

[1882 Mar]

Hon. C. A. Arthur.

If you have leisure for such levity, how you must laugh at your out-of-the-world correspondent, who never hears of anything until a fortnight after it has happened, & then takes a week or two more before she can mail a letter scolding you on the subject. Ah, you would value those scoldings, if you only knew how inconvenient they are to her! But, in spite of her deafness, lameness, & other disadvantages, you admit - don't you? - that she is very often in the right. She certainly is in this, that whenever you make up your mind to the effort, you succeed in doing something excellent. Your Blatchford nomination was all that could be desired. But why not be good always,

first, instead of last? That preliminary plunge into naughtiness is so awfully human!

However, the thing weighing on my mind just now is that outrageous Chinese Bill. I am too far under ground to know whether it has passed both houses of Congress, or not — but if it does pass, please give ^{it} a most emphatic veto. A congress of ignorant school boys could not devise more idiotic legislation. It is not only behind the age, but behind several ages — not only opposed to the spirit of American institutions, but opposed to the spirit of civilization all the world over. If it becomes a law, it will place our country in a most absurd & contemptible position. What could be more absurd than that we, a civilized nation, should imitate now, what, twenty years

ago, we considered intolerable in our only half civilized? And what more contemptible than to bully so fiercely the meekest & most inoffensive of the hordes of foreigners who land on our shores? It is only because the Chinese are so peaceful, that the passage of such a bill seemed a possibility. The men who originated it, would not have dared propose such a measure against any country able to fight. It is mean & cowardly — more than that, it is a step back into barbarism. The only suitable retaliation the Chinese could make, would be for those here to form a conspiracy, burn Washington & cut your head off. They would be quite justified in it, with such an example before them. But it was hardly to be expected that the United States of America would take the lead in a march back to the Dark Ages! So

dont sign that bill, some evening
when you are half asleep, & find
out the next morning what
you have done. Take hold of it
when you are wide awake, & send
it back to Congress, with a
message that people will remem-
ber. You might recommend an
appropriation for a public school
in the District of Columbia,
where our honored Senators &
Representatives might go for an
hour or two a day to study
history & political sciences.
At all events do not let
your Administration be marked
by any such disgraceful retro-
grade movements.

Yours Sincerely,

J. I. S.

103 Circular st. [Julia I. Sand]
Saratoga Springs N.Y.

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