

The common black hat costs as much as three dollars, and the Mandarins often have to give twenty. The better the hat is the less shade it gives from the sun, for the transparent network of which it is made becomes so much the finer.

The Koreans are the greatest smokers in the world. Their pipes are over a yard long, and the people smoke from early childhood, all day long, whatever they may be supposed to be doing. How they manage to support these huge pipes in their mouths is a mystery, as the leverage exerted is tremendous. Their clothes are not sewn together, but are glued at the seams with rice paste, for a Korean tailor would never be at the pains of stitching.

The darkest side of their life lies in the crowded collection of houses, swarming with human (and insect) life, absolutely devoid of even elementary sanitation, where disease and vice have lived in close partnership for several hundred years; where dishonesty and oppression are carried to their utmost limits, where torture and cruelty exercise full sway, and where private and political intrigues hamper and hinder any important improvement in or amelioration of the conditions of life of the great bulk of the community. They dwell in huts or cabins built of hardened mud and thatched with straw, and every family keeps a pig. The floors are covered with mats. Home life in Korea has no sacred associations or tender memories. Their houses are merely living places. They are heated from beneath, flues being made under the floor, the fire-place and chimney being outside the house. The Koreans sleep on the floor, and in the cold season fuel is used to keep the sleeper warm during the night. Mr. H. H. Fox, in journeying through the country, says that on an average he passed a village every five miles. In most of them houses were being built. Each house has its stacks of firewood, corn and beans, and usually a pig-sty built of heavy logs to keep off tigers and leopards. Notwithstanding their in-bred love of ease the Koreans are marvellous walkers, and will walk immense distances to see a favorite view. They can do their thirty odd miles day after day, and they can, moreover, carry immense burdens. The ordinary load for a Korean porter is 250 pounds on the flat or 100 pounds in bad country; with this they will do from eight to ten miles a day. The people feed largely on crushed beans and bacon or fish.

The position which woman holds in Korea is not an enviable one. Girlhood and womanhood, as in all other semi-barbarous countries are surrounded by many restrictions and limitations. Girls seem to enjoy a pleasant childhood; but after the tenth or twelfth year they begin their life seclusion. They must marry before the age of seventeen if they