

come to him, which she did, fearfully.

"When she was by his side, he called to the owner of the shop:

"Mr. Butcher, what are you paying for pork to-day?"

"One hundred and fifty cash per chin,\* your honour," replied the astonished butcher, making an awkward salutation.

"I have here," said the magistrate, as he pushed forward Mrs. Fang, 'a hog for sale. I judge she weighs ninety chin.\*\*

"Send the money to the Yamen and keep her. As you see, she has the form of a woman, but that is only accidental. She is really an old hog and a very mischievous and dangerous one. You can do as you please with her, but I should advise you to cut her throat at once, before she does

any more harm.' Whereupon he got again into his sedan chair and returned with his following to the Yamen."

"What did the butcher do?" I asked Yu Hsien. "Did he pay for her and keep her?"

"No, of course, he could have done so, but who would want such a woman as that? She ran away the same night and it was supposed Chou went with her. Neither was ever seen in Yin Cheng again.

"Nobody was sorry for that, and all said how wisely and justly the magistrate had managed things. He found that one of the boy's uncles was a good man, so he was allowed to act as the boy's guardian, but Mr. Hsu kept an eye on him as long as he remained in office at Yin Cheng, and made sure that all went well."

\*This would mean about ten cents a pound.

\*\*120 pounds.

