

reach of 'Sandal Collectors,' who use old sandals as fuel, lest they get blisters on their feet. Coolies are very superstitious about getting their heads wet by rain when on a journey, because they believe that each drop of rain produces a creature, the name of which rhymes with house!

"No chair or other coolie must dress standing on the bed, but must first descend to the floor before doing so. This is said to be one of the greatest offences a coolie can commit and is punished by the whole party refusing to proceed on their journey that day, and the whole of the men's expenses being charged to the transgressor. The reason given is that a man thus standing on the bed 'exalts himself above his fellows,' and betokens that robbers or some evil characters who 'oppress' their fellows, are lurking on the way."

The section on superstitions of the literary classes is so interesting that I quote nearly all of it.

"In most civilized countries superstitions are largely confined to the more ignorant classes of the people, and are not found among the educated, but in China the literati and gentry seem quite as superstitious as the common people; in fact, they are the leaders in many of the common superstitions, such as the 'feng-shui' and reverence for written characters.

"Every district city has one or more pagodas built by subscriptions from the gentry, to control the literary influences of the district. No mining operations may take place in certain districts for fear of disturbing the literary influences so precious to the superstitious gentry and scholars. In some cities no flour mills are allowed for the same reason.

"When we arrived at Kai-ting Fu in 1888, a fine white pagoda, which had only been built a few years previous, was being pulled down because the literary influence of the surrounding district had been disturbed by the Dragon, who was feeling uncomfortable by the excessive weight upon his body; the result being that no M.A. degrees had been obtained for several years. When the pagoda had been

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