

are some of those merchants whom I believe to be honest, and who would tell just what was the truth.

GIBSON.

REV. OTIS GIBSON, in charge of the missions of the Methodist Church here for eight years, formerly a resident in China for ten years, sworn and examined :

The translations of the two original contracts I recognize as my own work, and they are correct, as follows :—

Contracts binding prostitutes into slavery.

“ An agreement to assist the woman Ah Ho, because coming from China to San Francisco she became indebted to her mistress for passage. Ah Ho herself asks Mr. Yee-Kwan to advance for her \$630, for which Ah Ho distinctly agrees to give her body to Mr. Yee for service as a prostitute for a term of four years. “ There shall be no interest on the money. Ah Ho shall receive no wages. At the expiration of four years, Ah Ho shall be her own master. Mr. Yee-Kwan shall not hinder or trouble her. If Ah Ho runs away before her time is out her mistress shall find her and return her, and whatever expense is incurred in finding and returning her, Ah Ho shall pay.

“ On this day of the agreement, Ah Ho with her own hands, has received from Mr. Yee-Kwan \$630.

“ If Ah Ho shall be sick at any time for more than ten days, she shall make up by an extra month of service for any ten days sickness.

“ Now this agreement has proof. This paper received by Ah Ho is witness. “ TUNG CHEE.

“ Twelfth year, ninth month, fourteenth day.”

That would be about October, 1873. The agreement is supposed to be made here. One of these cases mentioned in this agreement was arrested, and tried by me. I would not know them now. One was sent to the mission house. The following is the other contract :—

“ An agreement to assist a young girl named Loi Yau. Because she became indebted to her mistress for passage, food &c., and has nothing to pay, she makes her body over to the woman Sep Sam, to serve as a prostitute to make out the sum of \$503.

“ The money shall draw no interest, and Loi Yau shall receive no wages. Loi Yau shall serve four and a half years.

“ On this day of agreement Loi Yau receives the sum of \$503, in her own hands. When the time is out Loi Yau may be her own master, and no man shall trouble her.

“ If she runs away before the time is out and any expense is incurred in catching, then Loi Yau must pay that expense.

“ If she is sick fifteen days or more, she shall make up one month for every fifteen days.

“ If Sep Sam should go back to China, then Loi Yau shall serve another party till her time is out.

“ If in such service she should be sick one hundred days or more, and cannot be cured, she may return to Sep Sam's place.

“ For a proof of this agreement this paper.

“ LOI YAU.

“ Dated second day, sixth month, of the present year.”

These papers bear their signatures in the shape of a mark. Sometimes they do not use the agreement. The girl has a copy of this paper and is supposed to keep it. She sometimes loses it, and has no redress.

Fuh Chau is in the province of Fuh Kien about half-way between Hong Kong and Shanghai. I lived among the Chinese, studied their language, and became conversant with the common people and with the merchants. For six months I was interpreter for the American Consul, and did all the business of the consulate, so that I came in contact with many officials and all classes of society, being able to converse with them in the Fuh Kien dialect of Fuh Chau, the leading dialect of the whole province, embracing

Chinese dialects.