

THE UNWELCOME CHINESE.



THE recent outbreak of small-pox in Victoria, B. C., brings the oft agitated Chinese question once more to the front. As every reader of the newspapers is aware, the dread disease was brought into that city in the early part of the summer on the *Empress of Japan* by Mongolian immigrants. John,—for that is the name by which every native of the flowery kingdom is known in the West,—has always been unpopular but now unpopularity has matured into hatred. Many are the causes which combine in making the Chinaman an unwelcome immigrant. His very appearance is a point against him. In stature he is naturally diminutive and as if to be still nearer the ground his head is habitually downward bent. Had Darwin known the Chinese he would have easily persuaded himself that they were made for locomotion on all fours. A critical examination of the peculiar shape of John's head and a computation of the measurements thereof would also have been mighty weapons in the hands of the great exponent of the evolution theory. To look at a Celestial once is to be convinced that his square facial angles are not by any means artistic. John's complexion is a sickly brown. He is without that which for many a man is the one redeeming mark of beauty, viz: a beard. Nature has been lavish in furnishing him with a large flat nose and immense teeth which are but half covered by his lips. His eyes are small, almond-shaped and deep set. The only thing perhaps about his personal appearance in which he takes pride is his long, neatly braided cue.

It would be uncharitable to take the Mongolian too severely to task for his want of good looks. Were he deficient in nothing else he would be well received on the shores of the American continent. The fact is, however, he is possessed of little or no true manliness of character. He is characterised by avarice, selfishness, dishonesty, treachery and a lamentable want of morality. It is this utter absence of true manhood in the Celestial which has closed against him the doors of the

United States and which makes him unwelcome whithersoever he directs his steps. He is still allowed to enter Canada but his presence here is a continual source of annoyance. In British Columbia an admittance tax of fifty dollars has already been imposed on each immigrant from China and no later than the last session of the Federal Parliament, Mr. Gordon the honorable member for Victoria district introduced a motion to have the tax of admittance on Chinese raised and the number allowed to arrive on each steamer limited.

Among the employments in which they engage are washing and ironing and in these, he it said to their credit, they excel. They also hire as waiters and cooks, as such they are economical and polite and soon master the art of serving up American dishes. Numbers of them labour in factories and on the public works. The C.P.R. west of the Rockies was in great part constructed by Chinese, several thousand of them being employed by one contractor. Some toil in the gold mines and a few are employed as farm hands. The Celestial is much slower than the white man and inferior to him in strength. On the public works one white is usually supposed to do as much as two Chinese. The labour of the latter, however, is the cheaper, for John is content with the gain of a few cents a day, and by reason of his miserly mode of living can well afford to work for less than half price. The Chinese laborer would gladly do without eating in order to become rich the sooner. He cannot, however, altogether stifle appetite and accordingly he allows himself one full meal at least each day. It is an amusing sight to see a dozen or more Mongolians huddled around their dinner table. On the table is a kettle of tea without milk or sugar and a large bowl of rice and chopped meat—that is the complete menu. A Chinaman uses neither knife nor fork in eating, but in his left hand holds his bowl of meat and rice, and in the right between the thumb and first and second fingers he holds two chop-sticks, that is two slender sticks about the size of pen-holders with which he operates as dexterously as we do with a fork or spoon. The Mongolian