

**LETTER FROM MRS. JAMES B. NEAL.**  
CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

time Mr. Chin and his brother kept calling on James, either here or at the dispensary, and finally Mr. Chin invited all the foreign gentlemen and James' dispensary assistants, to an evening dinner. They went and were most kindly entertained and a few days after, came an invitation from Mrs. C.—for us ladies. I was afraid to try the food and hadn't any suitable gown to wear, knew I should be making blunders in "manners" all the time, but decided I must not refuse again, as we had already done before. So we went out at once to hunt up a ready made garment, and after the man of the shop had brought two loads of upper garments for me to look at, the first of which were all too expensive, the second cheap but old fashioned, I finally sent my woman to a shop to select, and the man brought back a third batch that were stylish (!) would fit, and were within my means, from which, an hour before time to start, I selected a blue gown of not too startling a shade, with the proper black satin and gay ribbon trimmings and embroidered sleeves of a shade of royal purple much admired in this oriental land, altogether a rather tasteful and slightly becoming garment. This I doffed over my best black silk skirt and two Chinese upper garments under (for I knew I should have to take off a layer or two) and plastered back my hair as smooth as I could, put on my gay colored Chinese shoes—made after the Tartar style (for Manchuri women do not bind their feet) all my rings, bracelets, and a breast pin to take the place of the gew-gaws, a Chinese woman, who dresses respectfully to her hostess, must wear, and with a Japanese fan in my hand went in my chair, wondering just how it would be. Mrs. Bergen was just ahead of me and we arrived together; the tai-tais, one and all, were waiting for us near the gate, which was a compliment. To be kept waiting by one's hostess is meant for a snub. Miss Precious was there too, and bowed very low. The evening James was there to dinner, it seems he put his arm around this small maiden, inquired of her how it would be to come and "be my little girl?" This her father took as a sign that James wanted to adopt her. The Chinese have a way of recognizing ever so many people as adopted this, or adopted that, so I was warned by my woman, that unless I meant to offend and hurt the whole family I must recognize Miss Precious as my adopted daughter. The adoption is sealed by the child's knocking her head thrice on the ground before me and my sending her a present of four things, ever after calling her "adopted daughter" and being called "adopted Mother" by her, so I was in for it, and had no sooner made my bows to all the numerous Tai-tais and to the other guest, Mrs. Wang, mother of Mrs. Chin, when Precious got down on the ground struck her head to me three times and called me "adopted mother." I raised her up and called her "adopted daughter," Mrs. Bergen said, "can a little girl have only one adopted mother?" And at that her mother said bow or "strike your head" to Mrs. Bergen, so the operation was gone through with the second time. Then my little girl, who is bright and attractive in spite of the powder had paint on her face and lips, came close to me, asked my age, and leaned on my lap as though she had known me all my life, told me her feet didn't hurt, that she had three pairs of earrings, two pairs of bracelets and such a pretty new waist ribbon with all silk tassels, that when she came to see me she was to have another pair of new shoes all red and embroidered! etc., etc., on and on prattling as sweetly as a little child at home. Pretty soon Mrs. Chalfant and her baby arrived and attracted much attention, and then dinner was announced. We were invited into Mrs. Chin's bedroom until the table was laid and then out to the feast. They insisted upon me having the upper seat which after properly holding back and declaring myself unworthy for, I had to accept. Mrs. Chin making three bows to me which I returned, and stood in my place until she had done the same to Mrs. Bergen at the second place, Mrs. Chalfant in the third and her mother in the fourth. The elder of the two married daughters sat in the fifth and sixth places, and our hostess in the lowest where she could help the guests. The table was set with sweetmeats which were the first course, and at each place was a saucer to act as plate and a native spoon, made of china to match the saucer which was a plate in use really, and a pair of red chop-sticks. Mrs. Chin helped me to a part of the central dish of sweets, then Mrs. Bergen, Mrs. Chalfant and her mother in turn, her married daughter and Precious did the same until every dish had been divided out, when we began to eat, insisting all the while that our hostess should not trouble herself on our account, she replying the food was not good to eat, she feared we would suffer from hunger at her table, and pressing things on us all the while. The women servants brought dish after dish on; I didn't keep count how many came in all, putting them on and replacing them with others several times, I remember particularly the duck, for which Chi Nan has a reputation, so fat and luscious. There were little rolled breads, steamed,

which our hostess broke open, put in two or three pieces of duck, several condiments and gave to us to eat after pressing the roll together, something after our sandwich style. They were really good, I enjoyed my meal, the first Chinese feast that wasn't a trial to me, but then I never before had eaten good Chinese food, always the second best sort. We all ate heartily and insisted we had fared well, though our hostess feared we were famishing still. After dinner towels wrung out of hot water were passed us to wipe our fingers on, and after about an hour spent in talking we left, highly pleased with our evening. The two gentlemen, Mr. C. and his brother (the real father of Precious) I-tai-tai and the other married daughter ate in a side room with Lao-tai-tai, and our woman informed us had exactly the same things. The men kept out of sight all the time but peeped at us through the crack of the doors as we sat in the court cooling after dinner. I had to take both my woman, and a man to go with my chair, and so did the other ladies and all these were feasted even to the chair bearers, so that they came away loudly praising the great hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Chin. We each took a string of cash (about 50 cts.) along and gave it to the servant woman, who when we came away all knelt in thanks and acknowledgement.

I was interrupted on Saturday by a call from Mrs. Bergen and now am finishing on Monday before the courier leaves at dawn to-morrow. It was Mrs. Chin and Precious who called to make a P. P. C. on Friday just before your letter arrived. They left yesterday, the whole of them, for Mr. C. is to go into office at the county north-west from here. They will be back next year on a visit Mrs. C. says. So they are gone. If my little adopted daughter had stayed I might have gotten a good influence over her. When she came I had a present of four things for her tied up in a gay cotton cloth to seal my part of the rite of adoption. Two handkerchiefs which count as one, a pair of ribbon anklets (of some bright red ribbon Mother Neal sent me last winter) a box of different fancy cards, with a case of brush, comb and handglass, which also came from the same source as my other wealth of treasures, in a box from Mother Neal. She meant it as a prize for the school girls but I thought it too nice for them and have kept it until now just the right opportunity to make use of it occurred. I should like to tell you yet of Mao-tai-tai who called on me ten days ago after dark, for her husband would never have let her come had he known of her plan, and who had to run away and tell a lot of fibs to her grandchildren to get off to see this foreigner in her den. She was so "cute" and frightened and told me all about it when she began to feel somewhat at home. She was an I-tai-tai only forty-two or three years old, but the grandmother of four little children. The first wife knew she was coming and helped her off and promised to "fool" all the rest of the family during her absence so she wouldn't be missed. The husband was away and she gave out she was going to bed, sent the children away so she might go to sleep and wrapping a quilt around her till she slipped out of the gate, walked over with two women servants as she lives near by. Her husband used to be an official, her son is now. She seemed very much of a lady and what struck me at the time and what my woman, who found it out through her servants, told me afterwards confirms, is the kindly affection between her and the second wife. Generally there is only jealousy and hatred, and as the big wife generally is childless she steals away all the rights and privileges from the real mother and is mother to the children, while the real mother is only "Aunt." Of course I dare not return this call, stolen as it was, but my woman tells me they will surely invite me some day, when I suppose the men of the family will be safely away so the thing need not be told them. I was so amused at her, for Mrs. Chalfant came while she was here, and she said to me "does she also fear to come in daylight?" My woman (very politic she is often) innocently remarked that I knew but few Tai-tai in Chi Nan, but had yesterday been at a feast at Mrs. Chin's. "What Mrs. Chin's?" said Mrs. Mao, who caught the sound of what my woman said to her woman but loud enough for all to hear. "O, Mrs. Chin wife of the magistrate at such and such a county," whereat Mrs. Mao said, "I'll tell my husband that," as much as to say that will help him to look more favorably on this foreigner. Altogether I enjoyed her call immensely, she had such a good time out of it herself.

Ever your affectionate sister,  
ELIZABETH D. NEAL.

**No Matter How Hard**  
any druggist tries to sell you his own cough medicine, remember he does it because he makes more money on it. Insist on having Kemp's Balsam for the throat or lungs, for there is no quick remedy so pure and none so quick to break up a cold. For influenza, soreness of the throat and tickling irritation with constant cough, Kemp's Balsam is an immediate cure. Large bottles 50c and \$1. At all druggists.

**SHARP AND COMIC.**  
The rendering of it now seems to be "Loathe the poor Indian."—[Yonkers Statesman.  
Mr. Payrole—You didn't stay away long on your trip. Mr. Synecure—No, I was afraid that the management might discover that it can get along without me if I stayed away too long.—[Bostonian.  
First Woman—How do you like our new neighbor? Second Woman—I never met such an ignorant person as she is. She can't talk about anything but paintings, books, and music. She doesn't know a word of gossip about anybody.—[Manhattan.  
Tenth Street Housewife (to her help)—I wonder where the leaf of that extension table has disappeared to. Help (with a beam of satisfaction at her superior knowledge)—Now, wasn't it too bad, ma'am? The fire went out and it went for kindling. What else could I do?—[Philadelphia Record.Anarchist—What I object to is the rule of wealth—that the man who has more money than I have should be able to control for a time the action of others. Mr. Wiggins—And yet if my wealth would enable me to order "two beers"—tell me, Von Fiermauth, wouldn't you control your feelings sufficiently to take one of them with me?—[Munsey's Weekly.Drummer (in a nearby hotel, to a friend)—I see you are getting to be a dude, wearing a black crocheted tie. The Other Drummer—But this isn't a black crocheted tie. Bet on the question are forthwith made, and Drummer No. 2 announces triumphantly that it is a black silk tie. First Drummer—That's what I said—a black crow shade tie.—[Great Barrington News.There have been some sharp things said lately with respect to plagiarism in the pulpit. It is claimed when a preacher uses the words of another he should always acknowledge it; but the difficulty is to know when the quotation ends. One man who appropriated another's sermon began with: "A certain man has said," but his hearers did not dream that they were indebted to that "certain man" for the whole sermon.—[Christian Inquirer.As one of our citizens was returning to his home late one Saturday night he was accosted by a stranger, who asked him if he had a match. "Yes," was the answer, producing the desired article. The stranger felt in his pocket a moment and then said: "Where did I put that cigar? I must have lost it." "You don't mean by that you want me to give you a cigar, too, do you?" asked the citizen. "Well, I don't mind if you do," was the cool answer, and he passed out the cigar.—[New Bedford Journal.It was a cold morning and the rooms of one of the prominent institutions in Utica were not as comfortably warm as some of the workmen thought they should be. Complaint was thereupon made to the manager, who ventured the assertion that the feeling of "chilliness" of which the workmen complained was a visionary one, brought about by their imagination. To prove this theory he visited each of the thermometers, and, unobserved by the workmen, sent the mercury up by breathing on the bulbs. Then he called attention to the fact that the thermometers indicated that the rooms were very warm. The men seemed satisfied and were very industrious with their work until one of them detected the manager "blowing up" the thermometer, and the grand strike that followed indicated that the Colonel Sellers patent of a lighted candle in a stove would not always succeed.—[Utica Observer.BUSINESS AND LAZOR.  
The rice crop is large.  
Railroad cars are scarce.  
China has no gold coins.  
Steel flooring is to come.  
Electric cranes are a success.  
Fog signals go by electricity.  
Our railroads employ 700,000.  
Rothschilds run a free hospital.  
The Arctic whale catch is large.  
Miss Garrett's bath tub cost \$5,000.  
Paint is being made from potatoes.  
A ton of gold is worth \$602,799 20.  
Photographing in color is promised.  
England imports eggs from Canada.  
Artificial musk and emeralds are made.  
Great Britain is Canada's best market.  
Sunk in Panama Canal—\$400,000,000.  
Electricity is used in purifying sugar.  
New York has the best diamond cutters.  
Wetherly, Pa., has the largest silk mill.  
Lebanon, Pa., has the biggest bolt works.  
Gould made \$80,000,000 in a day recently.  
Germany uses iron bricks in street paving.  
In France authors hold copyright for life.  
Since '51, 3,276,103 persons have left Ireland.  
Washington city has 10,000 negro Catholics.  
The drug physostigmine costs \$905,010 an ounce.  
Horse-flesh consumption increases in Germany.  
The world's diamonds are worth \$1,000,000,000.  
Powderly only eats two meals a day—and they are light.  
A mail train is to go from New York to Chicago in a day.  
Vanderbilt pays a humorist for visiting the poor districts.  
Fish planting in the great lakes is declared to be a failure.  
The largest gold coin is the gold "loaf" of Annam, worth \$85.  
At Lynn skins shaved by machines make bad shoe's uppers.  
The "People's" party of Kansas favors Bollman's nationalism.  
San Francisco painters and decorators will erect a \$20,000 hall.  
A Chicago miser millionaire went to prison in default of paying a fine.

**FORTIFY THE SYSTEM WITH BROWN'S SARSAPARILLA**  
People having rheumatic, or consumptive tendencies, should heed the advice here given. Their painful and dangerous diseases arise wholly from impure blood, causing a weakening of the system; are fed, and held in the system by impure blood, and cannot be driven out until the blood shall have been cleared. When this shall have been effected nature will do the rest, and the days and hours of torture will be over.  
Alike are the young, middle aged and older people swept from the face of the earth by thousands each year by these diseases, and there has never been known so powerful a preventive to such devastations, as is found in that great remedial agent,  
**BROWN'S SARSAPARILLA**  
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GREATEST BLOOD PURIFIER OF THE DAY  
and easily cures all diseases arising from bad blood, such as SCZEMA, ITCH, SALT RHEUM, ERYSIPELAS, SCROFULA, PIMPLES, BOILS, RING WORMS, ULCERATIONS, and for FEMALE DISEASES it acts like magic as a tonic and strengthener.  
**MANNERS' Double Extract Sarsaparilla.**  
Can be found for sale at all Drug Stores.  
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THE ORIGINAL AND GENUINE. The only safe, pure, and reliable pill for sale. Ladies, see Druggist for CHICKSTER'S English Pennyroyal Pills, and Gold Medal Pills, each with its ribbon. Take no other kind. Beware of substitutes and imitations. All pills in pasted boxes, and wrapped in dangerous paper. Beware of such. In stamps for particulars, testimonials, and "Heller for Ladies," in letters, by return mail, 10,000 Testimonials. Name Pennyroyal Pills. CHICKSTER CHEMICAL CO., PHILADELPHIA, Pa. Sold by all Local Druggists.

**DR. GROSVENOR'S Bellecapsic PLASTERS.**  
THE BEST POROUS PLASTERS IN THE WORLD. Will instantly relieve RHEUMATISM, KIDNEY PAINS, LAME BACK, &c. all pains such as 25 cents at Druggists. GROSVENOR & RICHARDS, Boston, Mass.

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If your grocer sends you anything in place of SAPOLIO, send it back and insist upon having just what you ordered. SAPOLIO always gives satisfaction. On floors, tables, and painted work it acts like a charm. For scouring pots, pans, and metals it has no equal. Everything shines after it, and even the children delight in using it in their attempts to help around the house.  
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