CHINESE OFFICIAL INSIGNIA.

Quaint Heraldic Emblems of Civic and Military Designs.

Buttons Worn Among the Celestials Which Indicate Descent from Families of High Rank—Figures Used as Symbols.

Nothing is more complicated than Chinese etiquette, said Dr. Edward Bedloe, ex-consul to Amoy, to a Washington Post reporter. A master of Debrett and Burke is a novice beside a Celestial master of ceremonies. Nevertheless, the latter's system is definite, if elaborate, and he has many official landmarks whereby to shape his course. One of the most important of these is the button which is worn by every mandarin on the top of his hat. Each of the nine ranks of Chinese has its particular button and the second degree of the first and second ranks are also marked by separate buttons. The official list is as follows:

First rank—First degree, light coral red button; second degree, deep coral red button. Second rank—First degree, light crimson button; second degree, dark crimson button. Third rank—Both, light clear blue. Fourth rank—Dark Prussian blue. Fifth—Quartz, glass or crystal. Sixth—Opaque white. Seventh and eighth—Gilded, yellow or gold. Ninth—Silver or silver-white.

It will be seen that a red button indicates high rank. The rank in general is personal rather than official. Thus, for example, a taotarship is an office of the third rank, and its button is a light, clear blue. Yet many taotatis, if not a majority of the class, are decorated with red buttons. It even happens that a person of the second rank, through misfortune or political vicissitudes, will hold an office of the fifth or sixth rank. In such a case he would still wear his red button, and in many official events would be preceded by an official of a dark blue or crystal button. For this reason it is often very difficult to tell the official rank of mandarins by their buttons. Nor is the difficulty lessened by the embroidered insignia upon the wearing apparel. This is more elaborate than the buttons, but, like the latter, does not discriminate between rank and position.

To overcome the difficulty the Chinese resort to several expedients. One is the card on which is written a full statement of the owner's rank, degree and position. Another consists of having the same facts painted upon the lanterns with which all chairs are provided. These can be read with equal ease day or night. The third is used for the information of the public and consists in having the name and all titles carved in large, bold characters on long red boards, which are carried by coolies. Mandarins who have received many honors will frequently have as many as twenty of these red boards. Where an official has retired from service he is still entitled to place these boards at the entrance of his residence. A fourth mode resembles the preceding and applies to junks or vessels in which a mandarin travels. The characters are written upon flags, which are fastened to the mast and elsewhere in lieu of ordinary bunting. When the present governor of Formosa left Shanghai on the steamer Smith no less than thirty banners of this class were flung to the breeze from the masts and other parts of the boat. The embroidered insignias of rank and position are placed upon the front and back of official robes. They must be of the finest workmanship and so well executed as to show the design clearly and accurately. The general design for a civil officer is a bird and for a military official a quadruped animal. The civil list is as follows, ranks and not degrees being discriminated:

First, a manchurian crane; second, a golden pheasant; third, a peacock; fourth, a wild goose; fifth, a silver pheasant; sixth, a young egret; seventh, a quail; eighth, a long-tailed jay; ninth, an oriole.

The military list runs: First, a unicorn; second, a lion; third, a leopard; fourth, a tiger; fifth, a black bear; sixth, a tiger cat; seventh, a mottled bear; eighth, a seal; ninth, a rhinoceros.

These insignias have been used from time immemorial, while the buttons are a creation of the Manchu conquerors of China. It is a singular fact that both the lion and rhinoceros are strangers to the latter country. The limit of their habitat seems to be the Ganges and to have been so since the tertiary period. The knowledge of these animals by the Chinese was acquired long before the Christian era, when large fleets of junks, naval, pirate or commercial, went from Canton to nearly every port in Hindoostan and often brought back these and other wild beasts alive. Of late years etiquette has relaxed considerably in regard to both buttons and insignia.

MISSING LINKS.

SICILIAN sulphur deposits employ 18,000 men.

CUCUMBERS were originally tropical vegetables.

THERE are 180,000 suicides yearly and increasing.

PALM leaves on the Amazon grow thirty feet long.

THE giraffe has a tongue almost eighteen inches long.

NINETY-ONE per cent. of the farmers in Utah own their farms.

THIRTY-two thousand varieties of goods are made from wool.

THE thread of a silkworm is one one-thousandth of an inch in diameter.

WORTH recently made for a Parisian belle a gown which cost the wearer $30,000.

AN entomologist estimates that there are 240,000 varieties of insects in the world.

SHIGAKEN, Osaka, claims to have a dwarf 36 years old who is only 17 inches in height.

Observation Cultivated.

A novel method of cultivating the faculty of observation in children has been introduced by a teacher in an uptown kindergarten. She tells her pupils that she is about to have a call from some one who will remain only three minutes; that no one must directly stare at him, but that the pupil who gives the best description of him after his departure will receive a prize. The other day her father, a grand army veteran in uniform, performed the part of caller, and some of the personal descriptions after he had bowed himself out denoted unusually quick and accurate attention to detail. One boy had counted all his buttons and gave the number correctly, another noticed an almost invisible scar on his face, and various others gave details of the color and shape of his beard, hair and uniform. The one who received the prize was a little girl, who declared he had "an expression on his face."—Philadelphia Record.

— Overweighted. —Julie—"Mabel is affecting a walking stick." May—"How odious of her imitating the princess of Wales, I presume. How I detest anglomania!" Julie—"Well, I believe she would like it given out that that was the fad, but between ourselves I think she really needs it to assist her in carrying the violets given her by her fiance."—Judge.

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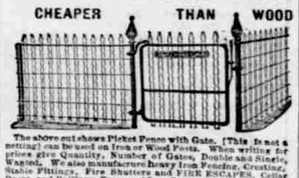

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FEES BROS.

THEIR FIRST DISAGREEMENT.

How a Bridal Couple Fell Out Over Their Breakfast Menu.

There was a newly married couple at one of the down-town hotels the other day, says the Washington Post, and they were as dead in love with each other and as anxious to let nobody else find it out as such people usually are. He was all attention, and the waiter noticed when they came to dinner, which was the first meal served after they reached the hostelry, that he ordered everything she did. She wanted her beef well done, and so did he. She ordered a glass of milk and rye bread, and he immediately did likewise. When she took a sip of the fluid he followed suit with gallant alacrity, and a man with half an eye could have seen that he was drinking her health every time. When they were through and had left the room the waiter remarked to the star boarder under his care that "Dey wuzn' no useter gib sech fokes two sets er deeshes. Dey dess et de same stuff, an' orter had wun plate betwix um." The star boarder happened to be at breakfast synchronously with the devoted twain next morning. They ordered everything alike until it came to eggs.

"How huz yer want yer aigs?" queried the waiter.

"Soft boiled," replied the sylphlike bride.

The groom struggled manfully with himself for a moment or two, and then grew red to the roots of his hair.

"Gimme mine fried on both sides," he said with a great effort.

A big pair of blue eyes looked at him reproachfully across the table, while he discovered something interesting in the butter dish. Then she sighed. It was their first difference, and she let him know that she resented it.

FARMS ACROSS THE SEAS.

ATTEMPTS to cultivate potatoes in the Nilgiri hills, India, from imported English seed have been only partially successful, on account of the deterioration of the seed before it reached its final destination.

OVER a million acres of coffee land were sold during last year in the single state of Vera Cruz, Mexico. The purchasers were of various nationalities, including Americans, Englishmen, Germans, Frenchmen and Belgians.

THE coffee plantations of Coorg, India, have been invaded by borers, which threaten great damage. There are two varieties of the coffee borers, the white and the red, and both are equally destructive in the larval stage.

TROUT culture has been successfully undertaken in South Africa, the eggs having been carried there from England. Several thousand young trout from the hatcheries have been distributed to various rivers in Cape Colony.

PROF. SCHRIBAUX, of the National Agronomic institute, Paris, reports that of thirty-nine varieties of oats with which he experimented, the best was the Beseler. It surpassed all the others in the production of both grain and straw.

SOME GREAT COMPOSERS.

MEYERBEER could sing popular melodies at two years of age, at seven he was an accomplished pianist, and at nine was considered the best performer in Berlin.

BELLINI was the son of an organist in Catania, in Sicily, and began his musical career by playing on the organ while held in the arms of his father.

BERLIOZ, the composer of many majestic works, never learned to play any instrument save the guitar, and that so badly that no one would willingly listen to him.

SPOHR always declared that he owed his knowledge of composition and harmony to the study of Mozart's scores, who, in turn, admitted his obligations to Bach.

MOZART was small and slight. His face was very thin and pale, and his nose, always prominent, became much more so from the extreme emaciation of his later years.

HAYDN was fond of imitating animal sounds in his symphonies. In these compositions will be found imitations of the cat, horse, cow, cuckoo, grasshopper and donkey.

THE PUNISHMENT OF CRIME.

CAPITAL punishment in Denmark is executed publicly with an ax. If several are to be decapitated on the same date one is not present while another is executed.

IN many cities of Europe women of known bad character are forbidden to appear on the public streets during daylight save with a written permission from the chief of police.

NEARLY one-fourth of the arrests in Calcutta last year were for not abating nuisances. The sanitary laws in a tropical country must be strictly enforced if public health is to be preserved.

ONE penalty of infraction of French prison discipline is seating the prisoner on the ground, bound hand and foot with strong belts fastened to rings in the wall, so that he cannot stir.

THE treadmill and crank labor are still in use in English prisons. When a prisoner is unable to perform this kind he is set to breaking stone or picking oakum. His only reading matter is the Bible.

A MUSICAL MELANGE.

GOUNOD received his first instruction in music from his mother, who was a distinguished pianist. He won the grand prize at the Paris conservatory when he was twenty-one.

DONIZETTI was his own librettist. Several acts of Lucia and La Favorita, as well as of other operas, were written by him, the libretto furnished not suiting his views of what it should be.

BEETHOVEN liked to work either in the fields or in a beer garden. In summer time he always wrote in the open air, when the weather permitted, and generally with a glass of beer at his elbow.

FREDERICK THE GREAT was ambitious to be thought a composer of music. Over one hundred and twenty of his pieces have been found, and are now in the imperial library of Berlin. They are, if possible, worse than his poetry.

CROWNED ROYALTY.

QUEEN VICTORIA has never vetoed a bill. In theory she has the right to do so, but the exercise of that right would be likely to be considered revolutionary.

THE queen of the Sandwich Islands has something of a name herself, but it is short and sweet in comparison with that of her daughter, Princess Victoria Kawekiu Kaiulani Lunalilo Kalaninuiahilapalapa.

THE king of Greece has a salary of three hundred thousand dollars and finds it all little enough when he has to foot the bills of a stud of two hundred horses and to pay the expenses of his royal position.

THE king of Sweden was lately an unexpected guest at the sailors' home in Stockholm. While partaking of the humble fare, he exclaimed: "Why, look here—here's jolly good cabbage soup. I never get such soup as this at my table." The king interviewed the cook, who was forthwith engaged to exercise his culinary skill in his majesty's household.

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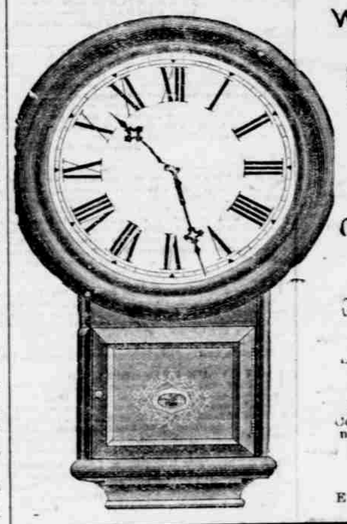

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WANTED TO CONTINUE.

A Gravedigger Reminded That He, Too, Is Mortal.

A man whose occupation is that of gravedigger and a woman whose trade is cleaning soiled linen sat side by side in a Broad street electric the other afternoon. They were on very intimate terms. His name was John and hers was Bridget. Said Bridget:

"How be you now-a-days, John? It's a long time since I seen you last."

"Not over and above, Bridget. Me and the old woman 'ave got the grip bad."

"Why for land's sake don't you go to bed and sweat it out? You never'll be any better as long as you be out in this grippy air."

"Bridget," dolefully, "my business won't let me loaf. Ah! you've no idea what a trying trade mine is."

"Sure, sure, to be sure it is; but John ——"

"What, Bridget?"

"Suppose you should die. Then you couldn't dig any more graves, and then what 'ud the corporation do?"

"I never thought of it that way. If I should die the committee would be put to no end of bother finding another man. The tricks of the trade be something awful. Why, there ain't one man in ten who can dig a grave proper. Bridget, I guess I'll take your advice. We haven't got any jobs on hand just now and ain't likely to have for several days. In the meanwhile I guess I'll go to bed and sweat out the grip. Then when somebody dies I will feel in better humor to dig his last restin' place."—Providence Journal.

CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Soldiers Hate to Turn Out for the Parade.

On a recent Sunday there was a church parade at which the bishop of Mashonaland officiated. Church parades are not, and never will be, popular. There appears to be a prejudice ingrained into the trooper's nature against the institution, and there is some truth in the saying that the affair is the cause of more blasphemy than devotion.

"Fall in there for church parade," is first heard, and then a subdued buzz runs along the lines, which, if attentively analyzed, results in being found to be a conglomeration of such expressions as "Where the deuce is my bayonet belt?" "Curse these spurs, they won't fit!" and then there is the long, continuous growl of a string of oaths from the man who is looking apoplectic in a struggle to get on a pair of top boots. I don't mean by the foregoing that men dislike church. Far from it; but they hate the formality which is gone through most heartily.

In the evening there was a voluntary service in one of the improvised tents which was well attended, although one's gravity was sorely tried when the bishop, whose discourse was rendered almost inaudible by the clatter of plates made by an enterprising coolie cook in the near vicinity, suggested that some one should

"Tell the gentleman washing the plates and things that a little less noise would be more edifying."—Diamond Fields Advertiser.

A SHIPWRECKED CREW.

The Terrible Night and Day Passed on the Northern Icebergs.

A sealing brig, immersed in the densest fog and driven by the gale, was running down a narrow lane or opening in the ice, when the shout of breakers ahead and the crash of the bows upon a reef came in the same moment. The crew sprang overboard upon the heaving ice-field, and almost immediately saw their strong and beautiful vessel sink into the ocean. The adventure is related in: "After Icebergs with a Painter."

Without food or extra clothing the forty men were remote from all help. To the west lay the precipitous shores of Cape Bonavista, and for this, the nearest land, in single file, with Capt. Knight at their head, the men commenced at sunset their dreadful and almost hopeless march.

All night, without refreshment or rest, they went stumbling and plunging on their perilous way, now and then sinking into the slush between the ice-cakes, and having to be drawn out by their companions. But for their leader and a few other bold spirits, the party would have sunk down with fatigue and despair, and perished.

At daybreak they were still on the rolling ice-fields, beclouded with fog, and with nothing in prospect but the terrible cape and its solitary chance of deliverance. Thirsty, famished and worn, they toiled on, more and more slowly, all the morning, all the forenoon, all the afternoon; and then, bewildered and lost in a dreadful cloud traveling along parallel with the coast, the poor fellows passed the cape without knowing it.

The captain looked back from time to time on the worn-out and suffering line of men, the last of them scarcely visible in the mist, and a thrill of discouragement passed over him. Unless there was some change in their prospects, he knew that few of them would live out another night on the ice. They had shouted until they were hoarse, and looked into the endless gray until they had no heart for looking longer.

Suddenly, just before sundown, they came to a vessel. A few rods to the right or left, and they must have missed it. "We were led by the hand of Providence," said Capt. Knight, in telling the story.

He Got Desperate.

"Only a few weeks ago a young actor out of work was notified by his landlady on the North side that he would have to pay his rent on a certain Saturday or vacate his room. He had no money, and told her so, but she was pitiless. Now, this is what a man will do when he is desperate: He waited until Saturday afternoon and then went to a friend of his and said: 'I'm going out calling to-night and want to borrow your gold watch, so I can put up a good front.' The friend loaned him the watch, and in less than half an hour he had pawned it for twenty dollars. Then he telegraphed to a suburban town and engaged a hall for Monday night. He went to a hotel where professionals hang out and engaged six of them to assist him in a show. He gave them their parts to study on Sunday, and sent one of them ahead to flood the suburb with yellow posters. On Monday morning he took them out to the town. This exhausted his funds. All that day he passed bills. Every family in town received a dozen. That night he played the hero to a full house. After paying salaries and getting his company back to town he had money enough to redeem his watch and make a payment to his landlady. That's what I call Chicago enterprise. Anyone can get up a show with money, but it takes a genius to do as he did."—Chicago Record.

A Woman's Opinion.

In all nature it is the male of every species who is most gorgeously bedecked, and obviously for the purpose of attracting the attention of the other sex. Man alone, of all male creatures, disclaims to make a special appeal to the eye. The restless and unceasing experiments of woman to make herself more presentable by adventitious aids argues not her vanity but her modesty. She thinks so lightly of her inherent good qualities that she would enhance them by means within her reach.—Kate Field's Washington.

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HEART DISEASE 20 YEARS.

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DEAR SIRS: For 20 years I was troubled with heart disease. Would frequently have falling spells and smothering at night. Had to sit up or get out of bed to breathe. Had pain in my left side and back most of the time; at last I became dropsical. I was very nervous and nearly worn out. The least excitement would cause me to faint. I was troubled also much with fluttering. For the last fifteen years I could not sleep on my left side or back until began taking your *New Heart Cure*. I had not taken it very long until I felt much better, and I can now sleep on either side or back without the least discomfort. I have no pain, smothering, dropsy, no wind on stomach or other disagreeable symptoms. I am able to do all my own housework without any trouble and consider myself cured.

Elkhart, Ind., 1888. MRS. ELMIRA HATCH.

THOUSANDS CURED

It is now four years since I have taken any medicine. I am in better health than I have been in 40 years. I honestly believe that *Dr. Miles' New Heart Cure* saved my life and made me a well woman. I am now 62 years of age, and am able to do a good day's work.

May 29th, 1892. MRS. ELMIRA HATCH.

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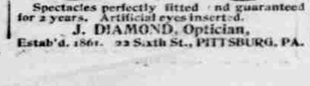

Spectacles perfectly fitted and guaranteed for 2 years. Artificial eyes inserted.

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ROYAL ALLOWANCES.

THE king of Bavaria has a salary of $1,412,000 a year.

A FRENCH queen of the fourteenth century received £800 a year.

THE king of Saxony has $750,000 a year, but is very rich in his own right.

THE infant king of Spain receives $1,400,000, besides $600,000 for family use.

THE king of Italy receives $2,858,000 as salary and $180,000 for his family, he being a married man.

THE emperor of Austria manages to make both ends meet with an annual allowance of $3,875,000.

HIS MAJESTY of Portugal, in consideration of the small size of his kingdom, contents himself with $624,440 a year.

THE king of Prussia has a salary of only $3,852,000, but then he is very rich in his own right, so does not expect his people to pay him as they ought.

THE little king of Greece is paid by his own subjects $260,000 a year. To help him to pull through, England, France and Russia each contribute $20,000.

THE annual salary of the queen of England is $1,925,000; the prince of Wales gets $200,000, and the rest of the royal family somewhat smaller amounts.

THE czar of Russia receives no salary. His income arises from 1,000,000 square miles of land that he owns, comprising farms, forests, mines and other resources. He is estimated to be worth $12,000,000 a year.

IN REGARD TO PIE.

A UNIVERSAL congress of cooks is to assemble in Paris next year. Prizes are to be awarded for novel and approved pies.

CONGRESSMAN CRAIN, of Texas, says that the people of Texas regard the pie family as Cæsar regarded Gaul—divided into three kinds, "the kivered, the unkivered and the cross-barred."

A BAKER estimates that every American will consume two pies a week, and if the statement is correct the American stomach is weekly tortured with one hundred and thirty million pies.

PIE-EATERS will be pleased to learn that a lately-invented tin pie plate with holes in the bottom, prevents a soggy undercrust. A woman is the inventor. A crinkled rim of this same plate presses together the edges of the upper and lower crusts and prevents the escape of juice.

THE sensation of New Year's day in Ashland, Wis., was the feeding of one thousand children on a mince pie twenty-two feet in circumference and four inches thick, weighing nearly a quarter of a ton. Half dollars contributed by hotel guests were put in the pie edgewise and drawn in each piece.

PERSONAL MENTION.

A WESTERN paper reports that ex-Secretary of Agriculture Norman J. Colman clears $50,000 a year from his farm in Missouri.

JOHN HILL, of Derby, England, is thought to be the oldest living oarsman fellow. He is nearly ninety-one years old and was initiated in the order in 1832.

WILLIAM F. CODY (Buffalo Bill) is said to be quite gray, and to have lost that appearance of robust health which formerly distinguished him.

MRS. WILLIAM GASTON, JR., wife of the son of ex-Gov. Gaston, of Massachusetts, has recently come by inheritance into the possession of the Brown homestead in Waterford, Me., where Artemus Ward lived in his youth.

DR. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, being asked recently if a young man should smoke, emphatically replied: "Certainly not. It is liable to injure the sight, to render the nerves unsteady, to enfeeble the will and enslave the nature to an imperious habit likely to stand in the way of duty to be performed."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

PROF. FRITCH, of Berlin, has succeeded in photographing a cannon ball in motion.

ONE of the most valuable additions which have ever been made to the Agassiz museum of comparative zoology at Cambridge, is a collection of three thousand birds—made by W. D. Scott—from the United States and West Indies.

PROF. HAZEN, of the weather bureau, expresses the opinion that all the concussion experiments to produce rain have been failures, and that those conducted in Connecticut last summer seemed to prolong the drought in that section, while there was plenty of rain in all the region roundabout.

It is maintained very stoutly by some electricians that the storage battery is, after all, a success for commercial use, that the new processes for manufacturing them have cheapened their cost and that in train lighting they are specially efficient and economical. It is estimated that eighty-five dollars per horse power is the annual cost of an accumulator.—Inventive Age.

CURRENT HUMOR.

WHEN some people want counsel they proceed to consult their own interests.—Galveston News.

"My wife and I had a terrible row over the roast, yesterday." "Call it some other name—a joint debate, for instance."—Boston Gazette.

SYMPATHETIC WIDOW—"Have you been fortunate in your love affairs? Interesting Subject—"Yes, very; never yet fell in love with a girl who would marry me."—Life.

"BUNKINS used to think the theater was demoralizing," remarked the manager. "Has he changed his views?" "Yes. I converted him." "How?" "Sent him a pass."—Washington Star.

BEBE—"I don't see any use in the geography lesson." Mattie—"Why, you goosey, it's the greatest use. It tells you where to go when you want to get there, and describes the country and all that. If we had no geography we'd get lost all over the world."—Harper's Young People.

Excusable Ignorance.

It is often said that one of the best ways of learning a thing is to teach it to others; but the rule does not always hold good. Says a correspondent of the Boston Transcript: One day my brother went to buy a bushel of last wheat for sowing. The man of whom he was to get it was away, but his wife was at home, and undertook to make the sale. She got a peck measure, and they went to the granary. There the woman filled the measure twice, poured the contents into the bag, and was proceeding to tie it.

"But Mrs. F——," said my brother, "it takes four pecks to make a bushel."

"Oh, does it?" said she. "Well, I see, I never had any experience in measuring grain before I was married. I always taught school."

A Timely Warning.

An innocent little fellow, to whom intoxication was an unknown evil, went out for a walk the other day with as he was returning, saw before his own house a man whose curious lurches and staggering compelled an explanation from an accompanying nurse. On seeing at that moment a young man brother running to meet him, he whisked him away into the hall door: "Go home, Harold," he cried excitedly, "go home. You might get drunk!"