

Fake Tricks of Chinatown That Appeal to Country Visitors

How Clever New York "Guides" Fool Their Patrons—Bogus Suicide Arranged for the Benefit of Slumming Spectators.

By far the most interesting part of New York city in the eyes of visitors from out of town is Chinatown, which is invaded by thousands of sightseers every year.

Almost everything that visitors to Chinatown see nowadays is more or less fraudulent. Whether the visitors come by night or by day, the greater part of the entertainment provided by their guides is fraudulent, although they



A BIT OF CHINATOWN. (Scene Near Corner of Mott and Pell streets, New York.)

never know it and go away satisfied that they have seen the real thing.

The Chinamen who live in Chinatown are not fools, neither are the white women who associate with them nor the white men who pick up a living in more or less questionable ways in the quarter.

For a long while the fake opium smoking took place in her room. A romantic and touching tale of this girl's downfall used to be told confidentially to visitors by the guides, so that she was an object of special interest.

The minute a visiting party strikes Chinatown it is taken in tow by one of these guides. Sometimes the guide meets the party by appointment, for many of them have connections with hotel clerks uptown who tout for them, but oftener the party wanders about until a guide picks it up and makes a bargain to show it Chinatown.

Of course, the party wants to see opium smoking, a game of fantan in operation, the quarters of white women who live with Chinamen, and all the other

things that are part of the quarter. The guide leads them up dark alleyways, through winding hallways where they cannot see their hands before their faces, and finally into little box-like rooms where white women and Chinamen smoke what is supposed to be opium for their amusement.

What the Chinamen and women smoke is not opium at all. Generally a small piece of wax is cooked over the lamp and inserted over the pin-hole of the pipe bowl.

A few puffs and the smoker rolls over in what appears to be deep slumber. The guide leads the shivering party out, and warns all hands to keep the matter very quiet.

Next he finds a Chinese gambling den in full operation. Fantan, Chinese dominoes and games with the long strip of cardboard covered with Chinese characters are being played.

The gamblers are being played. The table is covered with money, the banker hauls his coins from the center of the table with his sharp-pointed stick and the players suck away at their gurgling water pipes.

A carefully arranged protest is made when the visitors enter, but the guide arranges matters and the play is resumed. This is just as complete a fake as the opium smoking.

The supposed gamblers are just play-acting for the benefit of the visitors, but they do it very well, and the visitors, especially the women—for there are women in all of these parties—go away properly awed.

Visits to joss houses, restaurants and alleged dens are made, fake fights occur, dramatic scenes are enacted, and by the time the trip is over the visitors have seen about all they can stand.

The New York Sun says that for a long time there was a Chinatown woman who used to commit suicide every night for the benefit of visitors. She was a good-looking girl and had a room at the top of a Doyers street tenement.

For a long while the fake opium smoking took place in her room. A romantic and touching tale of this girl's downfall used to be told confidentially to visitors by the guides, so that she was an object of special interest.

At a certain stage of the exhibition each night she would startle the visitors by tossing her pipe aside, crying out, "I am tired of all this!" and then, taking a hasty swallow from a bottle labeled "carbolic acid," she would fall groaning to the floor, and the guide would hustle the visitors away so they wouldn't be arrested as witnesses.

The fake suicide was a howling success and a great money-maker for the woman who did it. The wardman from the Elizabeth street station put the performances under the ban, however, and the guides had to cut it out of their repertoire.

A LEADER OF WOMEN.

To Promote Social Purity Mrs. Chant Several Times Antagonized British Aristocracy.

Mrs. Laura Ormiston Chant, who is visiting the United States at the present time, is without doubt one of the greatest women of our time. She was highly esteemed by the late Frances E. Willard and is a fast friend of Lady Henry Somerset, president of the World's Christian Temperance union, as well as of Susan B. Anthony, Julia Ward Howe and other famous American women.

Mrs. Chant's most commendable work has been done in raising the social purity standard in England, and to bring this about she did not hesitate to attack vice in the highest places. In London she preaches regularly in an undenominational church, taking for her themes temperance, social purity and woman suffrage. She is a native of England, was educated for a teacher, and did ac-



LAURA ORMISTON CHANT. English Reformer Who is Now Visiting This Country.

usually teach for a time. She was afterward a nurse, and some years ago was drawn into reform work of various kinds, in which field she has made a splendid success. She is an author of considerable power, and has even published a volume of poems. She has several times visited America.

They Give and Take. People who borrow trouble are always willing to lend it, we've noticed.

THE BEE IS BUZZING.

Off Year in Politics a Busy Season for the Insect.

Republicans Take Things Easy, But the Democrats Wonder on Whose Receptive Head it Will Light Ultimately.

The "off year" in politics that precedes a presidential election is almost as welcome to the politicians as to the business men of the country—both classes quietly preparing for the stormier and more distracting season that is to come.

The democrats continue their search for a presidential candidate, says the Review of Reviews, with ex-President Cleveland's name still heading the list. Judge Parker, of New York, who addressed the Bar Association of Georgia in July, continues to be much talked of, particularly in the southern newspapers.

Ex-Gov. Francis, of Missouri, head of the accommodations enough to make an ordinary hotel envious. Perhaps the coming discussion of the Irish land bill in the house of lords may give the earl of Dunraven his chance to gain the prestige as a statesman which his admirers believe he deserves.

Lord Dunraven and Mr. Chamberlain are good friends, and the colonial secretary and his American wife have been frequently the guests of Sir Thomas Lipton's predecessor at Dunraven castle, Wales.

One of the rarest of American copper coins is the underground railway token. Three years ago one was dug up in a garden in Indiana, and it was supposed to be the only one in existence, but two others are owned by descendants of the Quakers who were "conductors" on the "underground railway" for runaway slaves before the civil war.

The copper token, says the New York Herald, is about the size of a two-cent piece and of about the same thickness:

Unique Coin Used by the Active Abolitionists in the Days Preceding the War.

the rim is unrolled, and circling inside of it on the face are the words "United States of America;" on the reverse side is the figure of a kneeling woman, shackled. The figure is symbolical of the appeals the negroes were making to that sentiment of liberty in the north which afterward led to their freedom.

Only 20 of these pieces were made, and they had no special significance except to those who understood their meaning and bound themselves by solemn oaths to discharge every duty which their presentation placed upon those to whom they were sent.

The runaway slaves made his escape to some house in Indiana, which was a station on the so-called "underground railway;" here a conductor would take him to another station, traveling at night. One of the tokens would be given to the next conductor by the one who brought the slave as evidence of his own good faith.

The person to whom the tallman was presented was bound by his oath to conduct the fugitive to another station.

Gypsies Rarely Get Sick. Some of the healthiest and most gracefully formed people of Europe are the gypsies of Hungary. They are rarely ill, their cheeks are rosy-tinted, and so pure is their blood that their wounds quickly heal without the application of medicines.

Curious Scotch Superstition. A curious superstition prevails in the highlands of Scotland, that if a cat be carried in a cart, and the wind blow from it to the horses, the latter immediately tire; and if any part of the driver's clothing be made from cat-skin, the horses will feel as if they were drawing a double burden.

Feeble Youth Lives Century. An interesting case of the longevity of a feeble youth was revealed in a Paris police court the other day. A man called to complain of a burglary in his apartment, said his name was Duval, and his age 100 years. The story was confirmed by his papers. Duval was born July 4, 1803, and as a youth was refused as a conscript. He has lived in one house 99 years, and has grown progressively stronger. He eats and drinks well, walks strong, and has a stentorian voice. He remembers seeing Napoleon in 1813.

Now Will You Be Good? A law recently enacted by the legislature of Louisiana punishes with imprisonment and hard labor husbands who desert or fail to support their wives and children. The wives of lazy husbands hang over the mantel a framed copy of the law, with this query in red ink, "Now Will You Be Good?"

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EARL OF DUNRAVEN.

Former America's Cup Challenger Soon to Cut Important Figure in British Politics.

It really looks as if the earl of Dunraven might yet cut the big figure in British affairs that he has always just missed cutting—in somewhat the same way that he missed getting the America's cup. His political importance has just been increased by his election as president of the Constitutional club, the conservative rival of the National Liberal club, just around the corner, for the distinction of being the largest club in the world.

Each of these institutions has about 6,000 members, a huge clubhouse, an army of servants, and sleeping



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Number 6, delivered..... 14 do 4 and 5 delivered..... 5 55 do 6, at yard..... do 4 and 5, at yard.....

REDUCED RATES TO WILLIAMSPORT via Pennsylvania Railroad, Account Lycoming County Fair. From August 31 to September 4, inclusive, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets at reduced rates, with a minimum of 25 cents, from Renovo, East Bloomsburg, Millersburg, Lewisburg, Elmira, and intervening points, to Williamsport and return. The Lycoming County Fair, with its varied attractions, will be held from September 1 to 4, and excursion tickets will be made good to return until September 5, inclusive.