

Tae-ping  
Rebellion.

While endeavouring to defend herself against foreign aggression, China was torn by that most terrible civil war, the Tae-ping Rebellion, which broke out in 1850. This extraordinary movement had a semi-Christian origin, but it soon became political, and assumed the character of a patriotic effort to shake off the Tartar yoke. So widespread was the success of the Tae-pings that, but for British intervention, chances seemed almost in their favour; when in 1861-2 British and American officers were allowed to take command of the Imperial troops. Then the tide of fortune was turned, and Colonel Charles George Gordon, at the head of his "ever-victorious army," achieved extraordinary successes; but the scenes of horrible massacre and bloodshed rivalled those previously enacted by the Tae-pings,—horrors which roused Gordon's indignation, but which he was powerless to prevent. Thus the Civil War was suppressed; but those fifteen bloody and destructive years were not to be quickly forgotten, nor has the Tartar Government been unmindful of the aid afforded in its hour of need. In 1876 it agreed to throw open four new treaty ports, namely, Pakhoi, on the coast of Kwang-Tung; Wan-Chow, on the sea-coast,

between Fuh-Chow and Ningpo; the river-port of Wuhu, fifty-five miles above Nan-King on the lower Yang-tse; and I-Chang, about nine hundred miles inland on the same river. Four other ports were opened, including Hang-Chow and Soo-Chow, in 1895, after the completion of the war with Japan, making in all twenty-four great centres free to European commerce. From time to time in recent years