

LIVING IN HONG KONG.

Victoria Peak, the highest point of land in the neighborhood, has upon its summit a flag-staff, a powerful telescope and a cannon. The cannon is fired upon the approach of the English, French and American mail steamers, and the guard in charge, by a system of signals to the town below, heralds the approach of every ship before she reaches her anchorage. The merchants are informed as to the character and nationality of the vessels while they are twenty miles away.

Upon our return from a visit to the Peak, we passed in the open country a portion of land where a Chinese was about to erect a house, and we stopped to witness the ceremony of "ohin chillina"—as the laborers had marked out the space the house was to occupy. A tray was brought and placed upon it; in the centre was a piece of boiled pork; upon one side a fish; upon the other a number of small cups, filled with a yellowish liquid made from rice, and called Samshu. A basket also was placed by the side of the tray, filled with pieces of silver gilt-paper; this was done to propitiate the deity and to secure themselves from harm during the erection of the house. After leaving the food exposed for a few hours they set to and eat it.

One of my servants being one day attacked by fever, I sent for a native physician, who after seeing the sufferer, asked him various questions, then calling for hot tea, dipped his fingers into it, kneaded the boy under the ribs, upon the back, chest, and stomach, nipping and dragging up the skin in the most approved Swedish style. After this he was covered with blankets, took a great quantity of pills, and a warm decoction of herbs. In about an hour perspiration broke out and relief was gained. The third day, the doctor came again, and went through the same process; the fever was beaten and returned not again. I was delighted with the effect, and inwardly resolved to employ Chinese doctors in fever cases; they believe, however, that the worst cases of sickness is caused by the departure of the soul from the body, and petitions are made to it to return; said petitions, however, being so noisy as to materially disturb the poor weak body panting in the last agony of dissolution.

The Chinese set bones, but have not the knowledge of the merest rudiments of surgery; no post-mortem examinations are ever made; and still they have a perfect knowledge of the bones of the human body. Learning is held in great esteem, although it is the male sex that is educated.

We owe to the Chinese some of the noblest triumphs in art and science; the discovery of the property of the magnet, the composition of gunpowder, the manufacture of silk, and the fabrication of paper; and yet the Chinese, for hundreds of years, have remained stationary. The question often arose in my mind why, having carried knowledge so far, grand truths should not have possessed the same charm for a Chinese mind as a European one. But everything is placed upon a utilitarian principle, and if obviously of no benefit, is not investigated for the love of knowledge for its own sake.

The story of the mandarin who was informed that the base of potash would burst into flame upon coming into contact with water is in point. The mandarin, asking "what was added to the comforts of life by this?" and when told "nothing," looked such contempt, that the scientist had not the courage to try the experiment.

The Chinese women among the higher classes are secluding, and their crippled feet render them incapable of much motion, the gait being uncertain and laborious. The feet are bandaged in infancy, the smaller toes being bent under the instep until only a shapeless stump remains upon the extremity of the leg.

Hang Yang, a merchant, who was a superior man, and to whom my husband had become quite attached, one day invited him to call at his house and take a meal, a great honor, and, finding it would be agreeable, included me in the invitation. He sent two "chairs" for us.

When we arrived we were ushered into the reception-room; there were raised chairs running around the sides, of beautiful bamboo, and many chairs standing at intervals about the room. Elegant little tables supported vases of beautiful porcelain, and hideous monsters of soapstone were in the corners.

A profusion of bows passed, and I was taken into an inner room; where sat Madame Hang Yang before a little box, filled with drawers, like the little Chinese cabinets. She had not quite completed her toilet arrangements, but bowed and smiled as I entered, pointing to a chair, and kept on with her operations, about which there is no secrecy. She was very good looking but was painted the thickest white I had ever seen—had her teeth stained black with beetle-nut—as is the custom when married. Her attendant hair-dresser, who had just finished her performance, stood by to take the little brushes from the hands of her mistress, and replace them in the drawers when she had finished. Her hair was jet black and very much greased, was plaited and rolled up in masses upon the back of her head, and stuck full of jeweled pins and flowers made of bright-colored paper, also silver and gold. She wore a gay flowered robe, with long hanging sleeves and her arms were adorned with bracelets of heavy gold. As she spoke no English, and I spoke no Chinese, we looked at each other in a smiling fashion, nodded and bowed.

We sat together at table upon settees of cane, and the two children were also at table, and

were as decorous in behavior as young people of twelve and fourteen years of age with us, much more so than many I have met. First, sweetmeats were brought, then hot wine, in lovely tiny porcelain cups; then cups of larger size, with a pinch of tea at the bottom of each, upon which hot water was poured, which is the way Chinese tea is always made; thus one gets the fine flavor and none of the bitterness; then boiled rice and some kind of food cut in mouthfuls. Chop-sticks were laid by each plate, and I find my husband was nearly as dexterous in their use as his host. I labored heavily with mine, and made many ineffectual attempts at spearing morsels swimming about in my plate, not daring to sit quiet, or decline anything for fear of being impolite.

There was a general air of high breeding and dignity displayed, that might well be the envy of American family dinner tables. Little squares of soft colored paper, edged with gilt, were placed by each plate as napkins. Lastly we finished with the famous bird's-nest soup. After the dinner, towels, dipped in hot water, were passed around upon trays, for us to wipe our mouths and hands upon. I must confess I longed also to wash my mouth, for, just previous to going, a kind English friend had told me that the Chinese were very fond of earth worms, and I imagined the dish of morsels swimming in gravy was concealed worms. Scraps of verses and proverbs were engraved upon the walls, and sheets of colored paper were hung in conspicuous positions, bearing various mottoes. Some were interpreted to me, such as the following: "We can do without the world, but we need a friend;" "Great wealth comes by destiny, moderate wealth by industry;" "Great minds have wills, others only wishes."

The houses were of one story, as are most of the Chinese houses, with no beauty but the elegant curve of the roof—a great profusion of carving; the rich color of the pillars and the cornices of the edifice gave it a fascinating grace and beauty of its own, however, which enchanted me. It was set in the midst of lonely grounds, filled with the most luxuriant foliage and gorgeous flowers. Then I first saw the mowchok, the most beautiful bamboo in the world; it attains its full height of sixty or eighty feet in the course of a few months, growing sometimes two feet in twenty-four hours; I wondered could it have been "Jonah's gourd of the Scriptures;" it is usually bare to the height of thirty feet from the ground, then, branching out into leaves, it is free from knots, and very fine in structure; it is slit into strips for ropes, made into boxes and baskets, and also used in inland work; when first appearing from the soil its tender shoots are cut and boiled like asparagus, which it much resembles.

The celebration of the new year is very noisy; bands go about in the Chinese quarter beating gongs, shouting and letting off crackers, and at night grand fireworks are sent up. We went to a Joss house one night, about two miles out, to see the sights; ten thousand crowding people were jostling each other within the edifice. It was decorated with the richest and rarest of silks and muslins; everything costly and rare was brought as offerings, and it was said to have cost a hundred thousand dollars; the heat was suffocating, the smell insufferable, the gorgeousness of the spectacle dazzling, but I could not stay. It was fearful, this surging crowd of coffee-colored men clothed in women's garments, with the long leering eyes; they filled me with a sick sensation of loathing disgust.

In the night, we were called up to see the burning of that very Joss house; the fire caught from one of the lanterns and spread like lightning; everything was destroyed, and the whole of Hong Kong was splendidly illuminated by it. It was a sad loss to the Chinese.

The Chinese are a grave, serious-looking people, but I think as full of fun as nations generally, and practical joking is greatly carried on among them. Some of the women are as great tergiversants as any to be found among their sex in this country, and many a Chinese lord knows by experience, very woful, the meaning of certain lectures. The strongest will in the matrimonial league seems to carry the day there, as with us, and the worst temper governs, whether male or female.

Women are not as differentially treated as with us, but they can upon occasions take their own part, and when China falls fully into the march of progress, may assert themselves and agitate the woman's right question.

The immense superiority which the Chinese claim over "outside barbarians," as they call other nations, is gradually being broken down, as unwillingly they are made to see the advances in the arts and sciences of other people.

SLOGANS OR WAR CRIES.

The war-cry may be traced up to the earliest ages amongst the most ancient people, and it seems, till a recent period, to have been almost universal. Sometimes the cry was of an invocatory nature for protection; at other times it was commemorative of some signal transaction; and in many cases it was a shout of allusion to a well-known place of rendezvous. The Irish, in all cases, used the interjection, aboo, along with their war cries, as Butler-aboo, Cromaboo, Leahm deag-aboo, and so forth. The Scotch Irish brought with them the ancient custom of war-cries, though they dismissed the affix aboo; and for a long period they used a general cry before the onset began, shouting with an allusion to their native country and their generic name, Albanich. After the Saxon tongue was introduced into North Britain, the war-cry was called the

slagan or slogan, from the word slag, signifying an alarm of war. The Highland chiefs were most tenacious of their war-cries. The chief of the Mackenzies had for his slogan, Tulloch-ard, or the high hill, the mountain particularly signified being one of the most lofty in Kintail, and being that on the summit of which a flaming beacon was shown when it was wished that the clan should gather. The chief of the numerous clan of the Grants had the war-cry of Craigalachie, or the rock of alarm, which rocky eminence is situated in the country of the Grants in Strathspay. The chief of the Macphersons had Craig-ubbe, or the black rock, from a small but well-known black rock in Badenoch, the country of the Macphersons. The chief of the Macdonalds had Craigh-Eithich, the rock of the raven. The chief of the Macfarlanes had Loch Sloy, a place in the district of Arrochar, at the head of Loch Lomond. The chief of the Macgregors had Ard Chiallich. The chief of the Buchanans had Clareinch, which is an island in Loch Lomond, where he anciently resided. The Lowland barons had likewise their slogans. The war-cry of the potent family of the Scotts of Buccleuch was Aleemoor, from its comendous situation in the midst of the clan. The cry of the retainers of the Earls of Home, was a Home, a Home; that of the Douglasses, a Douglas, a Douglas; and that of the house of Winton, a Seaton, a Seaton. The Maxwells had for their cry I bid you bide, Wardlaw, which is the hill above Caerlaverock Castle where the clan rendezvoused. The Johnstons, when they were the warders of the borders, assumed for their slogan, Light, thieves all, which was the command of the warden to alight from their horses, and submit to the law. During the change of customs, the ancient families converted their war-cries into mottoes, which they placed upon escrolls above their crests; as the Duke of Lennox, like the Duke of Loimster, assumed the war-cry of the family, "Avant Darnley," as an appropriate motto for their armorial crests.

A GREAT UNRECOGNIZED INVENTOR.

Under this heading the *Wool Bulletin* devotes a half column to the consideration of the marvelous advantages that have been conferred upon this country and the world in general by the mechanical duplication of parts, in the manufacture of machinery; an idea which, it alleges, is of American origin. The *Bulletin* says:

"The American manufacture of implements and smaller machines owes its superiority not only to a larger use of machinery tools, but to an idea more important in its results than any merely mechanical invention, and one which is unquestionably of American origin. This idea is the making each of the several parts of many different machines interchangeable. For instance, in making a lot of muskets, the manufacturer does not fabricate each musket separately, but he constructs each of the smallest pieces of ten thousand muskets, it may be, separately, and makes them so precisely alike that each will fit exactly any one of the ten thousand muskets. It is this system which makes it possible for a single factory of arms in this country to make more muskets in a day than can be made in all England in a month. It is this which enables us to supply all Europe with arms and to export sewing machines to all the European nations, notwithstanding the vastly higher cost of our labor. The name of the inventor of this, perhaps the greatest of all American inventions, but one which from its nature could not be secured by patent, is hardly known out of his own town; and the object of this note is to place it on record.

"We have received from Hon. C. C. Chaffee, of Springfield, formerly chairman of the Committee of Patents in the United States House of Representatives, the following note:

"Mr. Thomas Warner was master armorer at the time the musket, in all its parts, was made interchangeable. He is credited by his associates with the suggestions that led to the result. Out of this has grown all the enormous industry of the interchange of parts of sewing machines, watches, and indeed of all machinery composed of a large number of pieces; and, as you say, it was the 'greatest discovery of the age,' and like all great improvements it has been one of growth. Mr. Warner is now in his eightieth year, is hale and hearty, walks to the post office every pleasant day—three quarters of a mile—and is very justly proud of what he has done for machines."

We appreciate very highly the motive of our contemporary in his desire to render honor to whom honor is due; but regret that his statements are not supported by the facts of mechanical history.

Perhaps Mr. Warner, as boss of the armory, was the first to suggest, in that concern, the making of the parts of the musket interchangeable; but he most assuredly was not the first inventor or suggestor of that method in respect to the manufacture of machinery in general. It was unquestionably not of American origin. It was a common mechanical expedient in use in the old country before Warner was born, or the Springfield Armory thought of.

How entirely at home the Yankee is in the art of self puffery! He takes it like a young duck to the water. "It is this system," he modestly alleges, "which makes it possible for a single factory of arms in this country to make more muskets in a day than can be made in all England in a month. It is this which enables us to supply all Europe with arms and to export sewing machines to all European

nations, notwithstanding the vastly higher cost of our labor." We are sorry that there is so much of the spread eagle.

In respect to fire arms and sewing machines, while it is true that we export them, to some extent, the quantity sent abroad is but as a drop in the bucket compared to the aggregate continental production of these goods.

The practice of Europeans, when they find an American invention to be profitable, is to order goods here until they can fit up or import the machinery for the manufacture on the spot. It is in this way that a temporary exportation from this country, of certain novel kinds of mechanism, is from time to time produced. But it is only temporary, because Europeans have the same appliances that we possess, while they pay less for wages and living than the manufacturers of this country. It is therefore impossible at present greatly to extend the exportation of American machinery. But if the prices of coal and iron shall continue to rise in Europe, it will then be possible for the United States to do a great mechanical trade with England and the continent.—*Scientific American*.

OPEN AIR EXERCISE.

Young people all over the land rejoice that the season of croquet, balls and boats is now at its height. The elder folk are equally interested in these amusements, for an unusual and healthy interest in the more manly, out-of-door sports, engages the attention of large numbers of gentlemen this year. We hail this as a promise of good results in the way of better health, symmetrical, physical development, more vigorous life, and as a correlative, a higher social, political and commercial morality, a better art development, a finer literature, and a more catholic religion. For all these things go hand in hand, influencing each other, forming the perfect arch, no stone of which can be lost without weakening the whole structure. The basis of all true life is good, pure health—that which is sweet, beautiful, strong and philosophical. And the sweetest soul-music is sung when the animal man is perfect in its development. Anything tending to this result is to be commended. Take plenty of exercise in the open air, therefore. Never mind if it tires you a little—so much the better—you will benefit all the more by it in future.

THE HALL EXPEDITION.

Among the achievements of the adventure are trophies belonging to the animal world, and a lot of marine fossils, collected by Capt. Tyson on the plains, ravines, and highest of the mountains situated near Robeson's Channel. The conclusion drawn by him from his investigation of these fossils is that the place where they were found was once the bed of a sea.

He also discovered three shell-fish, or snails—petrified, but otherwise perfect, and a petrified piece of wood. All these are now on board the ship. The neighborhood abounded at times in the musk-ox, about twenty-four of which species were killed by different persons—twelve of them by Capt. Tyson. One only was killed the first year, but the tracks of many more were seen. Beside these evidences of animal life there were hunting utensils, hatchets, and marks of encampments, supposed to be left from the hunting expeditions of the Esquimaux in this quarter, but not recently.

No traces of any permanent residence were to be seen, while one of its infallible indices, the presence of the dead bodies of the tribe, were wanting. A curious feature in the habits of those people is that they never bury the dead, as is customary with nearly all the rest of the world, excepting those who burn them. The religious rites connected with death, and the disposition of dead bodies after death all over the world are most innumerable, and many amusing and sometimes terrible anecdotes concerning them are to be found in the pages of history, and among narratives of travel, but they uniformly result, as far as is known, in the annihilation or secretion of the dead person's remains. The Esquimaux seem to be the solitary exception; for they neither bury nor burn the dead, nor commit the body to the water, nor do they trouble themselves in the least to conceal the last resting-place of their relation or friend—to protect it from the outrage of bird, beast, or reptile. He is simply left upon the surface of the snow, ice, or ground to rot or be devoured by the wolves, the birds, or carnivorous animals of the deep, should they come within reach. This remarkable practice seems to have its foundation in a superstitious dread of being interred, because it is supposed by them that the soul and body are thereby irrevocably deposited in the earth, while, by allowing the mortal remains to rest without bound or trammel upon the earth, the soul is still free to wing its way wherever the Supreme Deity may permit.

Why is a ring like the letter D?—Because we can't be wed without it.

The queerest object in nature is a Spanish beggar, for these beggars beg on horseback; and it is an odd thing to see a man riding up to a poor foot passenger asking alms. A gentleman in Valparaiso, being arrested by one of these mounted beggars, replied, "Why, sir, you come to beg of me who have to go on foot, while you ride on horseback?" "Very true, sir," said the beggar, "and I have the more need to beg, as I have to support my horse as well as myself."

Sawdust and Chips.

When is a chair like a lady's dress?—When it is out of fashion.

Wives are great helpmates—they help many husbands to dispose of their cash.

To cure deafness, tell a man you want to pay a debt you have long owed him.

"Don't call me boy!" said a youth, indignantly; "I've smoked a pipe these six years!"

What is it that most bothers a cabinet maker?—Putting a leg to the multiplication table.

What kind of essence does a young man like when he pops the question?—Acqui-scence.

Why is the letter S likely to prove dangerous when used as an argument?—Because it turns words into Swords.

A nautical friend says, that ballet-dancers wear their dresses at half-mast, as a token of respect to departed modesty.

What is the difference between a school-master and an engine-driver?—One trains the mind, the other minds the train.

An Irishman, writing a sketch of his life, says he early ran away from his father because he discovered he was only his uncle.

A dandy is a chap that would be a lady if he could; but as he can't, does all he can to show the world that he's not a man.

Shor!—It may be a prejudice, but we must say we do not like seeing a tea-dealer taking the chair at a tectotal meeting!—*Punch*.

THE GREATEST OF SECRETS.—You may have heard a lady declare her real age; but did a cabman ever tell you his lawful fare?—*Punch*.

"Jim, does your mother ever whip you?"— "No; but she does a precious sight worse, though." "What's that?"—"Why, she washes my face every morning!"

A new system of shorthand has been invented, by which an expert reporter, in a speech of an hour's duration, is enabled to get twenty minutes ahead of the speaker!

"Which are the hyenas, and which are the monkeys?" inquired a child of a showman. "Whichever you please, my little dear—you pays your money and you takes your choice."

A schoolboy, repeating his Latin grammar incorrectly, said to his master that he had not the bump for learning Latin. "In that case," said the master, "I will give it you"—boxing his ears.

"Mike, why don't you fire at those ducks, boy—don't you see you have got the whole flock before you gun?"—"I know I have; but when I get a good aim at one, two or three others will swim right up between it and me."

An inebrate Irishman, on being kindly questioned in a very narrow lane across which he was reeling, as to the length of the road he had travelled, replied: "Faith! it's not so much the length of it as the breadth of it that's tired me."

GETTING ROUND THE LAW.—The authorities of San Francisco passed a law that all bar-rooms should be closed at twelve o'clock on midnight. The keepers complied, shut at twelve, and opened five minutes afterwards for the next day.

"Pomp, was yer ever drunk?"—"No, I 'toicated wid ardent spirits once, and dat's 'auff for dis darkie. De Lord bless you, Caesar, my head felt as if it was an outhouse, while all de niggers in the world appeared to be splitting wood in it."

A housemaid who was sent to call a gentleman to dinner, found him engaged in using his toothbrush. "Well, is he coming?" said the lady of the house, as the servant returned. "Yes, ma'am, directly," was the reply, "he's just sharpening his teeth."

"Ma'am," said a quack to a nervous old lady, "yours is a scrutinary complaint."—"What is that?"—"It is the dropping of the nerves. The oplovarous nerves have fallen into the tipus of the pizarintum, the chest becomes torberous, the head goes tizarizzen, tizarizzen, and your heart seems as though it were being ossimoo-phrated."—"Oh, doctor, you have described my feelings exactly."

Civilization (says an American paper) already begins to encroave the people of the Far West. Last month a piano made its appearance in Hard Scabble; while the landlord of the "Fighting Bears," who nobly resisted the innovation of table-cloths, has been compelled to strike his colors to a "cussed Yankee," who advertizes "clean plates at every meal."

DIFFERENT WAYS OF DOING THE SAME THING.—"Pray excuse me," said a well-dressed young man to a young lady in the second tier of boxes at the theatre; "I wish to go upstairs and get some refreshment—don't leave your seat." A sailor seated in the box near his sweetheart, and disposed to do the same thing, arose and said, "Harko, Poll, I'm going aloft to wet my whistle—don't fall overboard while I'm gone."

ARDOR IN BETTING.—Two gentlemen at a tavern having summoned a waiter, the poor fellow had hardly entered, when he fell down in a fit of apoplexy. "He's dead!" exclaimed one. "He'll come to!" replied the other.

"Dead, for five hundred!"—"Done!" retorted the second. The noise and confusion which followed brought up the landlord, who called, out to fetch a doctor.—"No! no! we must have no interference; there's a bet dependin' on it."—"But, sir, I shall lose a valuable servant!"—"Never mind, you can put him in the bill!"