

protect our ground for Cricket and Tennis, and Football as you will admit cuts it up so dreadfully that it cannot recover.

I am, dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
HARRY J. SHARP.  
*Hon. Secretary.*

To E. C. PEARCE, Esq.  
Present.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—On reading the letters from the Secretary of the Recreation Club to Mr. E. G. Pearce in yesterday's issue I as well as many more were surprised at the way the letters were read at the general meeting held at the Municipal Board Room on Monday last. Mr. Sharp distinctly read that the Football players (or club) wanted three members on a committee of five and that they could not entertain such a thing. Certainly the letter of November 6th does not imply such. He also said that the committee had done their best for football and other winter sports; it certainly does not look so from his letter of November 17th.

When the Club was reformed it was distinctly said that all kinds of sports should be encouraged and at the time it started, it certainly looked as if such would be the case. It now seems that the committee are trying to make it a cricket or speciality club which will eventually cause it to become as popular as the old Athletic Club.

I am, etc.

A MEMBER.

2nd June.

### Poetry.

#### A TRIO OF TRIOLETS.

I.

Pretty one, pardon the theft,  
Don't be so angry, my dear;  
Think of how many I left!  
Pretty one, pardon the theft.  
Seemed of my senses bereft,  
Seeing your merry lips near;  
Pretty one, pardon the theft,  
Don't be so angry, my dear.

II.

Granted I stole it, my sweet;  
Why such a terrible pout?  
Useless I knew to entreat,  
So I just stole it, my sweet!  
Two pairs of gloves, I repeat,  
Sorry you're really put out;  
Granted I stole it, my sweet,  
Why such a terrible pout?

III.

Nay—I'll return it again.  
Give you my word, only one!  
No! Then it needs must remain;  
Nay, I'll return it again.  
Think how my conscience will pain!  
Think of the wrong I have done!  
Let me return it again.  
Give you my word—only one.

#### THE ASIAN MYSTERY: A CONTRAST

The foreign forces for the tea campaign  
Arrived, a doleful crew:  
They'd caught it passing hot in Mincing  
Lane,  
And things looked very blue:  
So one and all these dismal Chaaszes swore  
They never would buy rashly any more.  
Emboldened by this resolution good  
Their spirits rose apace,  
And as they stemmed the Yangtze's murky  
flood  
Each wore a cheerful face;  
Anon once more on Hankow's classic plain  
They stood, and lo! they were themselves  
again.

London steamers (lucky fates!)  
Loaded full at good old rates;  
London buyers eager, bold;  
Half the crop already sold.  
Sure such things can scarce be true  
In this dreary ninety-two!

"What's amiss in India, say?  
Is she yielding to Cathay?  
Or Ceylon has had a blow;  
Has 'red spider' laid her low?"  
Not at all; from those far shores  
Bull will get some twenty crores.

"Then the teas are doubtless fine,  
Strong and good, I may opine?"  
No, dear boy, they mostly are  
Smoky, weathery, rank with tar,  
Where these charming traits are missed,  
Stalks and dust complete the list.

"Prithee, then, expound to me  
This dark mystery of tea."  
Ah, my friend, I dare not try,  
Ask me further next July.  
Meantime we're alive, you bet;  
This old horse is not dead yet.

L.

Hankow, 27th May.

### Miscellaneous.

#### BANQUET AT TIENTSIN TO MR. TONG KING-SING.

At a banquet to Mr. Tong King-sing to celebrate his sixtieth year, given by the foreign residents at the Gordon Hall, Tientsin, on Saturday, 21st May, there were 70 guests, including about twelve of the Tong family, Li Ching-may representing his father the Viceroy, the Haikwan Taotai, Shêng, Taotai of Chefoo, Mr. Lo Fêng-loh, and Mr. Wang, manager of the China Merchants' Navigation Co. in Tientsin.

The guest of the evening, who appeared in much better health than for a considerable time past, occupied the centre of the table, supported on the right by Mr. Michie, Chairman of the Reception Committee, and on the left by Mr. Detring, Commissioner of Customs. The Hall was gorgeously decorated with embroideries, scrolls, plants, emblems and trophies of various kinds, and the tables were artistically arranged so that without crowding every one was placed within hearing of the Chair. The Town Band was in attendance and enlivened the proceedings throughout with excellent musical discourse.

The health of H.I.M., the Emperor of China "under whose protection we live in so much security and peace," and that of the Viceroy Li Hung chang, having been drunk,

Mr. Michie said: The occasion which brings us together to-day is as unique in its way as was that of the assembly of Chinese and foreigners which met in this Hall—fast becoming historical—three months ago. Then a representative number of foreign guests were united to celebrate the seventieth birthday of the most illustrious statesman in this empire, who had just been restored to health after an illness which sent a tremor of anxiety through the land, and who from his sick-bed directed the military operations which quelled what might, if not promptly checked, have grown into a formidable insurrection. To-day, the position is somewhat changed, for we are now the hosts who have invited a man no less distinguished in his own way, who has completed sixty years of a busy and honourable life. It takes all sorts to make a world, and commerce and industry are as essential to the welfare of a nation as statecraft or military science. The man who deserves honour is he who acts well his own part, whatever it may be. The gentleman whose birthday we celebrate has won his laurels in the productive field,

and it is as the type of a leader of commerce, as well as for his high qualities as a citizen and a friend that we desire to pay him homage.

I have called these two occasions unique because nothing of the kind has, so far as I am aware, ever taken place before. No Chinese Viceroy ever before invited a company of foreigners to share in his family and official rejoicings, nor have the foreign residents of any port of China ever before given a spontaneous ovation to any Chinese of the nature of the present one.

These two occasions therefore are worthy to become memorable as distinct steps towards that happy consummation when foreigners and Chinese will have grown into closer sympathy with each other. That the causes which keep the different races apart are, to a large extent, superficial, is evidenced by the fact that whenever circumstances call for a deeper penetration, we find that there is below the surface much human nature in us all. The cordiality which prevailed when His Excellency the Viceroy received his foreign friends in this Hall could not have been exceeded had we all belonged to one nationality, and I may venture to affirm that the feeling which has sprung up among the foreign residents of Tientsin within the last few days when mention began to be made of the sixtieth anniversary of Mr. Tong King-sing is a further proof that "one touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

Gentlemen, we have thought the present a fitting opportunity to express our sense of the merits of our honoured guest who from the time when he received lessons from that most excellent missionary, the late Dr. Brown—with whom it was my privilege to live on terms of intimacy many years afterwards in Yokohama—from those early days in the Morrison school in Hong-kong until the present moment, Tong King-sing has been in harness, and engaged in work that was of permanent service to his country. He has filled many posts and has never failed to reflect credit on every work he has undertaken.

I will not detain you with details which are better known to others than to myself, but proceed to read the address which I have had the great honour of being deputed to present to our worthy guest, and to which you will all have an opportunity of attaching your signatures. As regards this address which I hold in my hand I would, on behalf of those who are directly responsible for its contents, add but one word of preface. The address does not contain one word of empty eulogy; but rather its expressions come far short of what the occasion would have justified. To understand the achievements of such a man as Tong King-sing, one has first to make an experimental study of the difficulties which obstruct every enterprise in China, and we have only to reflect on the number of big schemes of reform, grandiloquent memorials and enterprises of great pith and moment whose currents have been turned awry, to see how the solid work of the successful pioneer of steam, mining and railroads in this country stands out in conspicuous relief.

These remarks were received with warm approbation by the company, as was the reading of the following

ADDRESS.

"We, the undersigned foreign residents of Tientsin, prompted by high appreciation of your personal worth and of the eminent services you have rendered to the cause of progress and of friendly intercourse between Chinese and Foreigners, avail ourselves of the auspicious occasion of your completing the cycle of sixty years to offer you our warmest congratulations.

Some of us have known you for many years and in various capacities, while others, having more recently made your acquaintance, know you only as the successful pioneer of steam, mining, and railway