

crown, a noble band, whom I admire, but among whom I have no wish to be enrolled as a member.

The state of chaos in China will not be improved until

- (1) The strong men get control, and combining together gradually put each Province in order ;
- (2) The students are kept in check ;
- (3) The soldiers are reduced to legitimate requirements and kept under a proper state of discipline, whilst brigands are relentlessly hunted down.

It is impossible to forecast what combinations of strong men will eventually bring back peace and prosperity to the country. I should like to see a combination of such men as Wu Pei-fu in the centre of China, Ch'en Shu-fan in Shensi, Ch'en Ching-mei at Canton and possibly Hsiung K'o-wu in Szechwan. Other Provinces, of which I have no recent experience, might be able to add to the number. These combined should be able to put an end to the effete puppets of the Peking Government, that visionary impossibility Sun Yat-sen and the wind-bag Wu T'ing fang of the Canton Government. As regards Chang Tso-lin, who rules supreme in Manchuria, I do not know whether he has improved and is a reformed character from what he was twelve or thirteen years ago, when I visited him. He had then recently retired from the leadership of the Hung-hu-tzu of his district, and had a reputation for cruelty. He disgusted me by bragging about a recent triumph over an