

had had from a mother and two grown-up daughters. They were being oppressed by the husband and father, who is an opium smoker and gambler. The mother asked help in getting her daughters into service, as she wished them to earn money to take her back to China. There was no desire to enter the Home, as there would be no money in that. We succeeded in getting the eldest girl into a nice family, but the second or third day the father followed and obliged her to return home. Nothing of importance occurred till the last week in November, when the mother and three children came begging to be taken in, as the father was growing more abusive, threatening life, and planning to sell the two elder girls. One day the eldest was ill and lying down, she overheard a friend talking with the father and asking why he did not take Ah So (herself) and Tsoi Lin to Portland or San Francisco and sell them for \$1,000 or \$1,500 each, take the money and return to China in his old age? Ah So told her mother, and asked, "Why don't you arrange marriages for us, take the customary amounts paid, and go back yourself to China?" The mother is a woman of resolution, and determined to take the advice and outwit her husband and his friends. So that when they came to us seeking shelter, it was not only that a blunt knife and savage threats had been used to ensure obedience, but these plans had to be worked out. We saw their extremity, as well as heathen selfishness, and our opportunity. Miss Leake said, if we give you shelter till your two daughters are married, and you get ready to go back to China with your little boy of five years and nine-year-old daughter, you ought to give us guardianship papers for your little girl of seven. She gladly and at once assented. Mr. Gardner accompanied Miss Leake, the mother, eldest daughter and little boy to the lawyer's office, leaving Yuen Kei in the Home. Mr. Fell took most careful affidavits, taking the names and ages of all her children. He asked, as we had done, why the daughters of eleven and fourteen were not given to the Home? The mother replied, "They have been adopted by friends in Chinatown. They are kindly treated and happy. I do not wish to interfere with them. Again, if I should speak of such a thing, it would defeat my own escape." That could be easily understood. While they were away, waiting friends became most anxious lest the father should discover their absence and then thwart their purpose. But in a wonderfully short time the important steps had been taken, and they returned to their home, promising to come finally on the 6th of December at 7 p.m.

They were punctual. In the cover of darkness, with a haste that danger made imperative, they came, in detachments, with their three friends. Last of all, the mother and the idol of her heart appeared on the scene. Those who witnessed this incoming will never forget the hunted look upon the faces of all. As soon as seated, the mother's spent nerves gave way, and no wonder! Her five children about her, and the assurances and kind acts of her friends, soon restored calm, but could not banish the wretched expression, which lasted for weeks, but which had gradually worn away. She looks now much fairer and younger, and the little ones have lost the shrinking, frightened manner so painful to see at first. It was at the end of the first week, Carrie said, "Mamma, I so glad my week done. I not cross once!"

The family had not been with us many days before a strange Chinaman came to see if something could not be done for the fourteen-year-old daughter, who was fretting for her mother. He asked, "Is there no power?" We had many earnest conversations about it, but were told that, legally, under existing circumstances, we could do nothing unless the man allowed us entrance to his house, and she came willingly. Finally Miss Leake took Ah So, the eldest sister, and went through the narrow alleys and up the dark

stairs, knocked, and were bidden to come in. Dick's wife and Annie seemed pleased, and received them kindly. Dick was warned, and soon came home, but he cheerfully consented that Annie should visit her mother, on condition she should return in the evening. We felt much had been accomplished, and a pleasant evening had been spent when we bade her good night. We believed the mother and sisters who were so glad to see her, were persuading Annie to come and live with us. Afterwards Dick told us the father's clansmen were very angry with him for allowing Annie to come at all. While granting permission for us to visit her, we were not to come often, or have many see us, for fear of getting him into trouble. Never after could we get the poor child to express a wish to see her mother. When asked, she would reply, "No, no." Two or three weeks ago, two of the Chinese merchants came to see the mother, to tell her they were arranging a marriage for Annie—not to ask her consent, as we supposed, leaving the impression they were honorable men—but simply to get the exact day and hour of her birth, so that they might compare it with that of the intended bridegroom, and ascertain if the signs were lucky or unlucky, according to Chinese mythology. These proved favorable, and the influential clansmen, moved with compassion for the deserted father, left so desolate in his old age, determined to do their best. The intended bridegroom, though forty years old, the husband of two wives in China, an opium smoker and gambler, should have this interesting girl of fourteen for \$450. Her preferences were not to be considered for one moment. He is the book-keeper for one of the principal Chinese firms. The father consents, and that is enough. We were told Annie did not wish to marry this old man, she wished to be somebody's first wife. The mother was worrying, she was not willing this marriage should take place. We tried again to get the child to come and see her mother, but no. Dick came, and seemed to reassure the mother, promising not to give her to the father's clansmen. We grew suspicious of Dick, we thought the mother was fretting to see her daughter. We heard preparations for the marriage were going on, and we grew more burdened in spirit for her. But we talked and talked without seeing how we could accomplish anything more than an earnest warning. The lawyer told us that if we wished to serve a writ, Dick would be compelled to allow her to appear in court, and he would take our case for \$25, whereas others would have to pay at least \$100. We found by this time that Dick would not allow her to come to the Home, because, when there before, she was persuaded, rather coaxed, to leave him. The result of a lawsuit would only be for the magistrate to give the girl her choice, and we feared her ignorance, superstition and intimidation.

It was decided to go boldly to Dick's house and demand that the mother should see her child. There was difficulty in persuading the mother to go, she had many fears. Within half an hour of the party going, Mr. Gardner found out that the mother had told Annie the first and only evening she was in the Home, that she was not to come; that if at any future time she, herself, should ask her to do so, she should understand the mother did it to please Mr. Gardner, but she was not to come any way from Dick.

After learning this, he could understand her evasive answers to Mr. Chan's questions when he was pleading with her to go and talk with her child, and make her understand why we were so anxious for her. Then he was able to draw from her the confession, she would prefer Annie should remain with Dick till he should find a husband for her. But if he could not protect her from her father's clansmen, then she would like to have her in the Home. A day or two after, we were told the mother and Dick were demanding \$200 of the purchase-money, upon receipt of which they