

ALL THE WAY FROM CHINA

A Chinese Barber and Tailor in New York.

Methods of These Enterprising Foreigners.

"Wong Chin Foo" in a letter from New York in the Chicago News says: At 22 Mott street is the only Chinese barber in New York. He rejoices in the name of Ti Chow and in the possession of a lucrative business. His little shop is filled the week long, but on Sundays and Mondays it is overcrowded with patient and long-waiting customers. For the Mongol knight of the razor is a far greater artist than his American cousin. He comes, indeed, very near to the barber of four centuries ago, who to tonsorial knowledge added skill as dentist, doctor, chiropodist, oculist, and surgeon. In China he has but low caste, receiving only 4 cents for a shave; and money in China measures things as well as in Wall street. Here he receives from 50 cents to \$1.

Chinese shaving is a slow process. The customer seats himself erect upon a stool, with the knowledge that an hour must pass before he is released. The barber opens the fire by carefully washing the victim's face, throat, head and ears with warm water, either plain or perfumed. He then begins shaving the head, beginning from over the right ear and moving toward the right until the forehead and lower part of the back head are cleaned. He then passes to the face and afterward to the neck. The ears are then shaved and thoroughly cleaned. This is done by delicate instruments that in appearance suggest a dentist's implements. The face, neck, and head are then washed and rubbed until the skin assumes a healthy pink. The second part is somewhat like the Swedish movement-cure. The barber begins to turn and manipulate the head and neck until every cord and muscle has been stretched, pinched, and pulled. The shoulders, arms, and back are then pulled and pounded until the victim expresses a desire to stop; the queue is then unbraided, cleaned, combed and rubbed, and again braided and put in place. Occasionally the hands and feet are then washed and rubbed, and each toe and finger pulled until it cracks. They are then dried, perfumed and rubbed until the blood circulates in every capillary.

The operation is lengthy, but is heartily enjoyed. One word should be said for the razors. They are made of a fine manganese or chrome steel, have a very high temper, and are half-moon in shape. In hardness, elasticity, and temper they excel any razor turned out in Sheffield. When rusty, however, or badly stropped, they "pull" worse than anything known, and might be put in a curiosity shop with the thumb-screw and boot-leg of the middle ages.

At 11 Pell street is Lo Lyon, tailor and draper. He has long had the monopoly of supplying the moon-eyed with blouses, petticoats, and trousers, and has amassed a competence. He is a shrewd fellow, and, to prevent competition, has invariably refused to take apprentices no matter how large a bonus was offered for the privilege. He is sufficiently Americanized to use the last invention in sewing-machines, and also to charge 25 per cent more for the labor than when done by hand.

A Chinese tailor at work sits on a chair or stool behind a counter and never crosses his legs. He indulges in the latter luxury only when toil is over. In China they employ a goose in the shape of an arrow with a long handle; but here they have adopted the regular flatiron of the trade. The needle is the same as the European, but with a much longer eye to facilitate threading; the scissors are similar except that they change the handles so as to fit the fingers and parts of the hand that do the cutting. In regard to goods the Chinese use silk, woollens, linen and cotton. For silk they prefer their own manufacture; in woolen cloths the French brands are preferred, and next to them English broadcloths. Of cottons American goods are regarded as the best. In cost silk goods run from \$6 to \$9 a yard, so that a suit would cost from \$35 upward. The official suit of the secretary of the Chinese embassy was made by Lo Lyon and cost \$320. Ordinary suits for summer wear cost \$10 and \$12.

Tailors in Chinese society are classified with barbers and actors, and are

almost outcasts. The stigma of their trade is inheritable, and injures their children and grandchildren. To marry the daughter of a tailor in China is socially far worse than to wed that of a day laborer in this land. The origin of the prejudice appears to lie in the fact that ages ago in the flowery kingdom all tailoring was done by women. When a man got so low from dissipation and vice as to lose all caste he became a tailor in order to make a bare living. Although to-day the business is almost monopolized by men, the feeling remains, and the pay is about the same as when the trade sprang into being, their pay being but 250 "cash" a day.

Plantain Leaves for Snake Poison.

A Marlborough (N. Y.) letter to the New York Times says: Charles M. Purdy is one of the leading commission merchants in New York who handle the fruit products of the Hudson Valley. Mr. Purdy's residence is near Marlborough. About 80 years ago Mr. Purdy's mother, then a young woman, while rambling along the bank of the Hudson here, on what is now the Thomas T. Buckley estate, was bitten by a rattlesnake on the leg. The poison caused great pain and the limb was discolored very much, and the old settlers said that the only thing to do was to mount a fast horse and to ride to the Marlborough Mountain and coax an old Indian woman, who lived there then all alone in a cave, to come and cure her. This was done, and the life of Mrs. Purdy was saved through the medicine furnished by this old squaw. It is a simple remedy—a small cupful of the juice of the plantain weed, which is to be found along every road and in nearly every door yard in the country.

Mrs. Purdy gave these facts to the Times' correspondent for publication expressing the hope that inasmuch as the plantain juice undoubtedly saved the life of Mr. Purdy's mother the same service might be made available to others if publicity was given to the facts.

Inquiry made among farmers and country people generally elicited the information that plantain weed is used extensively for poulticing, to heal up running sores and to break up cases of chills and fever. Dr. A. H. Palmer, of this town, says that a handful of plantain leaves made into a cup of tea breaks up severe attacks of certain malarial disorders when other specifics fail. Old inhabitants say plantain leaves years ago were considered a sure cure for hydrophobia. Wood choppers on the Plattekill, Marlborough, and Shawangunk Mountains say that they have long known that plantain juice would prevent fatal results from the bite of a rattlesnake. Toads and other animals know the medicinal properties of the plantain weed. When bitten by a snake they invariably hop to where the specific can be found.

Marked Trout.

It is the custom of some of our fish commissioners to attach metal tags to liberated salmon, that when captured again, the growth of the fish may be noted. We once knew an angler who was in the habit of putting his mark on trout; but he did not use a metal tag. It was a rule with him to retain no trout that weighed less than one-half pound. When he landed one of less weight, he would carefully take it off the hook, mark it by biting off the upper portion of its tail fin, and throw it back into the water to grow. Sometimes he would catch these fish again after they had attained the proper size to find a place in his basket; and it was often a source of pleasure to him to receive a letter of thanks from some fellow-angler who had chanced to take one of the marked big fellows. One day this biter of trout's tails was driving along some eighteen miles from home, when he came to a bridge over a stream, and in passing saw a big trout rise. The next day, with his tackle, he drove back over those eighteen miles and tried for a rise. He found not a sign of trout. The next day he made the journey again, with a like result. The third day, nothing daunted, he drove out again. This time he pulled out a three-pound trout. The upper half of its tail fin was gone; and our friend has always believed that it was one of his marked trout.—Forest and Stream.

There are twelve thousand French voters in Maine.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

A farmer of Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, cut three sheaves of wheat during harvest, thrashed and cleaned the grain, which was at once ground into flour, then baked into cakes and eaten by the harvest hands, within ten minutes from the time the grain was standing in the field.

Cities are not rich. They are really desperately poor. It is the country that is rich; it is the barren sea that is wealthy. It is only out of the ground, or out of the ocean you can get new wealth. All the wealth of cities belongs to some one. The boundless and exhaustless wealth of the world is in the fields under the sod or under the waves of the sea.

The Mechanical World, of London says that the United States has the best machinery and tools in the world; and M. Lourdelot, who was recently sent over here by the French Minister of Commerce, says that the superiority of tools used here and the attention to details too often neglected in Europe are elements of danger to European industries.

Professor Stevenson, of the Smithsonian Institution, has gone with a party of explorers to the region of the cliff and cave dwellers to make a collection of relics and curiosities to be taken to the New Orleans Cotton Centennial Exposition. Explorations will be made in Arizona and New Mexico and will be conducted in part among villages never before visited.

In this country we farm as we like or as we can, being only subject to natural conditions and changes of weather. We grow our tobacco as we please. In Germany the farmer must observe certain regulations promulgated by the government. An equal distance between the plants and rows must be reserved and various other rules are enforced. In Great Britain the cultivation of tobacco is absolutely prohibited under any and all conditions.

A most remarkable show was recently held in Austria. It was an exhibition of noses. Eighty persons competed for the prize offered for the most extraordinary nasal protuberance in form, size and color. The jury decided that only three out of the whole could be admitted as competitors for the prize. It was finally adjudged to a competitor from Vienna, who is the proud and happy possessor of what is said to be a gigantic nose of deep violet blue.

Some professional baseball-players command higher salaries than many leading divines and educators; in fact, there are in every college men of fine attainments who are paid fifty per cent less for their scholarly services than some "pitchers" and "catchers" receive for work of the most ordinary sort. Just now good pitchers bring all the way from \$2,000 to \$4,000, catchers are scarce at \$3,000, infielders command as much, if not more, while very poor outfielders will bring \$2,000.

Dr. Ord, who has been engaged for two years in studying the death rate as occurring in people of various occupations, stated it recently as follows: He first numbered the persons engaged in eighty occupations in 1881. In 1882 and 1883 he noted their deaths excluding all who were under twenty-five and over sixty-five years. He chose 1000 as the average number of all the persons in all the occupations. This gives the deaths of people in hotel service at 2205; wine and spirit merchants, 1525; cabmen, 1482; butchers, 1170; lightermen, 1305; earthenware makers, 1742; file makers, 1662; cutters, 1309; medical men, 1122; farmers, 675; agricultural laborers, 653; gardeners, 559; clergymen, 556.

Never before, perhaps, in modern times, has the world rewarded those who amuse it with such social and material consideration as now. There are members of the theatrical and musical professions whose income exceeds that of the heads of the church, the law, or the army, and the average actor draws a salary larger than the income of the average member of any of the learned professions. In London especially he lives luxuriously, has his club, moves in high circles, drives his own phaeton, and, if he has performed

a military part, sticks a cockade in his servant's hat. Four or five actresses have, within the last two years, married noblemen or noblemen presumptive, and there can no longer be a doubt of the stage having lived down "the rebuke and reproach under which it formerly cowered," and London society is ready to receive an actor or actress, if only well talked about, without regard to any rumor of scandal, which would be fatal to the pretensions of a member of any other profession.

The average life of a railway car is ten years. It is estimated that there are 500,000 cars in the country; hence 50,000 a year must be built to keep up the supply. Three thousand feet of lumber for each car equals 150,000,000 feet a year. The ties for the 121,782 miles of track at 2,600 to the mile, which on the average last six years, requires 1,632,377,056 feet, board measure, every year. Thus, to keep a road-bed and cars in repair, to say nothing of new work, calls for 1,785,377,056 feet of wood, which is nearly one-fourth the entire output of the mills of the Northwest, and almost one-twelfth that of all the mills in the United States. When we add the vast amount used in building locomotives, depots, fences, cattle pens, etc., and on many roads as fuel, to say nothing of the forest fires kindled by sparks from the engines, we can see that the railroads make a heavy draft on our timbers.

A return is published by a Vienna journal with regard to the quantity of beer brewed in Europe last year. England, of course, comes first with 27,050 breweries and about 990,000,000 gallons, though Germany, with 25,902 breweries and 900,000,000 gallons, runs her close. These two countries are far ahead of all the others, the third being France, which has 3,000 breweries, as against only 2,094 in Austria and Hungary, though the quantity of beer brewed in France is only 157,500,000 gallons, as against 280,000,000 gallons brewed in Austria and Hungary. Belgium has 1,250 breweries, which produced last year 210,250,000 gallons, and then came Holland, with 500 breweries, producing 34,000,000 gallons; Russia, with 430 breweries, producing 68,000,000 gallons; Switzerland, with 423 breweries, producing 27,000,000 gallons; Norway, with 400 breweries, producing only 13,500,000 gallons; Denmark, with 250 breweries, producing 28,000,000 gallons; Sweden, with 220 breweries, producing 21,000,000 gallons, and Italy, with 150 breweries, producing 4,000,000 gallons.

Facial Freaks. We have it on the authority of Dr. Karl Muller that in his boyhood he knew a man who, Janus-like, had two totally different faces, one side laughing, and the other crying. "Naturally," he says, "I dreaded this strange double-face, with its one side smooth, plump, comely, like a girl's cheek; while the other was all scarred by the smallpox. This side of the face denoted churlishness, and while the other bore a smile, this boded mischief."

The same authority is also responsible for the following story: "I was once sitting in a cool underground saloon at Leipsic, while without people were ready to die from the heat, when a new guest entered and took a seat opposite to me. The sweat rolled in great drops down his face, and he was kept busy with his handkerchief, until at last he found relief in the exclamation, 'Fearfully hot!' I watched him attentively as he called for a cool drink, for I expected every moment he would fall from his chair in a fit of apoplexy. The man must have noticed that I was observing him, for he turned toward me suddenly, saying: 'I am a curic as sort of person, am I not?' 'Why?' I asked. 'Because I perspire only on my right side,' he responded. And so it was. His right cheek and the right half of his forehead were as hot as fire, while the left side of his face bore not a trace of perspiration. I had never seen the like, and in my astonishment was about to enter into conversation with him regarding this physiological phenomenon, when his neighbor on the left broke in with the remark: 'Then we are opposites and counterparts of each other, for I perspire only on the left side.' This, too, was the fact. So the pair took seats opposite each other, and shook hands like two men who had just found each other half.—Current.

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

There are over 1,500 Smiths employed by the government, 400 of whom are John Smiths. There are over 800 each Jones and Johnsons.

A horse which trots a mile in 2:10 goes at the rate of 27 9-13 miles per hour—nearly the speed of a railroad train.

The first circus in the United States showed at Newburyport, Mass., May 3, 1812. The managers were Italians, Cayetano & Co. Purdy Brown was the next, 1825.

There are only five genuine signatures of Shakespeare known to be in existence. One is in the London Library, the other in the British Museum, one attached to his will at Doctor's Commons, and two in possession of private collectors.

It is said that the Eastern prophet Mohammed was so fond of his favorite cat that, when he fell asleep on his robe one day, he cut off the sleeve rather than disturb the slumber of the cat, and it is said that to this day, almost every Mohammedan in those Eastern countries has a cat in his house which he loves and makes to share all his comforts.

During the tenth century persons accused of robbery were put to trial by a piece of barley bread, on which mass had been said, and if they could not swallow it they were declared guilty. Sometimes a slice of cheese was added to the bread. The bread was to be made of unleavened barley, and the cheese made of ewes' milk in the month of May.

Some of the favorite dishes in Elizabeth's time were curious enough. Seagulls were eaten. There were pickled goose with cloves and ginger, soused turkey boiled in white wine and vinegar and soaked for a month, and pear puddings, containing no peats, but made of cold fowl or turkey chopped up with flour, currants and eggs, and then fashioned into the form of pears and baked. The stalks of tulips cooked like peas, omelettes of mallow stalks, hartshorn jelly, pippins preserved in jelly, apple syrup and quince cheese were also among the delicacies of the age.

City vs. Country.

Put down in a judicial frame of mind, says an Exchange, the relative advantages of town and country, and strike a balance; your ledger page will read something like this: In the country, nature; in the city, human nature. In the country, quiet; in the city, activity. In the country, vegetation; in the city, emulation. In the country, leisure, but no advantages; in the city, advantages, but no leisure. In the country, danger of rusting out; in the city, certainty of wearing out. In the country, life sometimes wearisomely slow; in the city, life painfully fast. In the country you make friends, in the city acquaintances; in the country you know all but a few neighbors, in the city jostle against innumerable strangers; in the country you live in undress, in the city you are always on dress parade; in the country you rest, in the city you work; the country is God's Sabbath, the city man's week-day. The country is God-made, the city man-made; in the country are birds, in the city orchestras; in the country flowers, in the city dresses; in the country sunsets, in the city art collections; in the country stars, in the city gas-lights; strike your balance.

The English folk are wiser than the Americans; they live in the country and go to town; Americans live in town and go to the country. The rush of the age is toward. Rural life is at a discount. "Country cousins" are a pretty jest. "Countrified" is a term of reproach. Town and city populations are on the increase; rural homes on the decrease; and with them home-life. For homes are expensive luxuries in town; hotels, restaurants, boarding houses, flats, tenements, afford poor substitutes. We raise no protest against the tendency knowing it will be useless. We assure our country readers that they are better off than their envious city cousins. The country is the place to live in. The country makes men; the city uses them up.

The district around Galena, Kansas, is credited with being the largest zinc producing locality in the world. Last year 70,000 tons were mined.