

From Toronto "Week" of Oct 31. 96

EARL LI AT THE FAIR.



When Kwang-Sen, brother of the Sun and Moon and Emperor of Cathay, sent his great Chang on a roving commission, he could scarcely have anticipated the royal reception he was to meet from the Pale-faced Barbarians. In Ontario, Niagara Falls and the Toronto Exhibition of Arts, Agriculture and Amusements delighted him. At this fair the smiling mandarin was carried about in orthodox fashion in his chair, and many notables were introduced to him by Sir Henry Joly, representative of the Dominion. Each in turn was asked, through Lo Feng Luh the interpreter, the now famous question, how old are you? The railway train with his Excellency's parrots, coffin and baggage waited while the visit proceeded. It was here announced that Her Majesty had conferred Knighthood upon Li.

1

Kwang-Sen the Great, as He sat in state,
Said, "Li you're commissioned by Me;
To the land of the Pale-faces go,
See them smoke, eat their rice,
And how they drink their tea,
How the Pale-faces drink their tea."

Li Hung Chang, ambassador of Kwang,
To the lands far beyond the Yellow Sea.

2

Sir Li Hung Chang, that "grand old man,"
From China then came he,
With his yellow silk blouse
And his black pig tail queue,
That reached down to his knee,
From his shaven poll down to his knee.

Li Hung Chang, yellow mandarin,
In silk and satin robed, fair to see.

3

With a million of yen and three score men
All waiting on Chang, his tea
To stir, his pipe to fill
Who would not be Chang!
Celestial of high degree;
Earl, Knight and K. C. B.!

Li Hung Chang—mighty mandarin,
Earl, Knight and K. C. B.!!

4.

He viewed our fair from his Sedan chair,
 A whiff from his pipe puffed he,
 Then most child-like and bland,
 He smiled, shook each hand
 And asked, "How old may you be."
 "Pray tell me how old may you be."

Li Hung Chang, the grand old man,
 Said, pray tell me how old may you be.

5.

Sir Joly came, in the governor's name
 And saluted low did he,
 Wise Lo Feng Luh, in gown of blue,
 Stood by, chin-chinned to all,
 And merrily Chang laughed he;
 With Sirs Joly and Luh laughed he.

Li Hung Chang, the jolly mandarin,
 With Sirs Joly and Luh laughed he.

6.

Gay was the crowd, of the coffin and shroud
 In the baggage car, ne'er thought we,
 When the great mandarin
 Saw the elephants dance, and the ballet advance
 "This beats Chee-Foo Joss house," said he,
 "Old Confucius ain't in it" said he.

Li Hung Chang saw the pretty girls dance
 Said, "Luh ask them how old they may be."

7.

There is something I ween of that sunny sheen
 That ne'er forgot will be,
 And so God-speed to the Flowery land,
 We wave to the great Chinese,
 And pray "Au revoir may it be,
 Great Chang. "Au revoir may it be."

But Li Hung Chang, e'er you return to Kwang,
 Pray tell me how old may you be.

J. C. H.

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J. C. Hamilton

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