

## II.

This Fund arose, they say—when Shanghai was in its splendor,—  
When each purse was crammed with cash, and each borrower found a  
lender;—  
And the merchants being cock-a-whoop, with successful speculation,  
Determined to indulge in some legitimate Recreation.

## III.

Then first they took a money-bag, and filled it full of coin,  
And did appoint a Treasurer, that none might it purloin;  
And this Treasurer swore a solemn oath,—“As I hope for my salvation,—  
I'll watch and ward, and strictly guard the ‘Fund for Recreation.’”

## IV.

When years rolled on, and each man sought amusement to his mind,  
And some went back to England, and some remained behind—  
In racquet, and in cricketing, some found a relaxation;  
But not a word was said or heard of the Fund for Recreation.

Then up and spoke a Briton bold—I cannot tell his name—  
Said he—“To waste this noble Fund, I hold it is a shame;  
So ponder well, and let each man, with due premeditation,  
Propound a scheme how to apply this Fund for Recreation.”

## VI.

Some said—“Let's build a theatre,” and some, “let's build a steeple;”  
And some proposed with partridges the paddy-fields to people,  
And some were for a racquet-court, and some for a railway station,  
While others wished to mend the roads!! with the “Fund for Recreation.”

## VII.

So next they called a meeting, and appointed a committee,  
And argued well the question, in orations wise and witty;  
But while they were engaged in this agreeable occupation,  
Somebody asked—“What has become of the Fund for Recreation?”

## VIII.

They went unto the Treasurer, and unto him did say, “sir—  
Where is the Fund which you did swear to guard and keep away, sir?”  
And the Treasurer said, with gracious smile, and without hesitation,  
“In the cellar of the ‘Club,’ you'll find the ‘Fund for Recreation.’”

## IX.

They went and searched the cellarage, with faces blithe and merry—  
But nothing did they find therein, except a butt of sherry;—  
And all their faces underwent portentous elongation,  
When the Treasurer said—“You here behold the Fund for Recreation!”

## X.

“I swore to keep the money-bag in confidence and trust,”  
“And you shall all acknowledge that my conduct has been just:”  
“I loaned the same, unto the ‘Club,’ for better preservation,  
“And in this good wine they did invest your ‘Fund for Recreation!’”

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