

of the lamp and rolls it on the bowl of the pipe until he has made it into a thin and hard cylinder. He then places it over the hole in the pipe, letting the end of the wire pass into the hole, and when secured in place he deftly withdraws the wire, leaving the opium attached to the bowl and surrounding the hole. He then stretches out at nearly full length, puts the end of the pipe into his mouth, and holding the bowl close to the lamp draws the flame inward with his breath, the smoke of the burning opium coming through the pipe and into his mouth, to be discharged through the nostrils. A pipeful is exhausted in about ten breaths, and then the process of rolling is repeated. Two or three pipefuls are sufficient to completely upset a novice, but an old smoker can stand ten times that number before being overcome. We watched the operation repeated several times, and then the stench became so sickening and the atmosphere so foul and unbreathable, that we hastened out into the fresh air with all the dispatch possible.

Our next visit was to a lodging house, which was simply a brick building cut up into innumerable small rooms, making a perfect labyrinth of passages, doors, apartments and stairways. Bunks of wood are arranged in tiers against the walls and partitions like the berths on a steamer, and upon these the lodgers stow themselves away for the night, a dozen of them occupying a room so small, so foul of atmosphere and so permeated with vile odors, that a white man would deem it an unendurable prison. When they can find such lodgings as these for ten cents a night, and can supply themselves with food during the day for ten cents more, it is no wonder they can save money on seventy-five cents a day. We saw one street merchant whose sole stock in trade consisted of a little table with folding legs, a small butcher knife and a water melon. The latter cost him twenty cents, and was cut into ten slices and retailed at five cents a slice. If he sold it all he cleared thirty cents by the operation, giving him enough for his board and lodging, and ten cents surplus, which he could save or gamble away as he saw fit. If business was good enough to call for two melons during the day his profits were proportionately larger. While we were watching him, two young Chinamen came up, and one of them, fishing a nickel out from the depths of his raiment, purchased a slice of melon and divided it with his companion. It was evidently his treat, and showed that the reckless liberality of the American displayed in the social custom of treating has its imitators among our heathen visitors. It is by Chinamen who saw wood, pick up rags, do odd jobs of work, keep these little tinkering corners and stands, and the gangs from the country, that the lodging houses are patronized. If one has been sufficiently provident to save up ten dollars, he can subsist at least two months without employment. This question of board and lodging is one the Chinese have reduced to its finest limit, but Caucasian civilization will never be satisfied to adopt their solution of the problem.

From the lodging house we were conducted to a gambling den. It was necessary first for our guides to send word to the proprietor that visitors were coming. Had the policemen undertaken to enter without giving warning that their visit was a friendly one, they would have found it a work of at least two hours to break in with sledges and axes. Opening directly from the street and running back to the interior of a brick building, was a narrow passage, through which we went in single file. At the street entrance stood two sentinels, or look-outs. A few feet inside was another whose duty it was to adjust a set of upright bars upon receiving a signal of danger from without. Beyond these were three thick, wooden doors, each guarded by a lusty Chinaman who was alert to close it and secure it with a heavy crossbar when an alarm was given. In making a raid the police would have to batter down all these obstructions, only to find, upon gaining the interior, that no gambling was in progress, but that a lot of Chinamen had assembled to engage in social conversation and to enjoy the discordant music of a native orchestra perched upon a diminutive gallery at one end of the room. Under such circumstances it is impossible to make a successful raid, and none is attempted. The police are permitted to enter at any time when assurance is given that their visit is of a friendly nature, and this promise is never violated. This freedom of access to gambling dens, opium joints and lodging houses is of great assistance to the officers when searching for criminals, and this mutual understanding between them and the proprietors saves the officers infinite trouble and annoyance and the proprietors the expense of replacing battered doors and fastenings.

Once inside, we were met by one of the managers, who courteously explained the mystery of the only game in progress. We found a long table surrounded by players and spectators, while others occupied a little gallery just above and dictated their play to friends below. Near either end of the table was marked a black square about ten inches on each side, while at one end sat the dealer. The latter took a handful of small pieces of metal and threw them into a heap in front of him, covering them with a bowl. The result of the game depended upon the number left in the pile after the others had been taken away in sets of four. The players made their bets by laying their money or checks at the corners of the squares, one corner representing one, the next two, the next three, and the last four. When all bets had been made the dealer lifted the bowl and began drawing the counters away from the pile in sets of four, using a stick and not touching them with his hand. His motions were keenly watched by the players, and as the pile diminished in size they set up a chattering like a cage of monkeys. By the time the heap was reduced to fifteen or twenty they could all tell just what the result would be. If the pile divided into even fours, those who bet on the fourth corner won and the others lost; if there was a remainder of three the third corner won; if two, the second, and if there was