

CHINESE SMUGGLERS.

The Trouble they give Uncle Sam's Revenue Officers in Frisco. The customs officers of San Francisco have to deal with some of the most artful smugglers in the world.

Sometimes a demure Chinese maiden would step ashore with the thick soles of her shoes stuffed with silk. A whole covey arrived some years ago with their shoes stuffed in this fashion.

To a man the Chinese crews on the steamers plying between San Francisco and Mexico, South America and the Orient are smugglers. They hide their contraband goods in the oddest places imaginable and get them ashore past the eyes of the customs officers in ways that almost baffle detection.

Chinese have been detected with boxes of the drug doctly bound up in their queues or tied under their arms. Every bit of baggage and every article they take ashore is a hiding place.

Dinner is the great event of the day, for to this meal all the people employed "in the biggest show on earth" sit down at once. The mess tent is an oblong affair. There are six rows of tables with a broad aisle down the center; it will seat 500 people.

Some novelties in bathtubs are made abroad especially for travelling purposes. They are made of best tinned iron with japanned oak outside and white inside.

The financial depression has not had a very decided effect on railroad construction in the South. The total number of miles of railway built in this section since January 1 of last year is only fifty-seven miles less than was built during all of the year before.

It has been decided by an English court that it is not libellous to call a lady a woman. This recalls the fact that in a Western town, a couple of years ago, a young woman who worked as a clerk in a dry-goods store threatened to sue a newspaper for libel because it referred to her as a saleswoman and not as a saleslady.

WHY MIKE BURNED THE BOOK.

A Night Watchman Who Had the Interests of His Firm Really at Heart. The secretary of the Eastern Rubber Company, at Trenton, N. J., lost a letter-book containing copies of a month's important correspondence a few weeks ago.

"Mike, have you ever seen anything of letter-book No. 9?" asked the manager. "No, sir," said Mike. "Well, have you seen a book like this?" taking another letter-book from the safe.

"Yes, sir; I seen one like that one night. It was in the waste basket." "Where is it now?" "Sure, I burned it." If ever a watchman received a lecture for stupidity, Mike got it then.

The name of the woman who live in single rooms in boarding-houses, and yet long for an opportunity to receive and entertain their friends, is legion, says an exchange. One of their number has decided that it may be done, and has made an excellent beginning in that direction.

Her room is—or was—an ordinary-looking, moderately large back one on the second floor of an ordinary boarding-house. She turned it into a charming apartment by the expenditure of a great deal of time and thought and giving up a new winter frock. The bed was banished and a luxurious cot lounge was substituted with denim cover and a multitude of silk pillows.

In the closet, every Saturday night, are stored olives, crackers, cheese, bread and butter, lettuce, a little celery, coffee and sugar—all of them delicious. Every Sunday the landlady—for a consideration—cooks and chops up a chicken. Every Sunday the young woman makes chicken salad, for the preparation of which she is justly famous, and thin bread and butter sandwiches. Sometimes she toasts some crackers over her grate fire.

An English firm have recently been granted letters patent for an invention whereby the heels of boots and shoes can be easily detached or reversed. The invention consists of steel, or any similar material, shaped as a lift, with a flange and groove, by the first of which it is fixed in any part of the height of the heel at the option of the maker, while the upper portion of the heel is so constructed as to slide into position so that it is indistinguishable from an ordinary heel; but to insure absolute security a fine screw is inserted from the inside. The advantages claimed for it are that when the top piece becomes slightly worn down the wearer can reverse it to the other boot, and after these have been well worn they can be replaced by a new set at a very small cost.—Shoe and Leather Facts.

There is at least one level-headed farmer in San Joaquin County. There is more point in the following few lines than can be found in an average speech occupying as many columns. He says: "We let our timber rot and buy fencing. We throw away our ashes and grease and buy soap. We raise dogs and buy hogs. We let our manure go to waste and buy guano. We grow weeds and buy vegetables and brooms. We catch five-cent fish with a four-dollar rod. We build school-houses and send our children off to be educated. And, lastly, we send our boys out with a forty-dollar gun and a ten-dollar dog to hunt for ten-cent birds."

A curious point in Swedish criminal law is that confession is necessary before a capital sentence can be carried out. If, however, the culprit persists in protesting his innocence in the face of overpowering evidence, the prison discipline is made extremely strict and severe until the desired confession is obtained.

"Slang is always vulgar," said the manager of the dime museum, "but it is sometimes funny, too." "Yes?" "Yes. For instance, it does sound funny to hear the living skeleton asking the fat lady if she will lend him a couple of bones."—New York Press

It isn't always nervousness that makes a girl bite her lips. Sometimes—very often, in fact—she does it to give them a nice color.

FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

Ancient Egyptians worshipped the oxion. French lovers have a sealing-wax code. Lemons were looked upon in ancient Greece as poisonous. An eighteen-year-old girl at Ballston, N. Y., has three living husbands. Football was a crime in England during the reign of Henry VIII. The aged and sick in parts of Siberia are assisted in committing suicide. The vogue of the danse du ventre began in the Paris Exposition of 1889. The huge guns of modern navies can only be fired about seventy-five times before they are worn out. It is a point of honor that Moorish women never know their own ages. They have no birthday celebrations. The apple has a larger proportion of phosphorus than any other fruit, and is, therefore, an excellent brain food. A Boston business man displays a sign on his office door which reads: "Office hours 12 to 1 every other Tuesday." Engineers on the first locomotives were equipped with tin horns, with which they warned people from the tracks. Because she did not get any Christmas presents, Mrs. William Thompson, of St. Joseph, Mo., attempted death by suicide on Christmas night. It is estimated that the fire losses in the United States in the year 1893 will reach a total of \$160,000,000, a greater amount than has been lost in any former year, except that of the Chicago fire. Application was made at the New York Post-Office the other day for mourning stamps, and the applicant expressed great disappointment when he was told that the Government did not keep any in stock. A pious-looking man snatched a little woman's pocketbook in a New York cable car. She jumped off the car after him and chased him until her cries brought the police. The thief was arrested and the plucky woman is again carrying her pocketbook. The following is a characteristic extract from the manuscript diary of King James II., which is preserved in the imperial library at Paris: "I did not retire from the battle on the Boyne from a sense of fear, but that I might preserve to the world a life that I felt was destined to future greatness." An Aroostook, Me., farmer travels in great comfort through the long reaches of snow and in the face of the bitterest north winds in a one-horse sleigh, hooded over like a prairie schooner, and with a stove inside, the funnel sticking through the top. It is a rig of his own invention, and, while not architecturally beautiful in appearance, is mighty comfortable in use.

LITERARY NOTES.

Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt is about to publish her memoirs, which will fill two volumes. Mrs. Humphrey Ward's new novel will be shorter than either "Robert Elsmere" or "David Grieve," and is said to be written in a more popular vein. Its shortness will not prevent its being brought out in three volumes in London. Bret Harte's latest story is called "Johnnyboy." Mr. Harte does not write a great deal nowadays, but what he does write he gets well paid for. His income is said to be \$15,000 from his literary work alone. He lives in England and he has his greatest vogue there. Mr. R. D. Blackmore, the author of "Lorna Doone," is being asked to write a New Year's message for an American periodical, bluntly declined, saying that, as all the magazines had refused his story "Perlycross," "he did not feel inclined to duck his head to the Americans."

Miss Louise Stockton, the sister of Pomona's inventor and of him who raised the question between the lady and the tiger, has started a Round Robin Reading Club, with its headquarters in Philadelphia. The plan is for the members to do systematic reading at home under the direction of Miss Stockton. Miss Dorothy Klumpke took her degree as Doctor of Mathematical Science at the Sorbonne the other week. During the last century there have been many proofs of the ability of women to earn distinction as students of higher mathematics, but before the present occasion no woman student ever took her degree in the department of mathematical science in Paris. For some time past Miss Klumpke has held an honorary post at the Paris Observatory. Mr. Mitchell, who is founder and editor of the New York Life, is described by a London journal as "quite a figure in American literary society; a pleasant little sandy-haired man, inclined to baldness, with a conical face. He is an habitue of the Century Club, which corresponds in a way to our Athenaeum, and, though editor of a satirical paper, is really popular with every one. For in a country in which newspapers take so much freedom with the person his journal is always gentlemanly, and conducted in a way worthy of its splendid illustrations which, in the presentation of beautiful and elegant dressed young girls, have no equal in journalism. In its first year Life was a dead loss; in its second it about paid expenses; in its third there was \$6,000 of net profit."

GRAINS OF GOLD.

"Ask not a man's creed. Ask his need. Cunning differs from wisdom as twilight from open day.—Dr. Johnson. There is a time when the truest courage is shown in retreating from temptation. The most effective argument against Anarchism is the practice of the Golden Rule. Habits are soon assumed, but when we strive to strip them off 'tis being flayed alive.—Cowper. There is a duty not only to aid the unemployed, but, as far as possible, to employ the unaided. People live, not because they care for themselves, but through and by the love that other people bear them.—Tolstol.

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