

Western Civilization in China The soldiers of all nations now representing Western civilization in China have been so active in ransacking the houses of the mandarins and wealthy merchants, and in carrying off plunder therefrom, that the allied generals have "reached an agreement that there shall be no more looting." How the soldier sets to work to loot a conquered city is told in Kipling's *Barrack-Room Ballads*:

When from 'ouse to 'ouse you're 'untin' you must always work in pairs—
It 'alves the gain, but safer you will find—
For a single man gets bowled on them twisty wisty stairs,
An' a woman comes and clobb 'im from be'ind.
When you've turned 'em inside out, an' it seems beyond a doubt
As if there weren't enough to dust a flute
Before you sling your 'ook, at the 'ouse-to; s take a look,
For it's underneath the tiles they 'ide the loot.

As Tientsin was taken two months ago, we may safely infer from this tardy resolution of the European generals that their troops have been looting throughout the same period. It is not likely that there is a gilded Chinese god in all Peking left undefaced, as of this particular piece of loot Kipling says:

"'is eyes is very often precious stones."

European and American civilization may be modern, but their methods of waging war are disgracefully ancient.

Faithful unto Death. The story of a brave and self sacrificing deed of a San Francisco fireman, which is now being told in insurance journals on both sides of the Atlantic, makes refreshing reading after one has been saddened by the recital of the selfish, sordid behaviour of the crews of some tug-boats at the Hoboken fire. The *Coast Review* of San Francisco says of Sweeney, the fireman, who was faithful unto death in the performance of his duty:

"A cry for help rang out from a burning dwelling, and John Edward Sweeney, of Engine 29, dashed up the stairs through flame and smoke. There was not a moment's hesitation, though the increasing peril was sure and swift as death. Returning to the head of the stairs with the insensible form of a man in his arms, Sweeney found that retreat had been cut off in every direction except through consuming fire and suffocating smoke. The humane instincts and stout heart of the noble fellow, which had prompted him to spring to the aid of a perishing fellow-creature, at the peril of his own life, now urged him to grimly persevere to the fatal end. He did not drop his burden and leap to safety; but, generously shielding the face of the man with his own coat, he bore him down the tottering, blazing stairs. Staggering through the doorway, Sweeney threw the man into the street, and would himself have fallen back into the furnace had not willing hands seized him in time. Never did armed soldier do a braver deed. Our little world has rung with Sweeney's praise, height-

ened by the knowledge that he had previously saved a human life under similar dangerous circumstances. All the world admires a hero. Poor Sweeney was badly burned about the face and body, and had seemingly inhaled fire. He lingered in agony a brief time, and died amid the sincere regrets of a sympathizing people."

Man's Inhumanity to Man. It takes such tales of gallant conduct and splendid courage as that periodically recorded of brave men of every country in time of war and during periods of peace to reconcile us to occasional instances of the sordid spirit which animated the wretches referred to by the coroners' juries, which enquired into the deaths of the victims of the Hoboken dock fire.

Man's inhumanity to man surely never received a more deplorable illustration than that embodied in the following verdict: "That the loss of life would have been lessened if some of the tugboat employees in the neighborhood had devoted more time to saving life than to looking for gains by salvage."

An Expensive False Alarm. Hitherto, beyond the natural annoyance to our firemen, Montreal has not suffered serious loss by what our United States friends would call the "cussedness" of those who raise false alarms of fire. But late English papers record an occurrence showing the loss which may result even from an official call to an imaginary fire. The Sunderland Watch Committee were in session in the early part of this month, when a member thereof suggested testing the firemen with a false alarm. The telephone was resorted to, and the engines of the Sunderland Fire Brigade were, with admittedly creditable celerity, soon tearing along the streets to a reported fire at Walton's Hotel. A wheel of one of the engines caught in a tramway line, the engine collapsed, and will require more repairs than the entire test of preparedness on the part of the Sunderland brigade was worth.

Protection Against the Plague. The British Medical Journal, dealing with the possibility of the Port of London being invaded by the bubonic plague asks a few questions which it would not be out of place to echo for the benefit of our own Port of Montreal. The Journal named says: We are not inclined to cavil at the non-recognition of the disease. In our present state of knowledge it is only by the microscope and by bacteriological investigation that a suspected case can be proved. And as plague simulates almost any and every well-known disease, it would come to this, were an invasion of plague threatened, that even sick persons from our