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YUNG WING A YALE MAN

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AFRAID TO TAKE THEM HOME

**He Becomes Prominent in Connection with Building
the Tien-Tsin and Ching Kiang Railroad.**

Yung Wing, whose name has appeared in the newspapers as the man who secured the concession of the Tien-Tsin and Ching Kiang Railroad, and who has just signed an agreement with an English syndicate for supplying \$5,000,000 to construct the line, is well known in the United States. He has spent much of his life here, and his American wife is now living with their two sons in Hartford. How all this came about involves the telling of a tale which is full of romance.

Years ago the Captain of an American clipper ship visited a missionary school while in China and was deeply impressed with the brightness of the children. He came back to this country full of enthusiasm for their future. He formed a project to bring several to this country and educate them. His friends encouraged him, and on his return to China, the three brightest pupils in this missionary school were, with the consent of their parents, brought to this country to be educated. Yung Wing was one of these. The children were taken into American families, where they received every care and attention. Wing went to Yale, was graduated, and took a post-graduate course. During his career in college he fell in love with the daughter of Prof. Kellogg of the Yale faculty, and she with him, but the race prejudice prevented a union at the time, and Yung Wing returned to China.

He spent twenty years in amassing a fortune and was soon looked upon as one of the most influential men in the country. He cast all his personal weight against England at the time of the opium war, and submitted a plan by which the trouble could be compromised so as to bring the opium trade to an end, but the proposition was rejected.

Yung Wing estimates the health of one-quarter of his countrymen has been undermined by the opium habit, and that 125,000,000 have been destroyed. He fought it with all his might, and the opium opposition societies organized in England were inspired by him.

Promoted Transportation.

The next thing he did was to rearrange the internal transportation system of China in order to give the steamer companies a monopoly of the rice traffic on the great canal, paying them a bonus, and enabling them to have a secure basis on which they could do business. This was the first great step toward placing the internal commerce of China on a satisfactory basis.

Yung Wing's great hobby, however, was to promote the education of Chinese young men abroad. He felt that China needed enlightenment, and men who could speak the language of the foreigners who did business with China were sadly wanting. Li Hung Chang saw the wisdom of all this, and helped the scheme along. The foreign educational work was undertaken, and 120 of the brightest boys in the school were sent to the United States. Yung Wing came with them as Educational Commissioner, and he was raised to the honor of a Chinese nobleman of the second rank. This was done in his case the first time without a Chinese competitive examination. The boys were placed in American families, and most of them occupy high stations at home today.

After he had been in this country two years Yung Wing was called to Washington as Associate Minister at the Chinese Embassy. He married Miss Kellogg, and this stirred up many enemies against him when it became known in China. It was argued there that he could not be both Associate Minister and Commissioner, and a new Commissioner was sent out, who represented the retroactive influences at work in his country.

The Boys Recalled.

The new man reported that the boys were forming American notions and habits and losing their devotion to China. He had the boys recalled, and that ended the educational project. The boys were supported by their families while here, who sent cargoes of tea to be sold in order to raise money.

Yung was recalled, but he did not dare to take the American wife who had brought him into such disfavor in his native country with him. He soon came to this to live, finding himself neglected and in disfavor at home, and made his residence in Hartford There he kept in touch with the progressive Chinese, and when the Japanese war began his opportunity came again. He was ordered back to China and was one of the Peace Commissioners appointed to meet the Marquis of

Ito of Japan. The Japanese objected to him on account of his rank, and Chang Ten Hoon, a nobleman of the first rank, took his place. Yung was then raised to the same grade.

The later developed the coal mining industry. He often expressed himself as desirous that all investments in China should be made by American capital, and that New York be made the half-way point in Chinese transactions with the Old World, believing then the day would come when New York would be the financial centre of the world.

Yung Wing represented his country at the Queen's Jubilee last year. He has been for years President of the Congregational Society of New England, and has a son in Yale the present time. W.O. McDowell of this city knows him intimately, their wives being cousins, and tells many incidents to illustrate his comprehensive mind and wonderful memory. He cares nothing for our political institutions, Mr. McDowell says, but the great problem he is trying to solve is how China can avail herself of the mechanical progress of the world.

Mr. McDowell wrote a treatise on the trade conditions of China at the suggestion of the late Samuel J. Tilden some years ago, and showed it to Yung Wing to get his criticism. The two documents afterward went to Levi P. Morton, who wrote to Mr. McDowell:

“In all my experience with public men I have never met such a masterly handling of the English language as is shown by Dr. Yung Wing.”