

THE CHINESE TREATY.

The new treaty just signed between the United States and China, though it contains no single stipulation of very great magnitude, is a remarkable evidence of the change in Chinese policy of which Mr. Burlingame is the herald. It recognizes in the fullest manner that China is a member of the family of nations, and entitled as such to all the respect and immunities in its dealings with the rest of the world which are accorded by the different powers of Christendom toward each other. It provides for the appointment of Chinese Consuls at foreign ports, and the admission of Chinese pupils to American schools and colleges, without religious or political tests. Whenever the Emperor may see fit to commence the construction of railroads, telegraphs, or other internal improvements, the United States will designate engineers, but our Government disclaims the right to interfere with the domestic administration of China in any way. American citizens in China shall enjoy freedom of religious worship, and shall have the privilege of maintaining schools in those cities of the Empire where they may reside. The right of voluntary emigration is explicitly declared, the Coolie trade is denounced, and there is an article recognizing the importance of a uniform standard of weights, measures, and coins. From this synopsis it will appear that the treaty is more important for what it indicates than for what it actually establishes. All the points embraced in it have been covered by separate treaties with different powers, and no privileges are accorded to the United States which have not already been granted to others. Commercial and special conventions will doubtless be made hereafter; the present instrument seems designed mainly to establish the place of China in the international confederation, and to ratify the various agreements which she has made with our representatives at one time or another.

One of the greatest difficulties in the way of satisfactory intercourse between China and the Western world, has been the difficulty of determining just how China was to stand in relation to the Outside Barbarians. But this treaty removes the obstacle entirely. It recognizes the equality and brotherhood of nations, and expresses the desire of China to enter into close commercial and diplomatic intercourse with the rest of the world. What results must follow from this wonderful revolution we need not stop to guess, but they can hardly fail to be magnificent.

It is gratifying to reflect that American common sense and fair dealing have brought about a change in the policy of the venerable Empire of the East, which Great Britain and the other European Powers failed to enforce by repeated wars. The treaty-powers extorted from China the privilege of trading at certain ports, of traveling through the interior, of sending embassies to Peking; but *The Saturday Review*, in a waspish article on Mr. Burlingame's mission, complains that the favors they secured with so much pains are gradually slipping through their fingers, and dreads that they may not be recovered without another war. The experience of the last few years, we should think, ought to have convinced even *The Saturday Review* that the bomb-shell policy is a bad one, and that if England wishes to emulate our success she must deal as honestly as we do. English statesmen, at any rate, see this, and will welcome the Embassy as heartily and cooperate with it as truly as our own Government is doing. The old-fashioned British way of entering a foreign kingdom, by cracking the skull of anybody who tried to bar the door, we trust has been finally abandoned. Lord Palmerston was its last great representative; and since his time parties have been agreed that, if they want favors which will not slip through their fingers, they must get them in the American fashion.