising of the portals for the awakening proletariat of China to thread, and, merging with their fellows the proletariat of the world, join in the overthrow of the last vestige of Class Rule on earth, and rear in their own country, according to their own genius, the Socialist or Industrial Republic, the sister of the Socialist or Industrial Republics of all other climes and peoples.

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