

A CHINESE MURDER.

A murder of the most horrible nature was perpetrated at Soochow, a few days ago, says a Shanghai paper. The affair gives us an insight into some of the customs prevalent among this strange people, and shows us what Chinese guides are capable of doing when they think their rights and time-honored customs have been outraged. It appears that the gold-beaters of Soochow have it, among other old-established customs, that a master gold-beater can only engage one apprentice at a time, and this is even limited to large shops only. An apprentice of this craft is bound for three years, and only after the expiration of this time can the master employ another one. The object is to keep the number of craftsmen within certain bounds, and so to guard against a decrease of their present high wages.

A master gold-beater and head of the guild lately ventured to break this established custom by employing an apprentice before the time of the old apprentice had expired. This roused the members of the craft, and they opposed. The master gold-beater carried his case before the magistrate, who decided that, notwithstanding the old custom, more than one apprentice could be employed, but advised, for the sake of peace, and in consideration of the prejudice against it, that this should not be done too often. The workmen of the craft were not satisfied with this decision, and tried by all means in their power to make the head of the guild desist from taking a second apprentice. He, however, on the strength of the magistrate's decision, would have his own way, and, as he was threatened by the workmen, asked assistance from the Yamen to protect him. The workmen at last invited him to come to their public hall to talk matters over. He went, accompanied by Yamen-runners to protect him.

Having arrived at the guild-hall, some 30 men were assembled there who, after having pushed the Yamen runners out, closed the doors. All efforts on the part of the Yamen people to gain an entrance were useless; they were told by the workmen inside that no one but the magistrate himself would be admitted. The Yamen runners hearing the cry of "Murder!" by the master gold-beater whom they had accompanied to the hall, and being unable to effect an entrance, ran to the magistrate. This officer at once hurried to the hall and readily gained admittance. But what must have been his astonishment when he entered! A horrible sight met him. A man naked and already dead was bound to a pillar, covered from head to foot with wounds caused by the teeth of human beings. The magistrate, at once had the doors closed to prevent the culprits from escaping, and now called a child of the doorkeeper of the hall, who had witnessed the horrible scene, to tell him how it happened, and to point out the ringleaders. The child then, after pointing out the ringleaders, gave the following account: After the workmen had assembled in the hall and the master gold-beater arrived, they first pushed out the Yamen runners, as already stated above. Having shut the door, they stripped their victim and bound him to a pillar. He was now informed by the crowd that they determined to kill him for breaking the customs of the craft, and that each person there would bite him until dead. Any person refusing to join in this horrible scene would be killed in the same way. They now all set upon the unfortunate person bound to the pillar, biting him over his whole body till dead. When the magistrate arrived, these savages had just finished their devilish work, not having yet had time to wash the blood off their mouths. Four of the ringleaders were secured, and are now awaiting their trial. Most Chinese think they will not be convicted for murder, as the Chinese laws do not provide any death punishment for biting a man to death.

Two Letters from Horace Greeley.

(From the N. Y. Evening Mail.)

We print below two letters written to a friend, years ago, by Horace Greeley, and hitherto unpublished. They are both of them characteristic—the first one opening a view of the inner heart of one of the most sensitive and yet most misunderstood of public men. The public has been made familiar with the almost idolatry wherewith Mr. Greeley loved the two boys he lost long ago. But we have not met with any such tender and touching portrayal of the stricken father's grief as these few lines furnish. The letter was a voluntary tribute of sympathy sent by its writer to a recently afflicted friend, whose little girl had won Mr. Greeley's heart a few months before, in the west, but the notice of whose death had just met his eyes in the *Tribune*. The reader will not fail to mark the really pathetic tone of subdued sadness with which Mr. Greeley speaks of the little one who at six years old was capable of so fully "understanding" one whom so few ever understood until he died. And we have here only another evidence of the great journalist's craving for true sympathy, which in his case was a hunger of the soul whose gnawing shorted life had made its closing scenes so sad. Both of these letters are good examples of Mr. Greeley's quaintness of expression:

New York, July 24, 1857.—My Dear Sir: Seeing in the *Tribune* the death of your sweet child, whom I so well remember, impels me to write you a word. I offer no consolation, and I need not as-

sure you of my sympathy. But you and your wife are still young and hopeful; and though you will never forget this startling of the flock, nor fail to remember her with a pensive and chastened sadness, yet you will live to realize, even in this state of being, how wisely prescient and merciful is the chastisement which "smiles but to heal."

Let me give you, in this connection, a leaf from my experience. I have had seven children, of whom five are gone. Of three sons none survive, and two of them were respectively 5½ and 6 years of age when they were reclaimed. I need not say how beautiful and good they were—the early called are always thus. When the first of them died my youth ended. I thought I could never be so sorely stricken thenceforth. Yet in due time there came another, not so delicate, so beautiful, so poetic; yet so loving, so tender, so devoted to me that I thought I had never been understood before. I cannot remember that, during his six years' abode with us, he ever even wished to contravene my will.

I left him January 14th for that hard western tour, in brave spirits and good general health. At Galesburg, after leaving you, I had a letter dictated by him leaving him in excellent health. I heard, no more till I reached Scranton, Pa., on my way home, when a telegram reached me, during my lecture, stating that he was dangerously ill of crop. I hastened home next evening at 8, only to find him dead an hour before, after enduring a severe operation and extreme sufferings. With him I buried my last earthly aspiration. I have two little daughters, one eight years old, the other but four months, having been born since his death, but they are very different from, and do not replace him.

Did you not intend to see me this season? Kind regards to Mrs.—

Yours, HORACE GREELEY.

The following letter was in reply to a request that Mr. Greeley would say a word, editorially, in commendation of a projected silver mining company in which some of our foremost citizens were interested, but which, notwithstanding (for because of) these high auspices, did, in the end, vindicate Mr. Greeley's good judgment by turning out to be an inglorious fizzle.

New York, June 14, 1864.—My Dear Sir: I dare not say anything of any particular gold mine, because I some years since persuaded friends to invest in two or three that looked dazzling, but which proved delusive. I lost my own money, which I could spare; but the loss of my friends' little hoards made me sore and sad, and I dare not say "Gold mine" ever since. Let us keep our money for the needs of the government for a little while, and then we can safely invest in gold mines.

Yours, HORACE GREELEY.

The First Family Prayer.

Rowland Hill was once staying at a village inn. Bed time came, and he said to the waiter who came out to say it was time the lights were out:

"I have been waiting a long time, expected to be called to family prayer."

"Family prayer! We never have such things here."

"Indeed! tell your master I cannot go to bed till we have prayer."

The waiter told his master, who came and said:

"Sir, I wish you would go to bed. I cannot go till I have seen the lights all out, I am so afraid of fire."

"So am I, but I have been expecting to be summoned to family prayer."

"It cannot be done at an inn."

"Then get me my horses; I cannot sleep in a house where there is no family prayer."

"I have no objection to have a prayer, but I don't know how."

"Well, then, call your people."

In a few minutes the family were upon their knees, and the landlord was called upon to pray.

"Sir, I never prayed in my life; I don't know how."

"Then ask God to teach you."

"God teach us how to pray," said the landlord.

"That is prayer; go on."

"I'm sure I don't know what to say now, sir."

"God has taught him to pray; thank him for it. Thank God Almighty for letting us pray to him."

"I do."

"Amen, amen!" said Mr. Hill, and then prayed himself.

A chapel and a school were soon founded in this village as the result of this first prayer in the landlord's family.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."—*Sower*.

ANOTHER clever gentleman has been deceived by hydrants. While homeward bound, working long longitudes, rejoicing under the influence of about one thousand drops of the oil of joy, he ran against a hydrant, which he mistook for a small colored boy. "Skuse me, sonny," said he, patting the hydrant paternally.

"Didn't run yer down 'cause yer was black. Grow up (hic) and be a useful man. Imitate (hic) my example." And here he laid a quarter on its nozzle and went on, with a lighter heart and the satisfaction that he had made one poor soul happy.

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