The Trouble they give Uncle Sam's Revenue Officers in Frisco.

The customs officers of San Francisco have to deal with some of the artful smugglers in the world. The Chinese are a race of smugglers, and there is not a people on earth more fortile in expedients to evade the revenue laws. Their stolid, impressive demeanor serves them admirably in their contraband operations, for their acquently with white people, any ground to suspect they are trying to practice a fraud. They have taught the sailor men of the white race the shrewdest trick practiced on Uncle Sam's tax gatherers and are never caught in one device without being ready with an-other one equally as hard to detect. Before the influx of Chinese laborers

was stopped, a Mongol, looking as if all his years were acquainted with only poverty and toil, would sometimes try ashore with a dirty old blouse stuffed full of fine silk handkerchiefs and scarfs and Indian neck shawls. The Chinese garment for cold weather is a quilted blouse or tunic, with a beavy filling of cotton. Silk handkereblefs being light and fine, a single blouse would sometimes contain a valonble invoice.

Sometimes a demure Chinese malden 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. An inquisitive inspector had his attention attracted to the extraordinary thickness of the soles and made an investigation, which resulted in a valuable

To a man the Chinese crews on the steamers plying between San Fran-cisco and Mexico, South America and the Orient are snugglers. 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.

They have brought optim skilfully stuffed in bananas still hanging to the stalk and in oranges. One day about six years ago a Chinese dressed as a cook walked leisurely down the gang-plank of a Pacific Mail steamer with a basket on his arm containing several loaves of bread. He shuffled right by a customs house officer and would have got away all right, but on the wharf came into collision with a drunken sailor. The sailor, who was to blame, gave the Chinese a violent shove, sending him sprawling and scattering his brend loaves. A policeman interfered and noticed that one of the loaves had broken open. He started to examine and the Chinese started to run. Every loaf was filled with opium.

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

Beams on ship and table legs have been hollowed out as receptacles for contraband opium. False bottoms are put in cubby holes and pantry drawers. Hiding places are sought in coal bunkers and under the engines and boilers. The methods of secretion are so varied and ingenious that frequently the officers are unable to find smug-gled oplum, even after they have defi-nite information that it is aboard a vessel. Only recently the officers falled to find a lot, although they knew positively that it was on board. However, keeping the closest watch on everything that left the ship, they finally intercepted the opium as it was being taken ashore.

Dinner in a Circus.

Dinner is the great event of the day, for to this meal all the people employed "in the biggest show on carth" sit down at once. The mess tent is an oblong affair. There are six rows of tables with a broad aisle down the centre; it will seat 500 people. The aristocracy sits on the right side and the masses on the left. The aristoc-racy has a little better service than the others, but the food is about the same. There is roast beef, vegetables and desserts with soup and fish at the cook's caprice. The cooking is done in a wagon fitted up with two ranges. The coffee making and boiling and broiling is done in the open air. takes seventy gallons of milk to put in the tea and coffee of the mess every day, and more when the boys are tired. After dinner there is an hour of rest at twilight. This is the only time in the entire day that the performers have wholly to themselves. It is the social hour. Little family groups gather in the open air, lying on the grass, picule fashion, about a charlot or near a tree; the women cluster in little groups and talk woman wise, and make a feint of doing fancy work, sewing or reading.

The Bathtub Trunk.

Some novelties in bathtubs are made abroad especially for travelling pur-They are made of best tinned iron with japanned oak outside and white inside. The novelty is that they can be closed up with a strap and utilzed as a trank to hold the clothes of the owner. A self-heating gas bath s made upon the following principle: An atmospheric gas burner being em-ployed from which the heat is conductad around the body of the bath by Jues, and after doing this duty escap-ing by a main flue. A bath can be heated in this way in forty-five minites at an expense of three cents.-

Southern Railroad Building.

The financial depression has not had t very decided effect on railroad construction in the South. The total numher 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. The total new mileage in the South for last year, up to December 1, was 1,112 miles. Texas leads with 216 miles, Plorida comes a close second with 208 miles, and Georgia is third with 171 miles.-Atlanta Journal.

Lady and Woman.

It has been decided by an English court that it is not libelious to call a lady a woman. This recalls the fact that in a Western town, a couple of years ago, a young woman who workad as a clerk in a dry-goods store threatened to sue a newspaper for libel because it referred to her as a sales-woman and not as a saleslady. She Hd not carry out her intention, however, as she was advised that she had give them a nice color.

WHY MIKE BURNED THE BOOK.

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

The whole office force was turned out to hunt for it, but it had disappeared as effectually as if swallowed up in the earth. After closing hours the other evening the secretary, the general manager and a couple of clerks sat in the office discussing the loss and trying to account for it. Mike, the new watchman, came in to sweep and

"Mike, have you ever seen anything of letter-book No. 9?" asked the man-

ager. "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 lec-ture for stupidity, Mike got it then. The secretary became hotter and hotter every minute as he talked. "I sup-pose you'd burn up the cashbook if you ever found it outside the safe!"

he shouted finally. "No, sir; I would not," returned Mike, gently, "What would I do that for, when there's nothing but figures in it that don't mean anythin but to the man that wrote 'em? I wasn't goin' to burn this book at first, be-cause I wanted to keep the nice papers to put tobacco in. But when I thought, well, perhaps some one will get a-hold of it and read somethin' that was none of their — business, I just burned it to make sure. You'd do the same, sir, now wouldn't you?"-New York Her-

Paying Social Debts.

The name of the women 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 num-ber has decided that it may be done, and has made an excellent beginning in that direction.

Her room is-or was-an ordinarylooking, moderately large back one on the second floor of an ordinary board-ing-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. There was a leather screen picked up at a bargain, to shut out the view of the washstand. A set of box bookshelves served the simple purpose of bookcase, sideboard and closet, by being stained and having a door with hinges swing over one long box. Dainty blue and white china, a copper coffee pot and some silver spoons occupy the sideboard. All sorts of pretty photographs in pretty frames hang about the walls, and a grate fire completes the prettiness of the room.

In the closet, every Saturday night, are stored olives, crackers, cheese, broad and butter letters a little on

are stored olives, crackers, cheese, bread and butter, lettuce, a little cel-ery, coffee and sugar—all of them delicious. Every Sunday the landladyfor a consideration—cooks and chops up a chicken. Every Sunday the young woman makes chicken salad, for the preparation of which she is justly fa-mous, and thin bread and butter sandwiches. Sometimes she toasts some crackers over her grate fire. She makes delicious coffee in the Russian coffee pot. And every Sunday after-noon she is "at home" to her friends, dispensing the dainties from an old mahogany table in the corner. She does not spend a fortune in entertain-ing, but all the people who "drop in" during the long afternoon have the best sort of time, and she owes social debts.

Interchangeable Heels.

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 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 in-serted from the inside. The advant-ages claimed for it are that when the top piece becomes slightly worn down 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.

California Misfits.

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 fenc-

ing. 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 tendellar dog to hunt for ten-cent birds."

That is precisely what is being done That is precisely what is being done all over the State.—San Francisco Call

Forced to Confess.

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

The Humors of the Museum.

"Slang is always vulgar," said the manager of the dime museum, "but it sometimes funny, too."

"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

isn't always nervousness that makes a girl bite her lips. Sometimes -very often, in fact-she does it to FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

Ancient Egyptians worshipped the

French lovers have a scaling-wax

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 Tues-

Engineers on the first locomotives were equipped with tin horns, with which they warned people from the tracks.

Because she did not get any Christ-mas 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 for mer year, except that of the Chicago

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 lit-tle 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 onehorse 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.

Mme. 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

Mr. R. D. Blackmore, the author of "Lorna Doone," on 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 head-quarters 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 de-gree 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 Obser-

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 comical 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 satisfied paper, is ready 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 elegantly dressed young girls, have no equal in journalism. In its first year Life was a dead loss; in its sec-ond 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 cour-

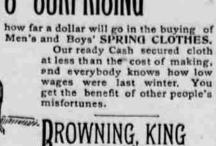
age is shown in retreating from temp-

tation. 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.—



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