

PASSING OF THE CHINESE.

In Fifty Years Will Be Extinct Under Present Laws.

In fifty years—perhaps less than fifty, if the present laws remain in effect and are rigidly executed—the Chinese population of the United States will become practically extinct.

A generation ago, there were in San Francisco from thirty to forty thousand Chinamen. The Chinese Consul-General there told me that, counting men, women and children, there are now not 10,000. The same proportionate decrease is seen in other places.

According to the most liberal estimate, there are not more than one hundred and fifty legal Chinese wives in San Francisco. But the number of Chinese women is estimated at between one thousand and two thousand. Of such female children as are born to the lowest class, a large proportion are sold for immoral purposes by their parents, thus still further reducing the possibilities of an increased population.

The main adult population is male; is unmarried, or, at least, wifeless in America; and is rapidly approaching old age. Thus by 1930 or 1940, the main Chinese life in America will have become extinct.—World's Work.

Mining for Rubies in India.

The system practiced for obtaining rubies in the mining districts in Burma is of the most primitive description. The mining shafts are simply holes about two feet square sunk to a depth varying up to fifty or sixty feet. The shoring up of the walls of the shaft is most crude, the sides being supported by posts at the corners and branches of small trees secured carefully against the sides by means of stout sticks.

The miner carries a tin pot similar in shape to a blunt-edged cone, on his head. He squats down in one corner and digs between his knees in the opposite corner. The earth or byon, as the ruby-bearing earth is called, is conveyed to the top, as fast as it is excavated, in small buckets let down from above.

The apparatus for raising and lowering the buckets is simple in the extreme. A stout bamboo post about twenty feet high, called a maung-dine, is fixed upright in the ground at a convenient distance from the pit or dwin, and a long, thinner bamboo pivoted horizontally into the upper end of it so as to project an eighth from the mine and the long arm toward the mine.—Search Light.

Vicissitudes of Paintings.

Many and strange have been the vicissitudes of some of the world's greatest pictures, and a fine painting which now graces Lord Leigh's residence in Warwickshire, England, has an interesting history. This remarkable picture, which for some years consisted of a painting of flowers, was pronounced by an art dealer to be merely a mask for some other picture, and on his receiving permission he gradually cleaned off the flowers, discovering underneath a very fine portrait of Charles I. by Van Dyke. It is supposed that the portrait was thus disguised in order to save it from destruction by the Roundheads at the time of the Commonwealth.

Feminine Gait.

Some women when staying at hotels do not care to exhibit to the passers along the corridors the exact size of their feet, so they carefully carry with them a couple of pairs of tiny, delicate shoes, which, instead of the ones they are wearing, they place outside their doors for the servants to take down and clean. All the big boot shops in Paris now make a specialty of this tiny footgear, and a pair or two form a portion of the trousseau of every up-to-date bride.—Imparical, Madrid.

Slaves of Orthography.

Perhaps we make too much of accurate spelling as an educational test. A century ago many people of high intelligence and considerable attainments spelt very ill according to our standards. But there the standard is; and I don't know who is daring enough to ask any convocation of schoolmasters to alter it.—Illustrated London News.

Nature's Barometer.

A small stone has been lodged in the British Museum; it is somewhat of a mystery. It has been named the semakuri; it is a native of Finland, and the Finns tell the weather by it. The explanation is that the stone changes its appearance through absorbing the moisture in the air preceding rain, turning it black.—Chic.

Vaccination was made compulsory in the city of Madras in 1884. Before that date there were hundreds, often thousands, of deaths a year; now the deaths rarely exceed ten.

A pig is usually kept in every stable in Persia; it is thought its presence is beneficial to the health of the horses.

PUNISHMENTS IN CHINA.

Many Cruel Forms Abolished Forever. Others Modified.

Wu Ting-fang, long Chinese minister in Washington, has succeeded in inducing the imperial government at Peking to abolish some of its cruel punishments. An imperial edict gives Wu and Shen Chi-pen credit for suggesting the changes and then proceeds: "At the beginning of the dynasty when our sovereignty extended within the great wall, the most severe punishment was beheading. In the year of Hsin Jui, however, when we revised the laws, we permitted the introduction of those punishments which had been prevalent in the Ming dynasty, hence ling chi (cutting to pieces) was allowed for certain crimes. Now that we are once more revising the laws, therefore, we hereby order that for all variations of the crime of taking life, beheading shall be the extreme penalty in future; ling chi, exposure of the detached head, and mutilation of the corpse must be abolished forever."

The penalty of chan hsiao, or what might be termed compound decapitation, or the entire removal of the head and exposure of the same, must hereafter read chao chun or strangulation on sentence. This is supposed to be a far more honorable death than decapitation and was formerly reserved for princes and other great men.

Another important reform is the abolition of the "condemned" brand on the faces of prisoners. Hitherto all who have been sentenced to banishment for robbery and other serious crimes, have been tattooed on the face, in order to mark them as criminals for life.

FIRE WORSHIP IN SCOTLAND.

Ancient Custom Still Practiced in Certain Sections.

Reminiscences of the pre-Christian days of Baal worship and fire worship are still to be found occasionally in Scotland. A few years ago a traveler wrote: "On the last day of the year, old style, which falls on Jan. 12, the festival of 'the clavie' takes place in Burghhead, a fishing village near Forres. On a headland in that village still stands an old Roman altar, locally called the 'douro.' On the evening of Jan. 12 a large tar barrel is set on fire and carried by one of the fishermen round the town, while the assembled folk shout and halloo. If the man who carries the barrel falls, it is an evil omen. The man with the lighted barrel, having gone with it round the town, carries it up to the top of the hill and places it on the 'douro.' More fuel is immediately added. The sparks as they fly upward are supposed to be witches and evil spirits leaving the town. The people, therefore, shout at and curse them as they disappear in vacancy. When the burning barrel falls in pieces the fishermen rush in and endeavor to get a lighted bit of wood from its remains. With this light the fire on the cottage hearth is at once kindled and it is considered lucky to keep this flame all the rest of the year. The charcoal of the 'clavie' is collected and put in bits up the chimney, to prevent the witches and evil spirits from entering the house."

How to Cut Glass.

Glass can be cut without a diamond, and the way is very simple. Dip a piece of common string in alcohol and squeeze it reasonably dry. Then tie the string tightly around the glass on the line of cutting. Touch a match to the string and let it burn off. While it is hot plunge the glass under water, letting the arm go under well to the elbow so there will be no vibration when the glass is struck. With the free hand strike the glass outside the line of cutting, giving a quick, sharp stroke with any long, flat instrument, such as a stick of wood or a long-bladed knife, and the cut will be as clean and straight as if made by a regular glass cutter.

The Art of Tattooing.

The master of the tattooing art in Japan is Chyo, who can produce such pictures on the human skin as are the envy of all rivals. He has photographs of all his more important works, most of the originals having been produced on the cuticle of English and American travelers. Two of the most remarkable are a huge dragon in three colors, covering an American doctor's back entirely, while another is a life-sized fly, which was put on an Englishman's wrist so naturally that one would feel tempted to call his attention to the fact if one were not told that it was the work of the tattooing needle. Chyo's work is recognized by his countrymen at a glance, and is looked upon with much respect.

The Nose and Deafness.

Dr. Wallace Mackenzie of Wellington, New Zealand, reports the case of a healthy man who came to him because of deafness following an operation on his nose. Examination revealed the fact that both nostrils had grown together. The man was chloroformed, the nostrils reopened with the knife and prevented from growing together again by placing in each a little cylinder of celluloid prepared from a photographic film. Two weeks after the operation hearing was greatly improved and eventually almost completely restored.

Japanese Economy in War.

Japan's war department is economical. The worn-out socks, stockings and other hosiery used by the troops in Manchuria were sent back to Japan to be remade into knitting yarns. These are then given out to hosiery manufacturers and reknitted by machinery into underwear, which was reshipped to the seat of war.

IS ENGLAND DEGENERATING?

Statistics Taken from the British Army Confirm That View.

Arnold White has written as follows in the London Chronicle of physical degeneration in England: "The Germans drink an enormous quantity of beer, but there is no class in Germany of drink-sodden, dirty and broken mothers such as we produce by the thousand. When Taine was shown the rush of the inhabitants of an east London slum into a wide street when attracted by the spectacle of an accident was like a human sewer emptying itself. Before the outbreak of the African war, of 11,000 men who wished to enlist in Manchester, only a little over 1,000 could be sent into the army. The Scotch highlanders and the Irish peasants are healthy, but English townsmen can no longer live in war with the Tyroloese and Bavarian mountaineers the inhabitants of east Prussia, the French peasantry, the Montenegrois or the hardy Russians."

"Britain's soldiers are born of mothers affected by the normal conditions of town life, both moral and physical. The average stay in hospital of soldiers affected by one preventable disease is 32 days. Thus in one year we have a total loss of 1,735,688 days' army service. Two hundred and three soldiers in the British home army go sick out of every 1,000; in the French conscript army only 43 become invalids."

"In 1845 the standard of height for admission to the army was five feet six inches; in 1883 it was five feet three inches, and in 1900 five feet. There is a progressive decline in the average weight. As the British army is ten times more unhealthy than the German, it loses three times as many by death."

Customs in China.

China, as seen with our eyes, is grotesque. She is the antipodes of all the rest of the world. She seems the upside down of everything. The needle in her compass points to the south, she says west north instead of north-west.

She enjoys her fireworks in the day-time; her ladies use wheelbarrows when they are making calls; they drive cows instead of horses; the necks of their prisoners are put in the stocks; their surname comes first, as Roosevelt Theodore; they mount their horses from the right side; the old men fly kites, while the small boys sit demurely and watch them; they keep on their hats as a sign of respect; their crimson visiting cards must be a burden to them if they go much calling, as they are four feet long and about two wide; their boats are drawn by men, their carriages by sails; they never drink milk and their mourning color is white or pale blue.

Their young women, no matter how beautiful they may be, according to Chinese ideas, are slaves, while the old mother of grown sons and the wrinkled grandmothers are queens, and the most respected and beloved members of the household. Even the emperor's mother ranks higher than he does. When a son is fortunate enough to receive an honorable decoration, he brings it to his mother, who wears it for him.—Sunset Magazine.

Owls Electrocutted.

The temporary suspension of work at the mine and mill of the Granite-Bimetallic Mining Co., at Pittsburg, caused by an owl becoming entangled in the wires, recalls the fact that since the transmission line was put in commission, nearly four years ago, 25 owls have been electrocuted by coming in contact with the wires, and since November of last year 12 fine specimens of the owl family have gone to owl land over this route. The transmission line is 11 miles in length and furnishes a current of 10,000 volts to the mine and mill. No. 4 copper wire being used. The line traverses a wild and unsettled country, the abiding place of all kinds of wild beasts and birds.—Anaconda Standard.

Goats as Pilots.

In Switzerland and other mountainous countries goats lead long strings of animals daily to and from the mountains, but it is in South Africa that the goat is regularly kept and employed as a leader of sheep. Should a blinding storm of rain or hail drive the sheep before it, or cause them to huddle together in a corner, so that there is a danger of their suffocating each other, the trained goat will wake them up, and, by a method of his own, induce them to follow him to a place of safety.

The Money-Mad Poor.

It is a great mistake to suppose that every rich man is money mad, for many rich men are money sick, and it is a still greater mistake to suppose that the only money mad people in the world are rich people. A man who is poor but bent on becoming rich is much more likely to be money mad than a man who has an independent fortune, only he shows it in a different way. A man of large fortune who is money mad shows it by his continued activity in money making. The poor man who is money mad shows it by envying and hating those who are more successful.—Chicago Chronicle.

Consumption of horse flesh is largely increasing in Berlin and its suburbs, where 250 horse slaughter houses exist. Many dealers have become so opulent that they have exchanged the humble cellars where they formerly carried on business for handsome shops. In other large towns the same state of affairs obtains, especially in Hamburg, where the annual consumption is computed to be 5,000 horses, much of which, however is used in sausage manufactories.

A grocer who sands his sugar has more grit than principle.

COTTON FROM FIRWOOD.

Difficult to Distinguish the Natural from the Artificial.

Cotton, which used to be born, is now being made from firwood which has been freed from bark and knots. The fibers are broken up by a special machine, and are then placed in a lead-lined copper cylinder having a capacity of 100 cubic centimeters. Into this steam is introduced for ten hours by means of a pipe in the bottom.

At the end of that time 50 cubic centimeters of soda lye are poured in and boiled for 36 hours under a pressure of three atmospheres. The material is then washed and thoroughly crushed, after which it is bleached and dried. The pure cellulose thus obtained is treated in an autoclave containing a mixture of zinc chloride, hydrochloric acid, and nitric acid, to which a little castor oil, caseine, and glycerine are added. The fibre, after being further reduced, is passed through a weak solution of carbonate of soda, and then between drying rollers.

The necessary fineness is given to the thread by finally putting it in a bath of diluted ammonia and then washing it with cold water. The substance thus made may be easily woven and dyed. When the artificial product is compared with the natural it is said to be difficult to distinguish the difference, and it is even asserted that the former may be so economically produced as to be able to compete with the latter.—Chicago Tribune.

Chinese Porcelain.

Chinamen have been exporting their porcelain to the west for at least a thousand years, and probably longer. Medieval Europe could make nothing like porcelain, and therefore regarded it as a magical product endowed with uncanny powers. It was said, for instance, that a porcelain cup would break if poison were poured into it. Travelers declared that porcelain was composed of various substances which, after being tempered, were hidden in the ground for ages before being fit for use. Even so erudite a man as Sir Thomas Browne, writing in the later seventeenth century, was "not thoroughly resolved, concerning porcellane or china dishes, that according to common belief they are made of earth." The secret of the true Chinese porcelain was first discovered in Europe a generation later by the German chemist Bottger, the inventor of what is now known as Dresden china.

Unique Lighthouse.

The most extraordinary of all British lighthouses is to be found on Arnish Rock, Stornoway Bay—a rock which is separated from the Island of Lewis by a channel over 500 feet wide. On this rock a conical beacon is erected, and on its summit a lantern is fixed, from which, night after night, shines a light which is seen by the fishermen far and wide. The way in which the lighthouse is illuminated is this: On the Island of Lewis is a lighthouse, and from a window in the tower a stream of light is projected on to a mirror in the lantern on the summit of Arnish Rock.—Exchange.

Compulsory M. P.'s.

The Norwegian parliament consists of 114 members, many of whom sit in the house under protest. All Norwegians over 25 years of age who satisfy certain conditions of residence, etc., meet in the local parish church once in three years and choose one man out of every 100 present to select the members of parliament for the country. The men so selected are bound to serve, whether they like the honor or not. Immediately parliament meets one-fourth of the members are chosen to form the upper house, the remaining three-fourths constituting the lower house.—Philadelphia Ledger.

In a Glacier 28 Years.

In an almost perfect state of preservation, and easily recognizable, the dead body of a guide named Nagi, a native of Aosta, Italy, who fell into a crevice in 1877 near the summit of Mont Rosa, was recently recovered from the ice. Nagi was descending the mountain in company with two Milanese Alpinists when he suddenly disappeared, and the cord which bound him to the others was cut by a sharp piece of ice. A search party made many vain attempts to recover the body.—London Mail.

How Birds Doctor Themselves.

Certain birds seem to possess a remarkable instinct for surgery. The woodcock, the partridge and some others are said to be able to dress their wounds with considerable skill. A naturalist observes that he has shot several woodcock that were recovering from wounds previously received. In every instance he found the injury neatly dressed with down plucked from the stems of feathers and skillfully arranged over the wound, evidently by the long beak of the bird. In other cases ligatures had been applied to wounded or broken limbs.—Exchange.

Rich Americans Abroad.

A cynical highland gillie thus explains a certain rich American's action in paying \$25,000 as a year's rental for a castle in the north of Scotland: "He pays \$5,000 for the house, \$5,000 for the fishing, \$5,000 for the deer, \$5,000 for the grouse and \$5,000 for being near Balmoral, where the king occasionally visits."

It appears that spies in the form of nurses have been introduced in considerable numbers into the families of French officers by some unnamed European power. The government has informed corps commanders about it.

The largest flour mill in the British empire is in Montreal. It turns out 5,000 barrels of flour a day.

Vaccine Law Valid

Test Case Brought in Franklin County and Judge Rules that Child Cannot Enter School Until Vaccinated

All cases in the Franklin County County Court were set aside Tuesday afternoon to hear argument on the application to make permanent a preliminary injunction to restrain Superintendent J. H. Reber, Principal Charles H. Coover and Chester Geesaman, a teacher of the Snyder Avenue Public School, in Waynesboro, from refusing to admit Grace Stull, daughter of Edward Stull, to the school.

Charles Walter and A. W. Gillan were allowed to intervene in behalf of the State Board of Health. The first witness called was Edward C. Stull, of Waynesboro, whose daughter is not vaccinated and because of that would not be allowed admission to school.

O. C. Bowers argued that the law does not apply to townships, merely to municipalities, and is therefore special legislation and unconstitutional. He made a strong plea and cited many authorities.

Charles Walter quoted Supreme and lower court decisions upholding the law, and Judge D. W. Rowe, in a long and careful opinion, took the view that the Legislature had power to pass such a law.

The statute has been upheld by various courts, including the supreme tribunal of the state. The court dissolved the injunction, placing the costs on the plaintiffs.

Tuberculosis is Not Hereditary.

Dr. Dixon Says It Can Be Communicated by Contact Only.

State Health Officer Dixon was shown a statement made by Arthur B. Reeve in "Public Opinion," this month, in which he says that "one-seventh of the deaths in the cities throughout the world are caused by tuberculosis, and that in the face of the assertion of one of the most eminent specialists that when the people can be aroused to comprehend the truth and to do their duty 'in two generations a case of consumption will be as much of a rarity as a case of leprosy now is.'"

"I would not draw the line so close as two generations," said Dr. Dixon, "but I would say that if the people were aroused to the danger of coming in contact with tuberculosis, and were taught the methods to prevent contagion they would have it in their power to eliminate tuberculosis in a very few generations."

"Tuberculosis is not inherited, as I have always maintained, but it is only by coming in contact with it that the disease is contracted. I have made repeated experiments to prove this, and to my mind have succeeded in proving it to the satisfaction of those who have made the subject a study."

Election Notice.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Pennsylvania Copper & Mining Company, for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors for the ensuing year, will be held at their office at Central, Columbia County, Pa., on Monday, January 8th, 1906, at 10 o'clock a. m. Polls will remain open until 4 o'clock p. m.

J. P. Fritz, Sec.

Election Notice.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers National Bank of Bloomsburg, Pa. for the election of directors for the ensuing year will be held at their Banking room Tuesday, January 9, 1906, between the hours of 2 and 4 p. m.

M. MILLEISEN, Cashier.

CHARTER NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania on the 3rd day of January, A. D. 1906, by I. John Davern, J. E. Bell, D. Lloyd, Max Kaiser, L. B. Young, H. K. Van Horn, George W. Sterner and others under the Act of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved April 29, 1874, and the supplements thereto for the charter of an intended corporation to be called the Hemlock Milling Company the character and object of which is for the purpose of manufacturing, buying, selling or otherwise disposing of flour, feed, and other commercial milling products and other materials known to the trade and for these purposes to have, possess and enjoy, all the rights, benefits and privileges of the said Act of Assembly and its supplements.

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