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A Frisco Hatchet Man
By Philip Verrill Mitchell.

A singular nose Ned Hummel's seemed to me, for he held it elevated oddly and the nostrils moved with a delicate mobility. "Old man," said he, still seeming in the air, "I smell opium."
"Oh," said I, quite relieved, "very likely."
"That smell, you know," said he, "reminds me a trifle of a deal I had in California."
"Does it?"
"Yes. Three years ago I had been a reporter on the San Francisco Chronicle a little more than 60 years. There I met a splendid lot of fellows, but the jolliest and liveliest crowd was composed of the boys of the internal revenue department, who did nothing at all but watch the Chinese opium thieves, smugglers and 'factories.' Their duty was to spy on these crafty devils and to raid their dens as often as suspicious required."
"All 'factories' you must understand, were illicit, for no one could afford to pay the exorbitant and purposely prohibitory tax or license which the government levied on all such concerns."
"Many a night we forced the door of some foul abode that reeked with the overpowering odor of the cooking 'dope'—a Chinese term for the ruddy resinous mass of tortuous corridors, for Chinatown is incomplete without a score of crooked passages, leading from every room of the slightest importance."
"In the midst of this career I met a Chinese interpreter, who told me an inside story which had escaped even the vigilant officers of the government. It was the story of a single Chinese merchant, also in shady business, who came from the Orient carrying a consignment of stuff, waxy-billed to the port, and when it was nearly sold, the drug king played a winning stroke and a 'double-cross,' in which, by seeming to play in the hands of the government, he really betrays their trust. The merchant, Ah Fong, and I brought their opium safely through. Ah Fong was powerless to complain to the government, being himself concerned, and, besides, he found it out too late. But he nursed his grievance."
"The interpreter told me the name of the ring, and asked me to keep it as secret. Later, when this same interpreter was seen in an overdose of opium—for he was sadly addicted to nights—in his 'joints'—I alone possessed a knowledge that extended behind the scenes."
"On a Sunday morning, months after my last official visit to Chinatown, I strayed along Dupont street, north, till I found myself in the quaint and many colored quarter of the yellow men."
"Rounding a corner, I looked below to Waverly place, and saw a crowd of whites and Chinese running into a pinched and filthy alley. Using all my wits and speed, I got to the front and saw what occasioned the gathering."
"Jammed in a corner at the bottom of a damp, squallid flight of steps, that led to a filthy and horrible basement, was the corpse of a Chinese man, doubled up, contorted, covered with blood. Not a sign of a struggle was there. The man had evidently been butchered by a hatchet man."
"Behind me suddenly I heard the voice of Bert Thomas. 'Here, Tommy!' I said, and pulled him bodily through the crowd."
"For a moment he looked in horror. 'My God!' he cried, 'Ah Fong!' No wonder he didn't come. His binders win!"
"Who is he?" I said.
"Why," said Tommy, "that man was in the office yesterday and agreed to lead us to the biggest factory he said on the coast. He didn't dare to give us the names, for the men might escape and later take their revenge on himself, and he couldn't describe the way to get there precisely."
"He said if they found him out informing, the highbinders would kill him sure and we knew they would. Well, he never came back; we thought him a regular liar, but this—this explains it—all—the highbinders win the trick. Poor old Fong!"
"Ah Fong," I said, "Ah Fong—seems to me I have heard that name before. Why, Tommy, wasn't he mixed up in a

Fashion Hint for Times Readers



FOR EVERYDAY WEAR.
The shirt is in walking length and the

JEALOUS FATHER MURDERED HIS DAUGHTERS

Hiram L. Badger, of Wakefield, Mass., Whose Wife is a Nova Scotian Commits a Terrible Crime.

Whatever the weather may be, the wear of such a practical suit can face the wearer comfortably, yet correctly, garbed.

OVERCOAT PRICES REDUCED

The warm weather of late Fall has kept the demand for overcoats far from brisk. We have too many on hand—and so to stimulate quick buying we have made.

Radical Reductions

Which will be sure to induce men of sense to select their Winter Back Coverings Now.

- Regular \$20 Overcoats, - Now Cut to \$16.00
Regular \$15 Overcoats, - Now Cut to \$12.00
Regular \$13.50 Overcoats, - Now Cut to \$10.80

SALE NOW IN PROGRESS A. GILMOUR CLOTHING AND TAILORING 68 KING STREET

BANK OF COMMERCE SHOWS A FINE YEAR

Earnings on Bank's Capital Are About 16 1/4 Per Cent.

The statement of the Canadian Bank of Commerce for the year ending Nov. 30th shows net profits for the year were \$1,677,882.74, compared with \$1,732,240.07 the previous year.

Dividends of 8 per cent have been paid during the year, and an additional \$1,000,000 has been made to the reserve account. The rest account is now \$800,000.

Let the GOLD DUST TWINS do your work

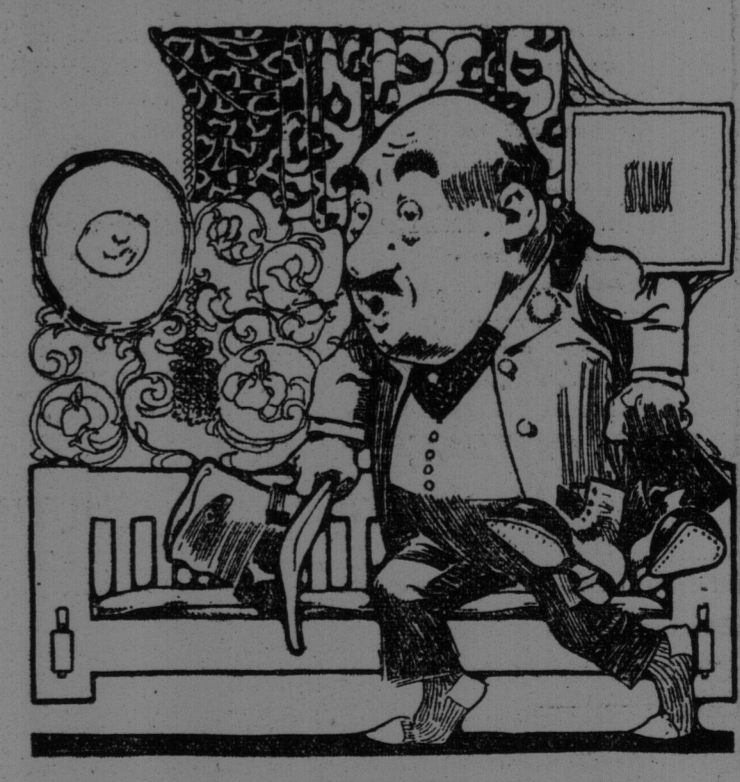


Gold Dust Saves Time Gold Dust Washing Powder GOLD DUST makes hard water soft.

GRAY'S Syrup of Red Spruce Gum

Protects Against Pneumonia Gray's Syrup breaks up a cold—helps to reduce the fever—and often prevents Pneumonia if taken in time.

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture



STILL COLDER. When the man gets home at 3 a. m. And meets his charming erstwhile bride, Though zero nags out of doors It's nothing to the frost inside.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS SMALL KIDNEY DISEASES CURABLE BY THIS REMEDY

When You Can't Sleep

There is many a man and woman tossing right after night upon a sleepless bed.

JEALOUS FATHER MURDERED HIS DAUGHTERS

Continuation of the story of Hiram L. Badger and his wife's murder of their daughters.

A CONVENIENT WAY TO GET RID OF A WITNESS

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 10—A Lockport, N. Y., special says: A strange sequel to the recent William Henry Harmon murder case comes in the finding of the body of John Burke, alias "Burt" and "Scott" in the hydraulic race-way below Depot Hill in this city.

CASTRO IS AT BORDEAUX

Bordeaux, Dec. 10—President Castro of Venezuela disembarked here today from the French steamer Guadalupe on which he sailed from Leguira Nov. 23.

THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN NEW YORK

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 10—Foot and mouth disease has appeared on the farm of the Bellona Bissell estate at North Ber- sen, Monroe county. Nineteen head of cattle and twenty hogs have been destroyed by government inspectors.

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That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of E. W. Greer. Used in World over to Cure a Cold in One Day.