

dividing the empire lurks in the terms of their contracts. Various opinions have been expressed by able thinkers and writers as to the origin and purpose of the Boxer war, but of all that is known or conjectured it is reasonable to presume that England and Russia understood that China was forced by the logic of events to compel them to declare their intentions as to territorial dominion, or, in our vernacular, to "show their hands."

There can be very little doubt that Russia has long entertained designs toward the north of China, while England has sought to extend her influence in the south by annexing territory on the mainland.

China is a vast empire, and there is no excuse for her commercial isolation. It is true, also, that if she ever becomes fully identified with the development of the world's greatest good, it must be brought about by the indomitable spirit of those progressive countries that push into every nook and corner of the world that affords a foothold for commercial enterprise. To quicken Chinese trade and industry two million miles of railroad are necessary. This would require the surplus capital of the world, and produce an income to investments greater than all China's commerce with the outside world. But China is not slow to see the consequences to the empire of these operations, and resists the railroad schemes on the ground that all rights of way must necessarily invade the sacred precincts of her dead, who lie buried beneath every foot of imperial soil.

Germany, which only a few years ago obtained concessions in China, is openly aggressive, assuming that the European concert and the open door policy of America must eventually prevail.

The supreme question, however, is, what is China's policy now that the ball

has been opened? It has been generally supposed that she would endeavor to create dissensions by exciting the jealousies of the powers and thus break the force of the combined strength against her, in which case China would be able to dictate peace; but the fact that Earl Li, who was selected to negotiate peace at the end of the China-Japanese war, has also been accredited by the emperor to negotiate peace with the powers, discounts that theory, and if his credentials are recognized as valid, the main issue of the convention will be the integrity of the empire, which will prevail if the American policy is of any weight with Germany and Russia. In the meantime the allies hold the conquered territory. The outcome of the peace negotiations present grave questions for the consideration of our government, and it must be admitted that the failure to withdraw our army when the legations were relieved was as the hazard of a die.



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Mr. Ferguson entered the fourth class in '90, and from the time of his entrance was an energetic student. In the literary societies he was an energetic worker,