STORIES ABOUT LIFE IN AN AL-MOST UNKNOWN COUNTRY.

seted Many Able Chinese Story Tellers - Some Remarkable Accounts of Breage Deings in Chinese Writings.

A curious collection of facts respecting Thibet, as represented by various Chinese authors and travelers, has
been made by Mr. Woodville Rockhill,
who has himself explored that mysterious country of middle Asia.

On New Year's day at the capital city,

Lh'mm, there begins a season of festivity. One of the entertainments is called the "Spectacle of the Flying Spirits." The repense of the riving spirits performers stretch an enormously large rope made of hide all the way from the top to the bottom of Mount Potala; then they fasten grooved blocks of wood to their chests and sail down the line like so many swallows. On top of this same mountain dwells the pope of the Buddhist religion, who is called the tale lama. He is also the incarnation of the god which chiefly protects mankind.

On the 30th of the month there is an-

other great sport when the king of the sevils is driven away. A priest is chosen to play the part of the tale lama, and a colocted for his wit and activity, ales the role of the demon. The latter means his face with black and white mint, and goes before the pretended tale ama for the purpose of mocking him. The two have an argument on religion, the issue of which is finally referred by

mutual agreement to a cast of dice.

These dice are very big ones, about the size of apples, but the poor fiend has no show at all in the gamble, for his die is blank on every side, while the lama's has the highest number on each of its faces. In Thibet, as in Christian coun-tries, it is always laudable to defraud

Being beaten, the king of the devils is frightened and runs away, with all the people after him, firing guns and cannou, so that he is obliged to hide at length in a hole in the mountain, where provisions have previously been placed to feed him for a few days while he remains in concealment. There are nearly as many demons in Thibet as there are human inhabitants, and the priests or "lamas" are kept very busy exorcising them, because other wise they would swarm every-where and do no end of mischief.

POWER OF THE PRIESTS. If any one is sick or annoyed in any way the devils are responsible, and the only sensible thing is to go and hire a priest to frighten them off. For this purpose the lama reads aloud from the acred writings, blows a horn made from a human thigh bone, beats a drum manufactured out of two human skulls, rings a bell and tells over a resary of disk shaped beads cut out of human

The lamas also do a large business in fortune telling. Sometimes they ascer-tain the fates with barleycorns; at others they burn sheep bones for the same purpose or gaze into bowls of

According to one author there is a very astonishing curiosity in Thibet in the shape of a plant that flies. It resembles a dog in shape, is the color of a tortoise shell and is very tame. If lions or elephants see it they are frightened, "hence it is the king of beasts." There is a kind of black donkey which can cope in fight with the tiger. On the icy saks of the Himalayas, says this imagileed at the nose,

top of a hill, and a great hole full of are added? rhite clay that is good to eat. As fast se the clay is eaten more takes its place. Seltind the convent is a large lake, and evildoers who go near always tumble into it. The Thibetans used to cast Buddhas in copper, and the smaller they rere the more they were worth. POLITENESS IN THIBET.

Chinese philosophers say that manners differ every hundred li of distance, and Thibetans vary, but in most parts it is of politeness on meeting a person is to bold up the clasped hands and stick out the tongue. When a man dies one-half of his property goes to charity and the paper he had been perusing. The girl bit her lips and looked down at the gold band upon her ungloved hand.

At the next station I left th gets nothing.
One of the writers quoted observes

that in case of death the corpse is tied up with the head between the knees, in a stone mortar and made up with get the ring.

"Do wome" ods of burial are considered highly de-

For small misdemeanors men and women are stripped and beaten in the market place. Great criminals are bound with ropes and whipped with rawhide lashes. If this does not persuade them to avow their guilt boiling butter is poured on their chests. Supposing that they still protest their innocence, they are suffocated with water or splinters are driven under their nails. - Wash-

A Paris Candle Story.

"Every traveler who stops at a Paris lodging house," laughed a woman the other day, "has a candle story, and here is mine: We were served with two candles every morning, which we never half used up; these would be taken out, however, and fresh ones appear in their places. Knowing that we were being charged for every candle we determined at least to enjoy added illumination, and my husband looked around for a place to hide them during the daily doing up of the apartment. On the top shelf of a cabinet arrangement in a corner stood a large Japanese vase, wide and deep. Up to this Mr. —— climbed, to discover that we had been forestalled, for in its capacions hollow we found seventeen can dles, every one burned down perhaps an

"Some former lodger had resented the candle swindle like ourselves, and had put his daily allowance where it would do the proprietor no good. That night a brilliant illumination of nineteen candles, each set in its own grease on the marble top table, gave us something like light. During our stay we hid and accumulated candles, so that we had always enough to read by, and when we left we deposited our overstock in the vase for the benefit of some searching successor."—New York Times.

The Religious of China. The three great religions of China are fucius is at Mecca, for many of the Chities which we suppose to be exclusively

govern rule in a negative form was annuclated by Confucius, and as a system of morality it is beautiful. The Taouists about it."

The state religion, in connection with which all these religions come in, is the worship of the emperor, who is the son of heaven and the prophet, priest and king of the people. He worships for them in the temples at Pekin. When the great Temple of Heaven was burned down a shudder ran down the 300,000,000 mines of the great Chinese nation. It was smoon, the Germans for both the man spines of the great Chinese nation. It was thought that this was a warning from heaven that the emperor should be deposed.—Frank G. Carpenter in National posed.—Frank G. Carpenter in National Tribune.

"Ever since I was abroad," said a well mown New Yorker, "I have been pestered with all sorts of begging letters. They are mostly from the managers of English charitable institutions of various descriptions, though some are from private individuals. The former inclose a variety of printed matter illustrating the purposes and work of the institution. The latter are abject appeals of appar-ently professional begging letter writers, with which London abounds. I was talking with a friend about it and he said he had the same experience for about two years after he had built a fine

"Those people are the worst and most persistent beggars in the world. Fancy Londoners! I suppose there must be money in it or they wouldn't do it."—

New York Herald.

New York Herald.

Fragrant Wood.

our native trees have odoriferons wood like the sandal wood of the islands in the Indian ocean; but a few of the conifers on the Pacific slope have sweet scented woods. The fine church at Metlakatla, built by the civilized Indians of Alaska, is as fragrant as if incense was continually floating through
the air, from the wood of the great arbor
vitze (Thuja gigantea) of which it is
built. Libocedrus decurrens, found
the product of neglect of inciplent disease. A "slight" cold, a fit of infarther south, is known as "incense cedar" from its fragrance. The yellow cypress (Cupressus nutkaensis) and the

Different Sizes of Foot.

"Did you ask what would be considered a small foot?" said a pretty shop girl in a big establishment, as, kneeling before a customer, she defuly fitted on a The average is about 5; 7 is large, allow them to get up a full head of steam? though I have seen very nice looking Put on the brakes with the Bitters. feet that were 7's. I have one customer who wears 9's and another who wears pretty a bit; it looks so tottering. "—New recommend it to the enfeebled and sick.

York Tribune.

BUYING WEDDING RINGS.

Most Young People Are Very Matter of Fact When Choosing the Band. Just think of it! One jewelry store on the Bowery claims to sell over 400 wed-ding rings a year. And yet we hear the cry that "men are not marrying." If native writer, there is a "snow maggot," that "men are not marrying." If resembling the silkworm in appearance and weighing nearly a pound. It is excellent to eat, but too much of it will dispose of such a number within a year. what must the sales amount to when all wrecked any ordinary man forever, he Seventy it from Lh'asa is a convent on those that are supplied by other firms turns to an advertisement and comes out of it brighter than ever. His Surely somebody's getting married.

Down on the Bowery, near Grand street, there hangs a golden hoop large enough to marry all the brides on that side of town. It is hung above a jewelry store, and can be seen as well from the elevated road as from the sidewalk. It is altered to be sidewalk. It is altered t train that I first caught sight of it. A young country looking couple that sat customs are no longer the same every hear by also noticed the giantlike emblem hibstans vary, but in most parts it is per, "Oh, Willie, there's where we got usual for a woman going to see a priest our ring." But Willie didn't look until to smear her face with molasses. If the car had passed the store; then he the car had passed the store; then he this is not done it is said that she is try- raised his eyebrows a little and said, "I

of his property goes to charity and the visited the store where Willie had to the lamas. His family bought the ring. One of the salesmen said, in answer to a question, "There isn't as much sentiment in the business as one might suppose. By the time the happy couple arrive here they have got and suspended in a rawhide bag from beyond the blushing stage of heart the rafters. A few days later it is taken disease, and they buy the ring in the to the corpse cutter's place, where it is most matter of fact way. Sometimes tied to a post. The flesh is then cut off the man and woman come together, but the man and woman come together, but and given to dogs and the bones crushed usually the gentleman comes alone to

"Do women ever select and pay for to dogs and vultures. Both these meth- their own wedding rings? Not very often, although there was a lady here last week who did so. When a couple come in together the man picks out a Hallett & Co., Hox 880, Portland, Malue

have more superstitions than the Confucianists. They began about the same time as Confucius, their preacher being one Lace-Tsze.

"What size of ring is usually required." I asked. "In this part of the time as Confucius, their preacher being city," replied the practical salesman. "from six and a quarter to seven are the

Bowery ranges from eight to twenty-five dollars, the average price being ten or fifteen dollars. In style, the old fashioned plain round circle is generally pre-ferred, because it is as comfortable in the dishpan as in the drawing room, and the sentimental little wife need never take it off for fear of its being spoiled.

When asked how long it usually took to purchase a wedding ring, the salesman laughed and answered that in his fourteen years' experience it had never taken a couple longer than half an hour to select one, usually fen minutes. The woman seems to think it's best to hurry in the buying, or her escort's mind may change on the subject.

"We have never," said he, "had a ring his wealth got into the local papers. He was deluged with begging letters front almost every capital in Europe and especially from London.

"We have never," said he, "had a ring that was bought returned because the marriage didn't come off. Sometimes a gentleman orders a ring made that is too heavy for the slender finger that is to wear it, and then he brings it back and we take off some of the gold. Frequent-

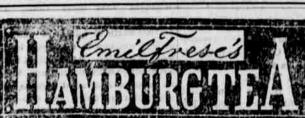
not promise to give them back the same old that they brought us," he answered Of course we send the article to b made over to the workmen, but it is thrown into the same crucible as all the other gold, and who knows after that which was 'grandma's ring' or the 'baby's spoon;' not we, surely."—New York Ad-bead Sea Fruits.

digestion, biliousness, or constipation each orany of these "minor allments" Monterey cypress (Cupressus macrocar advance in many cases with "lengue-ps) have also scented woods. In the At-destroying strides." Give them a advance in many cases with "leaguelantic states red cedar and arbor vitze swift, early defeat with Hostetter's have scented wood. -- Meehan's Monthly. Stomach Bitters and avert the danger Abernethy administered an alarming that he had "only a cold!" "Only a cold," repeated the doctor. "What would ye have-the plague!" Rheu-

pair of india rubbers. "Well, I should matism and la grippe are easily extincall No. 3 a small size, and 34 even. guishable at the start. Why then al-The genial warmth which this superb Quite a contrast, isn't it? The medicine diffuses through the system, smallest foot on a grown person I ever the impetus it gives to the circulation saw belongs to one of our customers; she of the blood, its soothing and strengthwears 13's, child's size, but it isn't ening effect upon the nervous, specially "T is the great specific for malaria.

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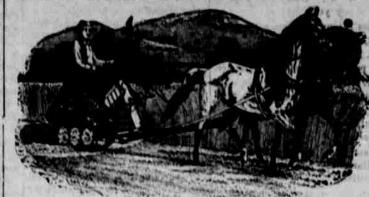
The bulk of the people are Buddhists rather than Confucianists, and there are millions of infidels. The tomb of Con-

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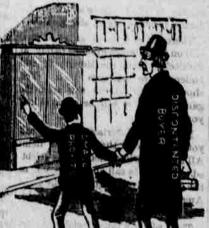
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