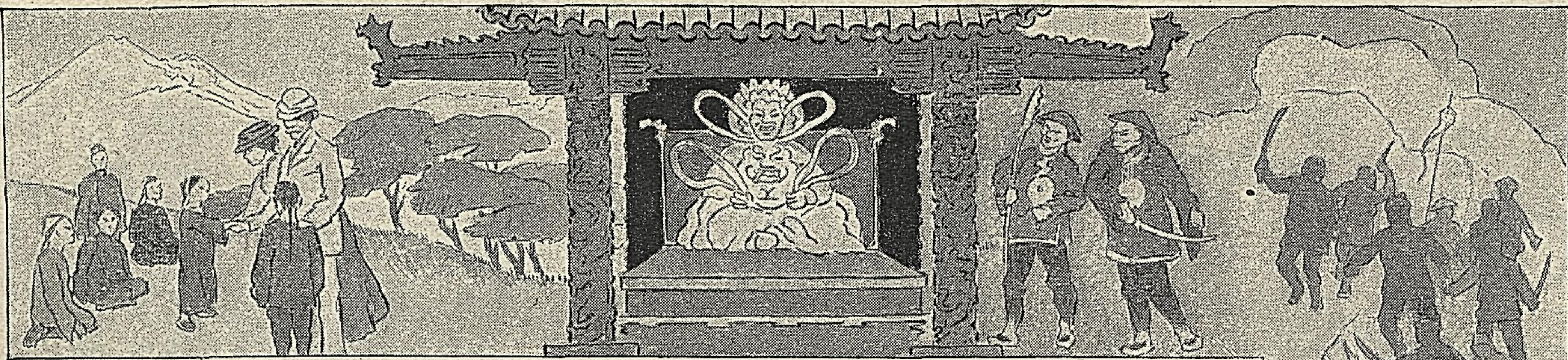
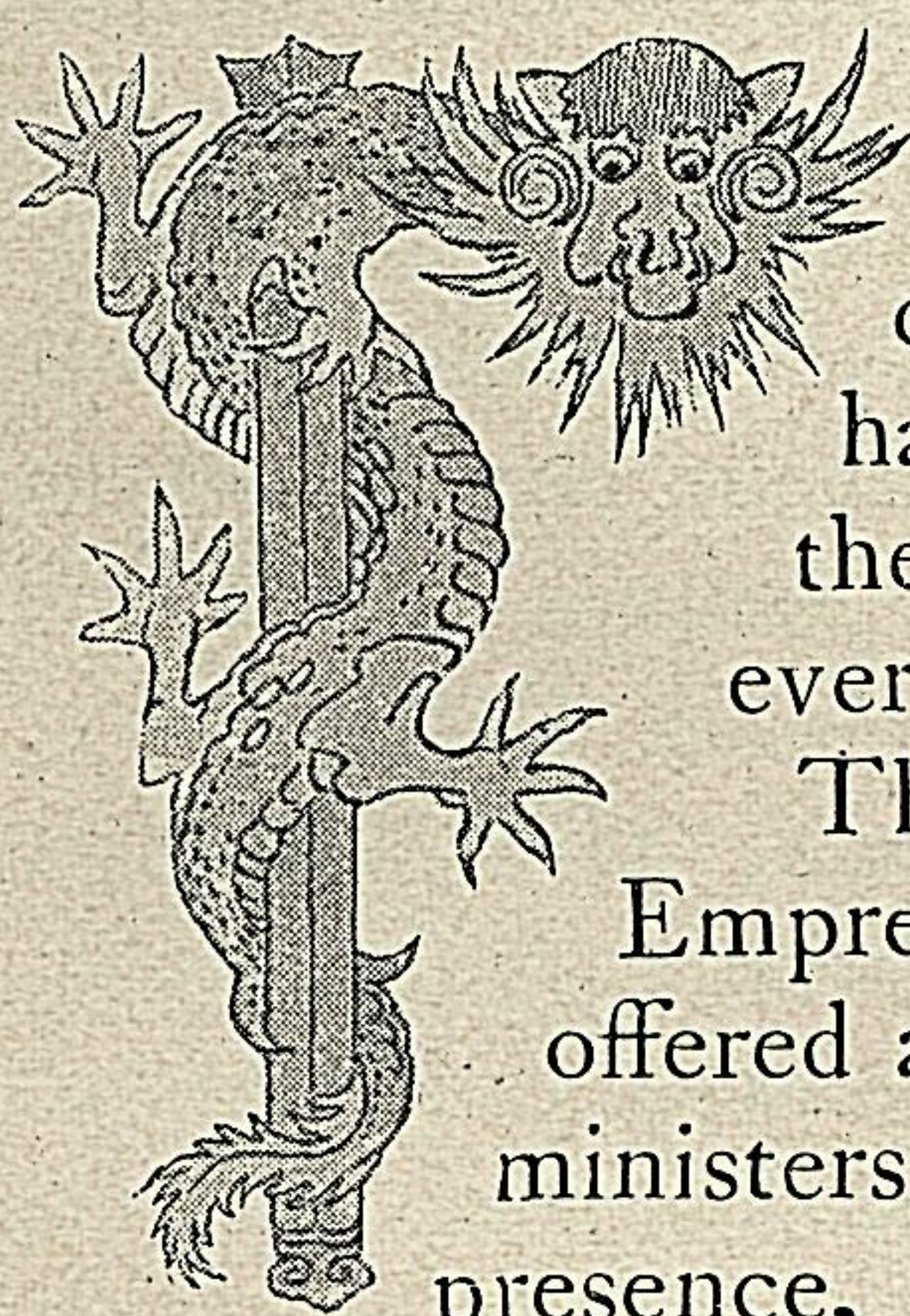




Peking.

By Chalmers Roberts.



MEDIÆVAL history tells how this state inflicted summary vengeance on the ambassador of that, but never, until Anno Domini 1900, has one government sought vengeance upon the entire world, by attempting to butcher *en masse* every foreign ambassador within its capital.

The world has long known Tsau Hsi, Dowager Empress of China, by her works. Truly, she has offered a crowning masterpiece for its inspection. Her ministers pretend they cannot bear the glory of her presence, and make their reports through a curtain; she thought to go a step further and direct the world. Instead, she has brought destruction upon her own people. This is as it was written by the ancient sage who prophesied: "China the Magnificent shall be destroyed by a woman." No doubt, before now this was interpreted to mean the usual woman who has a hand in every downfall. But when the armies of "foreign devils" paraded through the shrines and holy places of the Imperial Forbidden City, unveiling to the world its dilapidated glories, broken and decayed like the dynasty it sheltered; surely, oh, Tsau Hsi, when your people saw the whirlwind reaped, they knew whose hand had sown! Your tragedy has religion woven into its scenes. There may be some saving grace for you in that. For if ever the names of women are admitted to the Red Temples of Confucius, yours should blazon a tablet there. This must be your consolation, for your day is now forever done. China can be no longer ruled by an old woman behind a curtain.

It was easy for this tragedy queen, when the formerly docile "Son of Heaven" escaped from her control and inaugurated sweeping Occidental reforms, to trace the bitterly opposed zeal of the "Brother to the Sun and Moon" to foreign influence. This

