

and a monopoly to commit suicide without the inconveniences of a coroner's inquiry in prospect, besides furnishing a protection for the more every-day pastime of incurring debts and refusing to pay. The Chinese and Japanese embassies have developed with perturbing facility into a veritable Alsatia, wherein the law applicable to common Englishmen may be contemned.

A very flagrant instance of extritoriality *in pessimis* occurred some months ago. A servant of the Japanese minister seduced an unhappy English girl, and then refused to support her child, or, indeed, to acknowledge in any way the jurisdiction of English courts to adjudicate on his conduct. The general public was surprised in a passing way about the baseness to which diplomatic privilege could be turned. That surprise was not shared by lawyers, who are obliged to have a longer memory for cases, and so have been led to catch the perspective of the Oriental tendency.

The view of our Eastern visitors appears to be that perfect license to do what they like, free from legal consequences, would be conferred in pure waste, and perhaps would become atrophied from want of exercise, if it were not made use of. Accordingly, the Chinese delegates, who condescended in 1878 to come to London in the interests of the Middle Kingdom, have managed, in the brief space which has elapsed, to exclude the coroner twice. The latter troublesome barbarian wanted to decide on the causes of two violent deaths, one, that of a child, occurring within the precincts of the Chinese functionaries' house, the other, alleged to be a case of suicide, occurring outside the sacred enclosure.

Another illustration of the strange uses of the privilege possible to the Asiatic, is furnished by the remarkable case of the "Sultan" of Johore. This Malay chief, on whom the British Government had not then conferred the title of "Sultan," came to London in 1885, to enter into an agreement with the Foreign Office as to his territory near the Straits Settlements. The not very important negotiation was concluded on December 11, 1885; and in reward for placing the supervision over his local affairs in the hands of the British Government, the chief was to be supplied with various things, including coinage from the Straits Settlements, and the title of Sultan. Meanwhile, during the arrangement of these details, he beguiled his hours of leisure by assuming an English name, and entering into intimate rela-