

CHAE KWOK YING.

The Chinese Minister to Washington.

HE RECEIVES THE KOWTOW.

A Salute to the Dragon Flag— Probable Change of Consuls.

"The Gaelic is coming in with the dragon flag flying at her foremast," announced Reporter Hyslop to the Merchants' Exchange about noon yesterday.

The same information went to the Custom-house. In short order the tug Collis was in readiness to take a select party of officials out to sea to meet the expected Chae Kwok Ying, Minister Extraordinary and Envoy Plenipotentiary from China to the United States, Spain and Peru. On board the tug were the Chinese Consul-General, Leong Hang Tsan, Consul Bee, Mr. King and Mr. Yin, attaches of the Chinese consulates of this city. John T. Fogarty, Deputy Collector of Port, represented Uncle Sam. The Collis met the incoming steamer outside the heads and the visiting party was taken on board.

They found their way to the cabin, where the august Mandarin Chae was found surrounded by a suit of thirty persons, including two of his "little foot" wives, and his fat and chubby son, aged 14 years. The Minister was not so handsome as the fancy of the visitor had painted him, but he is a bright eyed, nervous little man about 50 years old.

He does not speak English, but Mr. Fogarty did not know that. With his instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury he started in to address China's representative.

The Consul-General, thinking that the manuscript which Mr. Fogarty held in his hand was a lengthy prepared speech, gave a signal to his attendants and immediately all three of the representatives of the Emperor of China were prostrated at the feet of the Ministerial dignitary and violently bumping their heads on the floor. It



Chae Kwok Ying.

was only the customary "kowitz" that was due to his exalted station. Consul Bee stood passively by during the ceremony, but refused to bend the hinges of the knee.

When the Oriental penalty had been paid Colonel Bee grasped the hand of Minister Chae and gave it a warm shake. He retired in silence, when Mr. Fogarty renewed his attack with a Mall-dock dialect so pure and terse that it would have done the heart of a philologist good.

Chae looked puzzled but was polite. Mr. Fogarty looked stalwart but resolute. Consul Bee dug him in the ribs a couple of times and whispered "Come off; he don't talk English."

"Ah, that's all right," rejoined the Deputy Surveyor, "we'll fix him. Rickarts, where are you?"

"Right here," answered the gentlemanly interpreter for the customs.

"Explain to his Highness what I am about to say," said Fogarty. "Give it to him in the most epigrammatic Chinese lingo." The last remark was made aside.

Mr. Rickarts turned loose his batteries, but they were ineffectual. The Minister did not understand.

The situation was distressing for a few moments, when King Lee, the interpreter for the Minister, came to the rescue.

"Understand, gentlemen," he said, "the Minister speaks only Mandarin dialect, and therefore does not understand you. I will act as interpreter."

Mr. Fogarty breathed with more freedom and Consul Bee looked relieved.

It was then that the distinguished Chae was congratulated through Mr. Lee, and told that all his baggage would pass through the customs without an article being deiled by the hands of an inspector. This was done in obedience to instructions from the Secretary of the Interior to Collector Phelps. After Consul Bee had imparted his communication, things became less formal, and the whole party settled down to social converse, Mr. Chae expressing his regrets that he had not mastered the English tongue when he was yet a youth.

As the huge steamer glided in and passed down the bay, Alcatraz fired a royal salute, which was acknowledged by the dipping of the dragon flag on the Gaelic.

When the steamer got abreast of the Pacific Mall dock there were fifteen carriages containing notable Chinese subjects who were in waiting to extend greetings to the new arrivals. They boarded the vessel as soon as she docked, and many of them joined in lunch with the Minister—at least all of those who were capable of conversing in the Mandarin dialect.

While at lunch a CHRONICLE reporter was presented, and was graciously received by the Minister, whom he proceeded to interview with the aid of the interpreter.

"Is your home Government satisfied with the recent restriction acts passed by the Congress of the United States?"

"That is a question that does not disturb the Government at all, but it seems to affect the merchants and a certain business class," was the reply. "Though not speaking officially for the Imperial Government, I can safely



Landing of the Chinese Embassy.

say that it is my opinion that the measures are quite satisfactory. It does not approve of extensive migration to this country or any other."

"Will Consul-General Tsang be removed from office in consequence of the charges of malfeasance recently preferred against him by Hoek Hing?"

As the Consul-General was sitting not far away the interpreter laughed and said that he preferred not to put the question.

"Will there be an effort made to ma-

terially change the treaty relations existing between this country and China during the next year, as reported?" the reporter next asked.

"No; I think not. There may be some necessary alterations made in the treaty, but just what this will be I cannot tell."

In reply to other questions Chae said that his Government felt kindly disposed toward the United States, and would endeavor to open up a larger commerce. He expressed thanks for the aid that had been extended by Americans to the Chinese flood sufferers.

At the conclusion of the lunch Chae, his two wives and son, were escorted to a carriage by Consul Bee. The younger wife was very pretty and quite richly attired. Three other ladies of the party took another carriage, and all were conveyed to the Consulate, on Stockton street. The remainder of the suite took apartments at the Palace Hotel. The luggage filled three large trucks and an express wagon.

Mr. Bee informed the reporter that the Minister would relieve the consuls at Havana, Lima and San Francisco, and place some member of his legation in their places. The women of the party attracted much attention on the dock and were pronounced quite pretty by the crowd. Heretofore the Ministers to this country have come from Canton. Chae, however, is from the province of An Guay. He is a member of the Han Ling College and a distinguished scholar. This is the first time that he has ever stepped off Chinese territory. The party will remain here only a few days, and then proceed to Washington, D. C., where the Minister will be installed for three years. For twenty years Chae has been connected with the diplomatic service of his country, having been nearly all that time in the foreign office.

In honor of the arrival of the embassy the dragon flag was raised over the Palace Hotel, and will remain flying until after their departure.

It is generally believed that the charges against the Consul-General in this city will be made a matter of immediate investigation.