

## CHINESE ODDITIES.

### THE EXCITEMENT CAUSED BY THE ADVENT OF A FOREIGNER.

Watching the Pale Faced Traveler at His Meal—Remarks of the Almond Eyed Bystanders—Hotels and Eating Houses—Beds and Furniture.

I called them "god humored, but a stranger would not think so, if he saw them for the first time. On the contrary, the state of things seems to be bordering on a riot. The amount of energy that lies latent in a Chinaman, waiting to be developed and manifested by a discussion of cash, is simply incalculable. As we coolly regard this throng of half dressed, yellow colored people, we see chance acquaintances who have run against one another for an hour, screaming their loudest, with distorted countenances and violent gesticulations, apparently threatening immediate death to those who differ from them. It seems incredible that the subject is of no more importance than whether a sack of potatoes or basket of fish shall be half a farthing more or less.

Imagine our coming suddenly into such a crowd in a short serge jacket and big sun hat, under which is a pale face and beard. If the place is one where foreigners are occasionally seen, they will look up, say "Hwan-ku" (foreign ghost), and after a few moments resume their employment as though we were not there. If, however, foreigners are almost unknown in those parts, we know perfectly well that we shall have no peace except such as we can secure by means of a little maneuvering. Sometimes the landlord appears pleased to receive us, but now and then he seems to think we take up too much room, with the crowd who stand round to look at us. It is very entertaining to observe how excited such a crowd often becomes by the advent of a foreigner, and how rapidly the news spreads to neighboring houses that a "foreign ghost" has arrived. Mine host stands and threatens terrible things, which he has not the smallest intention of carrying into execution. For half an hour he will shout and gesticulate, entreating the untutored crew to remember the proprieties and not crowd in so much upon the foreign gentleman.

### A FOREIGNER AT HIS MEAL.

The point of greatest interest is always reached when the traveler begins his meal. He has carried with him all he wants with the exception of rice, potatoes, hot water and one or two other things. The laying out of plates, knives and forks is a great mystery. Much questioning goes on as to the way of using them. They beg to know the reason why we prefer to employ a man to carry all our apparatus for dinner, instead of using their bowls and chop sticks. The spoon and fork, apparently made of solid silver, greatly astonishes them, and the traveler is ready enough to own that they are not silver at all. When we lift our food to our mouth, many hands move in a similar way, as they say quietly to one another, "Look! He is doing like this!" Standing so closely around on small table that we feel inconvenienced, we treat them to give us breathing room while we dine, and afterward we will talk to them. Many voices break forth with pleasure at our speaking to them. "The foreigner speaks our words," says one. "Yes, let him eat," says another. "Stand back, you man without propriety," says a third, whose zeal for good manners is evidently due only to his desire to secure a front place.

At such a time one is almost always questioned in the same way. The most trivial and ridiculous questions are asked. The inquiries they make of a foreigner are such as they commonly make among themselves. How far is it to your ancestral home? Are your venerable parents living? How many sons have you? Was your linen made in China or in England? How do you get it so white? How are marriages arranged among the foreign children? What is your income? A little mild banter is much appreciated by the crowd, but brings out a more rapid fusillade of questions. In the country places about Amoy I have been asked very frequently, "Where is the country where the people have one leg?—one arm?—one eye?—and where there are only women? Have you seen these lands? What the origin of these notions is it hard to say. Perhaps some Chinese Baron Munchausen or Dean Swift wrote a burlesque book of travels, which has in the course of time been accepted as authentic by a people who have for so many centuries stayed at home.

### INNS ON THE GREAT ROADS.

In China every traveler carries his bedding with him, in the daytime it helps to pack the cart, or is laid by way of saddle, upon the cart. The traveler may count himself fortunate if he can find in some Mutual Prosperity or Heavenly Union hotel a tolerable room in which to rest. On the great roads, and the recognized stages, the inns are pretty sure to be decent, but elsewhere they are often wretched.

In those of the better sort there is generally an eating house or tea shop on one side of the large door leading into the yard. The shop faces the street, and is connected with the cook house and private rooms of the landlord. At this end, too, are the rooms occupied by the carters and others. Passing through the great door, the visitor finds himself in a large unpaved yard with buildings all round it. On one side are, perhaps, six or eight guest rooms. Little boxes about twelve feet square, with paper in place of glass for windows, doors which do not fit, and through the openings of which wind and dust find their way.

A very nicely old chair and an equally decrepit table are the only furniture, the bed being simply a brick or mud platform filling nearly half the little room and raised about two feet from the floor. Underneath it is a fire, into which, in cold weather, dry grass or other fuel is pushed and fired, the heat and smoke passing in a zigzag line just under the surface of the couch, and finally escaping up a vent in the wall. Other fireplaces there is none, and if, as often happens, the chimney should be foul the warmed bed is but a poor compensation for smarting eyes and partial suffocation. But there are other rooms sometimes at the top of the yard, and it is always an object to secure them, as they are a trifle larger and cleaner and probably in better repair. The charges are moderate, from 100 to 200 cash per night—about 25 cents—with extras for food and gratuities to servants.

A Sister's Right. She—George, dear, I don't quite like the way you go on with Esther White. And she is as familiar as a sister would be. He—Yes, darling, that relationship was established last June at Saratoga.—New York Sun.

## TESTING DRINKING WATER.

### Unsatisfactory Results Which Are Sometimes Obtained—Remarkable Tests.

We are giving more and more attention to the purity of drinking water as it becomes more apparent that infection of almost every kind travels by water. It becomes of the highest importance to know whether the tests usually resorted to for the detection of organic impurities are trustworthy. If dangerous impurities slip past these tests, they afford no protection against the transmission of disease germs. The Sanitarian prints a paper by Dr. J. A. Tanner, of Boston, giving results of some of his experiments in this direction, which may almost be called startling.

Dr. Tanner declares boldly that the chemical processes relied upon for testing water are "as apt to condemn a good water as they are to commend it, and to commend an impure water when they should condemn it," and his statements go far to support his theory. For example, if 5 per cent. of milk or any beef extract be added to a gallon of distilled water the processes will condemn it as impure because it contains organic matter. Add a few million of disease germs to a gallon of distilled water and none of the processes will discover them, because the quantity of organic matter is not large enough. Yet the one mixture is entirely harmless, and the other, if we accept the germ theory, is dangerous. The combustion process relies upon the proportions found of carbon and nitrogen; the ammonia process upon the presence of free ammonia and albumoid ammonia; the permanganate process upon the amount of oxygen required to oxidize the organic matter. All of these tests are extremely delicate, and a slight inaccuracy is enough to cause an impure water to be rated as pure, or the opposite.

The fact that they disagree wildly in their results with the same water is enough to shake faith in all of them. Dr. Tanner shows this by reference to the investigation conducted by Professor J. Mallet for the national board of health some years ago, with which he was connected. Nineteen samples of natural water, believed from actual use to be wholesome, were examined by these processes. They agreed that ten were potable and three were not, but as to six, or one-third of the number, they disagreed totally. Then nineteen samples were taken of "natural waters which there seemed to be fair grounds for believing had actually caused disease." But only four of these were rejected as unwholesome, as to nine, or one-half, there was pronounced wholesome by all the processes. Then twenty samples were taken of natural water of doubtful but suspected character, and as to these the results were really more unfavorable than as to the waters known to be dangerous. The most remarkable of all the tests were with twenty samples of good water, to which were added various pollutants, such as sewage from various sources, black vomit and like offensive and poisonous substances. Only eight of these samples, less than half, were condemned by all the processes, as to nine the reports did not agree and three the processes actually concurred in pronouncing good. Water, to which enough of a weak mixed sewage from a large public sewer had been added to create, it was believed, serious danger of typhoid, was pronounced to be of "great organic purity" by two processes, and "good" by the third. A larger admixture of the same sewage, as much as 5 per cent. was pronounced of "medium" quality by two processes, and "bad" by only one. Even more striking examples could be given. Yet the same processes condemned as impure the lake and Drummond water from the dismal swamp which is in part the water supply of Portsmouth, Va., and the Cohite water of Boston, simply because of the presence of vegetable matter contributed by leaves, roots, etc.—New York Tribune.

### Mountain Climbing for Invalids.

Oertel has extended his advocacy of mountain climbing, as a curative agency, to other forms of heart disease besides such as are dependent upon or associated with corpulency—namely, to all forms of "weak heart," and also to valvular defects. For this purpose he prefers resorts surrounded by mountains, on the sides of which graduated walks, of increasing difficulty, and extending up to between three thousand and four thousand feet can be mapped out. "It is by no means a matter of indifference how you walk up these ascents. It is to be done in a strictly prescribed manner. The hills are to be ascended slowly, and the pace must be as even as possible, with no talking and no interruptions. This may not be attainable at first, but it is the end to be aimed at.

"Then the pace and the breathing must, in a sort of way, keep time; with one step the patient should make an inspiration and with the next an expiration; both acts should be equal and regular in length, neither longer nor shorter than the step. One foot is raised with the beginning of the inspiration and put down as it ends; the other foot makes its step, in the same manner, with the expiration. These precautions must be minutely observed, or palpitation and difficulty of breathing will be induced. The patient may lean on a stick, but he must not pause often in his walk; but he may rest for half an hour or an hour after the completion of one of the appointed tasks. The cure will be slow and gradual, requiring great patience, it should last from four to six weeks, and it may have to be repeated several times in the year."—Home Journal.

### The Car Chopping Wood.

The yachting party of the czar and his family has been quite an idyl. The imperial party picnicked on an island; a boat was filled with provisions and all requirements for a good lunch, but no attendants were allowed to land, the czar and his family having resolved to enjoy themselves as fresco and all alone. And they actually laid the cloth, lighted the fire and cooked the fish and made the tea themselves.

It must have been a grand sight to see the autocrat of all the Russias with his coat off, making up the fire. He owned afterward to having grown very tired over chopping the wood and being on his knees trying to make it burn up, the princesses came and had a blow at it, now and again, to encourage him, and the czarina busied herself meanwhile cutting the bread. Ah! how good it must have tasted, that luncheon on a little island all court, the strife of politics, the fear of conspiracies, and how both the parents and children alike must have been to leave it and realize that their summer holiday was nearly over!—London Modern Society.

There are 800,000 freight cars on the various railroad lines in the United States.

## WOMEN WHO SMUGGLE.

### TRICKS RESORTED TO BY THEM TO AVOID DISCOVERY.

Swindling the Government Considered an Act of No Special Harm—An Astor Thing to Do—Curious Places of Concealment—Bribes.

It takes twenty very zealous and careful women of keen perception, great force of character and considerable nerve to keep Uncle Sam from fairly being cheated out of his eyes by other women. Smuggling is the way the latter do it, and do it well. Women like to smuggle, it would seem. They have an elastic conscience in the matter that really seems to tempt them to what is, of course, swindling the government, but to themselves an act of no special harm and of little consequence. Of course there is the genuine woman smuggler who knows just what she is doing, just what trouble she is liable to get into and what the result will be. It is business with her, and she considers it an ordinary business risk. But she is caught just as certainly as the other little woman is, who doesn't think it a special harm just to save a little by tucking away a few pairs of gloves which only make her leg a bit plumper, if they don't slip down and give her a queer shaped ankle, or filling her corset with some rare and dainty lace, that if purchased here would cost a pocketful of money on account of the duty.

Women are far more wary than men in smuggling, and their devices for bringing in goods of a dutiable nature are many. It is usually the case that the inspectress can tell by the face and contour of the person. As a general rule, the woman who has goods hid away will look the searcher of her luggage calmly in the face, seldom turning away, and if the searcher politely informs her that she thinks that she has dutiable goods on her person, she will, of course be greatly insulted and invite a careful examination. She gets it, and a little trouble in the bargain. The self assurance that a woman smuggler has is of such great quantity that it will lead her to do the most absurd and foolhardy deeds, whereas, if she had less, perhaps she would not rely so much upon her carrying her through, and would, therefore, be more careful. The bustle is a godsend to the woman who wants to smuggle. They are made large and roomy, are of iron framework, and in them may be safely carried yards of the most valuable goods.

The most absurd thing for a woman to do who has goods hid about her person is to wear a heavy skirt, and it is too warm for one. She will have to use to remove it when graciously asked if it is not a bit warm, and such refusal of course results in a necessary investigation on the part of the inspectress. The manners of the woman smuggler are always very charming, and therefore it is in such a kindly way that they inform the tired inspectress that she is really tired and needs a little rest, therefore need not examine their trunks, as they will tell the inspectress what is in them and save her so much extra trouble. But she doesn't look at a light, and does inspect the trunks, much to the regret of the owner. These smugglers possess a quiet and careless air, but the inspectress can always tell them by the way they attempt to sit down. Their bodies then have a stiffness that is hardly in keeping with the manner in which they carry the head and arms, and of course they are immediately suspected of having goods concealed somewhere about their skirts. There are many curious places of concealment, and it can hardly be improbable that many thousand dollars' worth of dutiable goods are brought through by smart tricks. For instance, diamonds and other precious jewels have been brought over fastened in the front and in the plumes of the bonnet. They are generally wrapped in black cotton and securely fastened in such a manner that it would be necessary to take the hat apart to find them. The heel of the shoe is another queer but secure place where jewels have been carried. The heel is false, having a hollow place in the center, where, packed in cotton, the gems rest safely.

Sometimes a woman is found with lace wrapped around her form. Yard after yard of it is thus securely carried until the eye of the inspectress looks with suspicion upon the peculiar shape of the wearer and she examines her. In the bustle have been found coils of tag, filled with all sorts of odds and ends, such as silks, gloves, hat frames, yards or rather hundreds of yards of ribbon, stockings and everything dear to the eye of the female. To a lean woman the curvatures in their corsets offer a snug resting place for quite a number of dutiable goods that can be carried safer than almost anywhere else. One woman was found with lace curtains pinned under her dress, taking the place of her usual underskirts. Silk has been found worn in the same manner, and ribbon has been wound around the legs and body until yard upon yard was concealed. When a discovery is made the woman smuggler of course attempts a bribe, but the amount is absurd, always very much smaller than a man would for a minute think of offering. A woman will offer the inspectress \$1 and consider it a big amount. Ten dollars would break them all up. A man's bribe is hardly ever less than \$10, and frequently as high as \$50. The women inspectors will accept no such favors, however. When a woman is suspected the inspectress informs the suspect of the necessity of undergoing inspection, and she is requested to go to her "stateroom." Then she is ordered to remove her outer garments, then the bustle, and, if the inspectress considers it necessary to go further, she removes the remainder of her clothing.

It is said that a good deal of solid information regarding smugglers is furnished by many dressmakers. During the season these dressmakers send their forewomen abroad to purchase goods. They keep their eyes open, know all the women who go abroad to buy goods in the hope of evading duty on them, and send the information straight to New York. Another source of information is the stewards and stewardesses on the big steamship lines. They receive a percentage on all goods seized, and they will most remorselessly disclose the names of passengers who are smugglers. They almost always know.—New York Star.

### Limits to His Ambition.

Bobby was ill. "Mamma," he asked wearily one day, "will I get well again?" "Yes, darling," replied the mother; "you will soon be well again and grow up to be a big man."

Silence of one minute. "Mamma," he asked earnestly, "will I be a big man like Uncle Dick?" "Yes, my dear," he continued thoughtfully, "I'd rather die."—Binghamton Republican.

## WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

Should any one ask your opinion about the Histo-genetic system of medicine, just answer boldly that it is no good. Should he ask you the reason why it is no good, tell him—just because. If this answer does not confound him by its profundity and his still persists, tell him that it is a new fangled idea. This will probably prove effective, as it bankrupted the first iron plow establishment. Should you fall in that, too, don't give up, but insist with the powerful argument that your grandmother never heard of it; that you can't see how mercury, arsenic, strychnine, etc., can be improved upon, and that the old schools of medicine must necessarily have exhausted all the stock of wisdom, and that there cannot possibly be anything left to learn. And if all your powerful arguments have failed to convince him of the reasonableness of your position—you have still one Parthian shot—tell him that you are simply astonished; that you thought him an intelligent man.

And still there are men—and women, too—upon whom such arguments have no effect, but they are thinking people who are willing to investigate before they form an opinion.

PHOENIX, A. T., July 30, 1891.  
Dr. J. Eugene Jordan, Seattle, Wash.—DEAR SIR: Having used your remedies in my family for more than two years with wonderful success, I feel that no other remedies can give satisfaction, and I enclose symptoms of my nephew's case for your consideration.  
FRANCIS A. CURTIS.

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BRANDRETH'S PILLS are sold in every drug and medicine store, either plain or sugar-coated.

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