

"In one of the quiet courts where the birds sang in the japonica trees, and a pet crab of knowing mien watched me from a crevice in the bricks, I visited a shed in which are half a dozen idols with broken noses, twisted hands and contorted faces—remnants rescued from a recent fire, and waiting sorrowfully for new habitations. On a little tray a red rag, not two feet square, hides some marvellous thing from view. My guide throws aside the rag, and lo! Buddha's tooth is there. It measures fourteen inches in length, eleven inches in the widest part, and is about three inches thick. It is of beautiful yellow ivory, as smooth as glass from handling, and weighs eighteen pounds. It is, of course, a very large elephant's molar. When I said to the devout guardian of this part of Buddha that the god must have had a rather large head to accommodate such a tooth, he replied, 'Yes; but it is a matter I don't fully comprehend.' It has been kept in a separate temple for many centuries.

"Often after the tramp of pilgrims had died away, between the evening meal and late mass, I walked noiselessly from court to court, standing awhile in the cool shrubbery to cast furtive glances at the dark blue vault of heaven, studded with unnaturally large flashing orbs, reflecting bright rays upon the solemn and mystic retreat.

" 'The day is done, and the darkness
Falls from the wings of night,
As a feather is wafted downward
From an eagle in its flight.' "

"My friend, the faithful priest and octogenarian, already fifty-eight years in this temple, is usually found seated by the bell near the feet of his beloved Mil-leh-Buddha, or bending over the precious incense-holder, and patting gently the overflowing incense with his little trowel, or gathering the unburnt stubs of incense and arranging the tapers. I was bewildered by the vast number and great size of the images on thrones and platforms, and felt even a fascination, which I found it difficult to throw off.

"The central object of attraction in the monastery is the 'Bronze Elephant.' It was made at Chenten by Imperial order in the tenth century, of the purest and most costly bronze known to the Chinese, and is of uncommonly good workmanship. It is surrounded by walls which form a perfect square, with pendentives and a circular dome. The building faces exactly east, and the sun's rays strike the jewel in the god's forehead twice each year, through the small orifice in the dome, and similarly the back of his head from the west. The building, the worship and