

laborer incurs but little expense for his daily subsistence, nor is his dress more costly. When first he arrives from his native country, he has no idea of what underclothing is. His attire then consists exclusively of a cotton jacket several times the circumference of the wearer, loose trousers of the same material, a broad brimmed straw hat and sandals or sometimes a sort of slippers with thick wooden soles. This costume is evidently suited to a warm climate. John is soon obliged to change it for something which will be a better protection against the cold, yet so high is his idea of the perfection of everything Chinese that he ever retains as far as possible the cut we have described. The white laborer cannot live and dress in this miserly manner and hence he is often obliged to give up his position and make room for the Mongolian. The latter therefore in the western states and provinces, has done and is still doing an immense deal of harm by preventing industrious, energetic colonists from emigrating thither. On the other hand it would be difficult to name a single advantage afforded the country by Chinese immigration. Chinamen immigrate few women and no children. Their aim is to make five or six hundred dollars and then return to their native land where it appears for that sum they can establish themselves at ease. The majority of them do not remain in a foreign country more than five or six years but their number along the Pacific Slope of Canada is ever on the increase, as on an average for one that leaves three newcomers arrive. Whilst here little of what they expend goes to the benefit of the country. They live in a great measure on rice, a product of China, wear stuffs manufactured in their own land and ever make it a practice to buy of Chinese merchants who import directly from the flowery kingdom. Accordingly almost every cent earned by a Chinaman is entirely lost to the country.

As has already been stated the Chinese have brought small-pox into Victoria. The wretched hovels of Chinatown—the name given to the quarter inhabited by Chinese in every western city—are well suited to engender and foster contagious diseases of all kinds. Chinatown is generally situated in one corner of the city proper. Its streets are narrow, filthy and

altogether unprepossessing in appearance. The dwellings of the Mongolians are small wooden houses entirely destitute of embellishment. On entering one of these a stranger is usually well received. Not that John is naturally affable, on the contrary, he is extremely exclusive, but after a short sojourn in an American or Canadian city he is taught by sore experience that it behooves him to conceal some of the sovereign contempt he entertains for his brother races. Having entered a Chinese dwelling one cannot but be surprised at seeing the utter absence therein of all calculated to insure comfort. A rickety table and a few rough benches constitute all the furniture. For a bed John contents himself with a mat spread on the floor. The same apartment serves as kitchen, dining-room and sleeping-room. Unless the police officers have recently visited the place one finds that the occupants exceed the number prescribed by the sanitary by-law requiring so many cubic feet of air for each person. The windows of the room are curtained, not a sunbeam ever steals into the Celestials' apartments. They are said to prefer this dismal obscurity because it favors sleep, for having no amusements, being naturally dull conversationalists and no readers, they while away their leisure hours in sleep. The fumes of opium in a Chinese habitation are almost stifling. Whatever difficulties they may encounter in obtaining it many of the Chinese must have opium. The opium-pipe has the shape of a small cone inverted. The stem resembles an ordinary pipe stem, but it is two-and-a-half or three feet long. The smoker stretches himself on a mat and places his opium box and a light within convenient reach. All being ready he takes a knitting-needle and dips one end of it into the opium, a substance which when prepared for smoking resembles syrup in consistency and colour. The needle is held over the light for a few seconds and when the opium commences to flame it is thrust into the pipe through a small hole on the top just large enough to admit the needle. It is for chemists to explain what is effected by the heating of the opium and why when thrust into the pipe, it dissolves into vapor or smoke. The operator takes care not to let this smoke escape. The needle has to pass several