VOL. XX, NO. 164

THE WHITE LILY.

A Traveler Talks of a Powerful Secret China Society.

The "White Lily Company," or as it is known in California, the "Six Companies," is without exception the most numerous and powerful secret organization in the world. It is esti-mated that its membership exceeds 2,000,000, and that it dominates and controls at least ten times that num-ber of people. Colonel Gay, a correspondent of the London Telegraph, who has recently spent more than a year in Chins, Siam, Borneo and other lands occupied by the Chinese, has acquired a large fund of interesting information concerning the Chin ese secret societies.

rue Wuite Lily society, as it is called," said Col. Gay, "exercises omnipotent power wherever the Chinese can be found. Its agents are every where where its slaves are at work, and there is no escape whatever from its vengeance when offended. No Chinaman can disobey its commandand live, for its officers are continually passing from place to place levying taxes and punishing violations of its

"What is the character of the White Lily society, and what Is required to constitute a member?"

Your 'Six Companies,' as you call them in California and Oregon, are but branches of the White Lily. It a secret league into which the European or American has never en It defies all laws except its own, and it disposes of life and property with the same despotic severity that the European himself may exer-There is one limit and one only, at which the White Lily is restrained. It has never been known to take the life of an American or an Englishman. Its agents frequently kill or destroy the property of other nationalities, but, strange as it may seem, this Chinese company of organ-ized thugs and firebugs respect the lives of the British and the Ameri-

"Are the foreigners in Siam or China much annoyed by the White Lily or-

ganization "Yes. They have to be very careful lest they publicly offend one of its members. No matter how poor the laborer, if he is a 'White Lily' his person must be respected as sacred from abuse or violence. I remember an instance in Siam where the White Lily holds despotic sway over the Siamese as well as the Chinese. A French capitalist named Bonneville had a large snw mill near Bang-Kok, the Siamese capital, where he was engaged in getting out teak for ship-building. Bouneville once kicked a building. Bonneville once kicked a Chinese laborer, a member of the 'White Lily.' The Chinese laborer said nothing, but at noon they all marched out, after announcing that they would not return. Before leaving the mill they destroyed all the saws and machinery, and notified Bonneville that he must leave within twelve hours or die. He left at once and his mill was destroyed. Another instance of the same character: A German struck a native and his house was burned. I could relate many instances illustrating the power of this great Chinese secret society "Is there no way of controlling or

breaking its power?"
"I know of only one remedy. It was tried successfully by Sir Fred-erick Weld, the British governor of Singapore. The government rents out the privilege of collecting cus-toms duties to the highest bidder, as it is impossible for the Europeans to prevent smuggling. About two years ago the rich corporation or ring which had held this privilege was overbid by a Chinaman, not a member of the 'White Lily.' The former holders of this privilege then engaged in wholesale smuggling, and was fast ruining the purchaser of the right to collect custom dues on imports. Sir Fred-erick Weld sent for the three rich merchants of the 'White Lily' organization. They came in their car-riages, attended by Malay servants in livery, and were graciously received by the governor. He took them to the window, and pointing to a Brit-ish warship lying before the town with steam up, said:

"You see that steamer. I want

you to go direct from this room to that vessel, which will take you to your own country, Canton.'
"The Chinese merchants turned

pale with horror and fright, for the penalty of abandoning Chinese citienship is death and confiscation in China, and these merchant-smugglers had been naturalized at Singa-pore. They fell down and begged piteously. They asked to be permitted to go home and see their families and give certain necessary business business orders. But no; Sir Frederick Weld was inexorable. The Chiefs of the White Lily were driven in their own carriages to the wharf, and one hour later were on their way to Canton. On their arrival there were seized by the Imperial officers and executed for a violation of the laws of the empire."
"What effect did it have upon the

Chinese in Singapore?"
"It spread terror in their ranks For several days afterways the Chinese flocked to the British headquarters begging for licenses for par-don. The papers contained hundreds of published cards of penitence and allegiance, and from that day the power of the 'White Lily' was broken in Singapore."

"It is said that the British, by their

arrogant display of force in China, have on ated great prejudice against

"It is to the presence of British cannon that all foreigners owe their safety. Take away the British gunboats and every foreigner would have to leave. Why, sir, it is only a very short time ago that the Chinese man-darin or governor of one of the south-ern provinces declared that the laying of the submarine cable between Hong of the submarine cable between Hong Kong and England could not be per-mitted; in fact, that it was impossi-ble that a telegraph cable should be laid across one of the Chinese rivers and landed upon Celestial soil. The British minister sent for the ironclad Cutrassier, which anchored in front

of the governor's palace with its sixteen steel guns pointed shoreward. The captain of the Cuirassier sent word to the Chinese governor that there would be no difficulty whetever in laying the cable. The cable was leid and landed the day following."
"So you are of the opinion that the
British policy of force in China is the

"Yes; it is the only policy the Chinese government can be made to respect. The British, since they sacked and looted Peking, the Chinese capital, and the imperial summer palace have always been treated with respect and, as the Americans are united with the English in the treaty parts, they are treated as British subjects, and as one and the same nation."

Lincoln's "Cash" Stockings.

Abraham Lincoln, while a resident of New Salem, Ills., followed various vocations. With all the rest, he was storekeeper and postmaster. certain occasion one of his friends having learned that an agent of the postoffice department and a drummer were in the village—the former to collect what was due the government from Lincoln as postmaster, and the latter to receive from him as trader what he was owing the firm repre sented by himself-and knowing Lin-coln was never over-burdened with spare funds, went to the store and offered to lend him a sum sufficient to meet the claims he was so soon to be called upon to settle. "You are very kind," said Lincoln, "but I do not think I shall require your assistance."
Within a few minutes the agent entered their presence, and Lincoln took an old stocking from a drawer, from which he poured a lot of copper and silver coin, the latter mostly in pieces of a small denomination. "There is the very money I have taken on account of the postoffice, he remarked to the agent, "and I think you will find it the exact amount due you." It was to a cent. The business had hardly been concluded when in came the drummer. Lincoln had re-course to another old stocking, with a similar result. So soon as the two were again by themselves, the friend said: "I suppose, were a third cred-itor to present himself, a third stocking would enable you to settle with him (smiling)." "Yes," returned the future president. "Look here," and he held up three other stockings. "In each of these is the sum I severally owe to three parties, the only persons in the world to whom I am pecuniarily indebted. I see you are amused at my method of transacting business. I never allow myself to use money that is not mine, however sorely pressed. I may be, and I intend to be prepared to pay my bills when they become due without delay or inconvenience to those whom I owe. The simple system which I have adopted -using a stocking to represent each creditor, and placing the money to be passed to the creditor himself at some future day—renders the f possible."-Indianapolis Sentinel.

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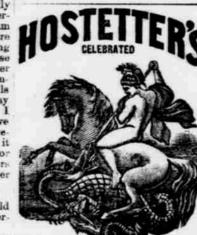
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