

there are no means of testing. The power and extent of these secret organizations enable them to command a simultaneity of action throughout extended districts, and to inflict serious injury upon a community, while themselves not overtly violating any law so as to incur punishment. This was shown by extraordinary combinations in our Eastern possessions in 1856. And still later, to a small degree by the Chinese strike in Victoria in 1877, at the attempted enforcement of an unconstitutional Act passed by the Local Legislature directed against them.

They are so entirely ignorant, so incapable of understanding our system of government that they are naturally suspicious, and resort to this mode of protecting themselves when it is not required. Dangerous as is this element in their character, there is another which is worse, that is their disregard of truth where their feelings or passions are involved; and particularly in charges of a criminal nature, they care not what pain they inflict, or what they endure, so as their end be obtained. A striking illustration of this occurred on a criminal trial in the Supreme Court of British Columbia at the assizes in Victoria, a few years since. Some time previously a Chinaman had been found severely injured and beaten on one of the sidewalks of the city. He accused two other Chinamen of the offence, who were arrested, indicted and tried under the statute for inflicting grievous bodily harm, and by means of his evidence convicted and sent to the Penitentiary. The friends of the two convicts thereupon had the prosecutor indicted for perjury. On his trial for that offence the contention was that he had inflicted the injury upon himself, and had falsely charged the two Chinamen with doing it, in order that he might be avenged upon them for a former quarrel. A Chinese witness had sworn strongly to this effect. The learned Judge remarked: "It was difficult to believe a man would so severely injure himself, merely to have another punished." When the witness was leaving the stand he quietly drew a razor from his pocket, and in a moment slashed open his own head from back to front, leaving a great broad gash of five or six inches through his shaven crown from which the blood poured in a stream. The interpreter explained, that this was to convince the Court that a Chinaman did not mind what pain he inflicted on himself if he could have another punished on whom he had a wrong to avenge. When both parties are ready to go to that length, it is difficult in the administration of justice to know which to believe.

These two features of the Chinese character and habits are so objectionable that the utmost care is required to obviate the consequence. No doubt, this want of truth renders unsatisfactory the administration of justice in all matters of a criminal nature affecting them, while the knowledge that such power of combination exists creates a sense of insecurity, particularly as to the permanency of engagements for domestic service or the privacy of the household.

There is one thing, however, always to be remembered in dealing with natives of foreign countries; allowance must be made for different moral standards, dissimilar modes of thought and habits, entirely at variance with those to which we have been trained. The Christian religion, the institutions of the middle ages, the habits of freedom, the moral tone of the European races of the highest class, have tended to make truth an essential element in the characteristics of their people and descendants—recognized in the codes of society, in the rules of law, in the dealings of man with man and nation with nation. It is not so with the Asiatics: With them an adherence to truth, as we call it, is simply an admission of weakness. Whatever contributes to immediate success in the object they

Power of secret organization.

Combination in the East and at Victoria.
See *Tai Sing vs. McGuire*, Judgt. Sup. Court of British Columbia, Sept. 1878.

Want of Truth.

Chinese self-infliction.

Illustration.

Objectionable.

Allowance for different moral standards.