

his head upon a nail which projected from the sidewalk. The nail entered the temple. Hoetter was taken home, and shortly afterwards expired.

During the boat races at St. Ignace, Mich., last week, Mason's Mackinac boat was capsized by a squall and four men named Miner, Strong, Spickeman, and Gibin were drowned. Tugs searched for the bodies but could not find them. Flags are at half-mast over the city.

Wilson, Carlisle and Johnson's cattle camp, in the western part of La Platta county, Col., was attacked by Ute Indians, July 3rd. Chas. Cook and Adolph Lusk, employees of the cattle company, were badly wounded. Five Indians were killed and a number wounded. The whites had eleven horses killed and 100 stolen. The cowboys were driven off their camp, their outfits burned, and their provisions stolen.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Bradlaugh will next Wednesday submit to the electors of Northampton the question whether he shall continue to retain his seat in Parliament.

Felix Marie Victor Masse, the celebrated French composer is dead.

The Czar has given \$100,000 for the relief of the sufferers by the inundations in Poland.

An anarchist mine has been discovered under the railway near Pola, in Austria. The Emperor was expected to pass over the railway.

War is again threatened between France and China. An influential party in China are instigating it. Prominent officials, including the Marquis Tseng, are resolved to repudiate the recent negotiations. The French will probably claim indemnity and demand that the island of Formosa be pledged as security.

Fourteen deaths from cholera occurred at Marseilles Tuesday evening. The panic is increasing. All who can are leaving.

The cholera has attacked Toulon, and many deaths are occurring daily.

It is feared that the exodus from Marseilles and Toulon will result in conveying the cholera to Paris. The migration from that city to the seaside is unexampled. Grave fears are held that the disease will spread over Europe.

Tales and Sketches.

THE SNOOLAS OF TANG-SI.

BY DAVID J. BURRELL, D. D.

CHAPTER I.

SHIWKY.

"When thou seest a man gazing through an amber fluid toward the light and smacking his lips, then turn thou to the page of Billi-shak where it is written: 'Why will a man put an enemy into his mouth to steal away his brains?'—*Confucius*."

Tang-si is a small interior province in the ancient Kingdom of Cathay. Previous to the troubles which we are about to relate, it was known far and wide for the thrift and happiness of its people. In its villages were many shops where skillful carvers wrought in ivory and sandal-wood. Along the banks of its clear-flowing river small farmers cultivated fields of rice, onions and pulse. On its hill-slopes dwelt shepherds in rude but happy homes. The disasters which subsequently befell the people of this Arcadian province were due to a discovery made by a rice-farmer's daughter while at her toilet.

So true is it, as the inspired Laou-tze observes, that "thunders are but the gathered whispers of the clouds." The young maid, pale and listless, chanced to learn that the application of a liquid distilled from rice would impart to her colorless cheek the tint of the red, red rose.

For a time the secret was kept close within her own bosom; but at length, on her disclosing it to her nearest confidant, it became the common property of all. Thus the immortal Tai-pih observes: "If you would keep a secret, tell it to your wife and she to her sister."

It was presently found that this magical liquid, to which the name Shiwky had been given, when taken internally would impart a rich crimson to the promontory which adorns the central portion of the human face. The partiality of the Mongolians to red noses is matter of common fame; it will be understood, therefore, why Shiwky came so soon to be regarded as one of the indispensables among the men of Tang-si. Has not the industrious Ling-lung said: "A new fashion in shoe-buckles is more contagious than the loji-fever."

At this point the trouble began. At first it was observed in a general physical ailment. The eyes of the men grew dim and watery, their limbs tremulous, step unsteady, speech thick. The death rate increased so rapidly that the puzzled physicians were constrained to make *post mortem* examinations, notwithstanding the injunction of Wan-Wang: "Touch not Joss-flesh with steel lest it rise against you." These examinations showed that the

maladies of the people were due chiefly to the use of the liquid Shiwky. It was found to be a most virulent poison, operating slowly and almost imperceptibly, attacking the very centres of life, to wit: the brain and heart. A statement to that effect was prepared, printed in the double-square characters of P'ek si luang, and circulated in all the towns and villages of the province. But, alas! it was too late! The men of Tang-si had become addicted to the use of the poison; and is it not true, as Ling lung observes: "When a habit grips the stomach of a man it is as a barnacle on the keel of a junk, the junk must be turned upside-down and scraped with an adze."

CHAPTER II.

CI SELEN.

"If thou wouldst effectually blind thine eyes, fill them with gold dust; if thou wouldst harden thy conscience, sear it with a silver rod; if thou wouldst still the emotions of thy heart, wear a bag of coins in thy bosom."—*Gospel of Lo-Tung-Cheng (New Version)*.

Meanwhile the resources of the province were greatly diminished, owing to the fact that all branches of industry were more or less demoralized by the ravages of Shiwky. The public treasury being well-nigh drained, a council of the Heu-taken, or provincial ministry, was held, wherein the situation was gravely canvassed and discussed. The difficulty was plain; the question was, how to replenish the treasury without imposing a burden upon the people. Various suggestions were made. At length the most venerable member of the council—to whom the official title Ku-lang had been given, under the impression that the wisdom of men should be measured by the length of their queues—arose and said:

"O, sages of sun-lit and sun-warmed ancient Tang-si; we are come to consider a question of gravest importance; therefore summon your wits!" (Thereupon, each councillor pulled his queue thrice, looked into the left lapel of his jacket, and muttered "Long-tu-tsee"—that being the method, time out of memory, of summoning one's wits in Tang-si.) "How shall we replenish our exchequer. We cannot impose a tax upon the people; that, under the circumstances, is out of the question, as the poet Foo-to-Ching has said:

"Put not more rushes on the shoulders of your wife
Then she can carry from the swamp
Else you break her back,
And must hire a donkey."

"Nor can we send forth and plunder the neighboring provinces; because, since Shiwky came among us, they are stronger than we. What then? I counsel, O, sages, that we exact money from the Shiwky-men who have set up shops which are called 'Snoolas' in all our villages and at all our cross-roads for the sale of the poisonous fluid. There are reported to be 400 of these Snoolas in Tang-si. If each of these were required to pay into the treasury 100 *leng*,* we should have forthwith 40,000 *leng*, which would be abundant for our needs. O, sages of the sun-lit and sun-warmed province, if this meet your approbation, signify it."

Thereupon all, save one, of the members of the Council arose solemnly, bowed, and touched the ribbon of his queue to his forehead, which was the usual affirmative sign.

The one dissenting Councillor was Lo-hush, so called for his customary silence.

On being asked to state his objections he arose and said:

"It looks to me like countenancing the sale of Shiwky."

At this a smile was exchanged among the councillors, as if they would say: "This fellow is troubled with a conscience." One of them whispered to his neighbor "He is *unco guid*." Beyond this no attention was paid to him.

The suggestion of Ku-lang was adopted. A notification was sent to each of the Shiwky-men that he would be expected to pay, in advance, a *ci-selen*, or annual tax, of one hundred *leng*. The Shiwky-men could easily afford to do that; the money was paid without a murmur. The Councillors were delighted; the treasury was full.

CHAPTER III.

ON POLITICAL ECONOMY.

"My son, the best way to arrest a traffic is to make a profitable monopoly of it; if you want to disgust the young with vice make it as attractive as possible; and in order to show that the law is an enemy of crime you have simply to throw the sanction of law over it."—*Foo-fou*.

It had been supposed that the revenues from the Shiwky traffic would be amply sufficient for the expenses of the province; but early in the twelve-month it became evident that these expenses would be much in excess of those of former years. In front of the Snoolas had been suspended signs and banners bearing the legend:

"Enter, O, Youth! This Garden of Refreshment is open under the Law."

*A *leng* is about 98 cents, corresponding very nearly to the American dollar.