

student of to-day represents the future ruling class of China, and that the ideas he now imbibes will later be developed. The spirit of unrest is increased by secret societies, which have always existed in China and have now increased in numbers and power. Though primarily they may be organised against the Chinese Government of the day, still there is often the watchword of "China for the Chinese", which tends to an anti-foreign feeling. This, at times, may only require a few foolish actions by one or two irresponsible foreigners to fan the spark, and produce a local and totally unforeseen combustion which, once started, may easily spread.

Probably the two Provinces that are in the greatest state of chaos at the present time are Shensi and Szechwan. Both Provinces are torn by contending factions, especially Szechwan, which is hopelessly broken up into countless parties. Brigandage is rife in both, though the European traveller should have no difficulty if he takes the trouble to warn the officials of his proposed route, and uses an intelligent discrimination as to what routes are safe. The fever of gambling is probably more fully developed in Szechwan; but the chief difference between the two Provinces is that whilst the students were kept in subjection under the late Tu-chün of Shensi (Ch'en Shu-fan), the soldiers were more aggressive in that Province. Whilst I have had no trouble from the soldiers in Szechwan, I have found from all accounts that the students in it are far more troublesome.

Szechwan is indeed probably the most faction-split-up Province in China. With apparently no