

The chief attraction was an arsenal recently set up here entirely by Chinamen, and managed by them alone, without any European guidance or supervision whatever. Here we found magazine rifles, gatling guns, and field-guns being turned out in creditable fashion. We called on the manager, who himself conducted us round the workshops. It was he who had started the place, and we were fairly astonished to find such a really creditable establishment in the heart of Manchuria, many hundreds of miles from the coast, and in a country where there were neither railways nor waterways, nor even good roads for the carriage of the heavy and delicate machinery. Mr. Sung, the manager, was very civil to us, and invited us to dinner, where we met some other officials of the place. Chinese dinners are generally elaborate, and this one was no exception. Course after course was served up, till we must have had between thirty and forty, including such delicacies as sea-slugs, sharks' fins, and bird's-nest soup. The Chinese are remarkably good cooks, and, though the dishes are often served in a way which is not palatable to Europeans, the actual cooking is excellent