

EXTRAORDINARY FINGER-NAILS.

This picture, which has been kindly loaned by *The Faithful Witness*, is not a fancy one, but is from real life. The dude in Canada is known sometimes by a very long coat or a very high collar, or a very large headed cane. In China and Indo-China, Siam, Anam, and Cochin China, one mark of the dude, or would-be fine gentleman, is long finger-nails.



Wouldn't we like to be near with a pair of sharp scissors! What fun it would be to snip them off!

Frequently these nails grow two or three inches long, and as they grow out and bend and twist, they look like claws. It is said that sometimes a Cochin-China dandy may

be seen whose nails measure from one to two feet (!), and instead of being laughed at, as the dude's peculiar doings and dressings are with us, an extraordinary growth of finger-nail is looked upon in Indo-China as great personal accomplishment, and a sign of high social position.

How absurd it would look to see a man strutting along, looking down with disdain upon others around him, simply because he had finger-nails or claws a foot long, and fancied himself somebody. Perhaps they are a sign that he does not have to work, for he could scarcely do anything with such finger-nails but take care of them and keep them from being broken; and perhaps he is proud because he can live in idleness and have others wait on him. In that case he is about as sensible as those among ourselves who think that because they can wear fine clothes or have white soft hands, they are better than other people whose clothes are coarser and whose hands are harder with work.

If the finger nails are no good to any one else, they may be of some service to ourselves. They may teach us a lesson. They show us how silly are a great many of the reasons why men think themselves better than others. Boys and girls, who, because they live in a bigger house, have richer parents, have less work to do, wear finer clothes, and think themselves better on that account, are just as sensible, or silly, as the dude of Indo China, who thinks the same thing on account of his long finger-nails; and we may learn from him how foolish are these other things among ourselves.

A BOY'S PLEDGE.

I pledge my brain God's thoughts to think;
My lips no fire or foam to drink
From alcoholic cup; nor link
With my pure breath tobacco's taint.

For have I not a right to be
As wholesome and as pure as she
Who, through the years so glad and free,
Moves gently onward to meet me?
A knight of the new chivalry
Of Christ and temperance I would be,
In nineteen hundred; come and see.