

Passing of San Francisco's Chinatown

SAN FRANCISCO'S Chinatown was long both a magnet for tourists and a plague spot in the community. The fire following the earthquake swept it completely out of existence, and in the opinion of many people its destruction was a blessing in disguise. It was headquarters for vice and crime, the depths of which the officials of San Francisco were never able fully to sound. In the new San Francisco care will be taken to prevent the vices of the orient from taking root so deeply as they did in the old. How deep underground the Chinese of San Francisco went in their efforts to evade inspection of their ways of living white men never knew, but the fire has revealed the strange and awesome facts. The conflagration made a complete job of it in Chinatown. Not a single painted wooden fabric was left. The flames ate down to bare ground, and joss houses, gambling dens, opium joints and theaters all went up like so much tissue paper. Hundreds of crazed yellow men fled from the scene, bearing in their arms opium pipes, money bags, ebony furniture, silk hangings, clothing and such other articles as they could snatch up in their flight. Some who lingered to save more of their property were driven out by soldiers when the flames pressed close upon the colony, but even the soldiers could not enter the holes in the ground where slave women who had lived for years without ever seeing the light of day were confined and where the victims of opium lay in a stupor which even an earthquake could not disturb. How many perished in these underground passages will never be known, but the fire has unmasked the secrets of the hidden city and laid bare tunnels leading down fifty, sixty, perhaps a hundred feet into the ground.

The Chinese colony of San Francisco is supposed to have numbered about 80,000. The Chinese quarter was near the old city hall and was full of winding alleys leading to all kinds of resorts and curious places of entertainment possessing a strange fascination for tourists. The population lived both above ground and under ground. Above ground as many as a dozen persons often slept in an apartment which a white man would consider too small



SCENE IN THE OLD CHINATOWN.

for one. How they lived underground nobody can exactly say. Every tourist had the privilege of seeing Chinatown, and every tourist went away satisfied he had seen all the strange and mysterious things that were to be seen, but he was mistaken. Secretary Tsing, a Chinese aristocrat stationed at the legation in Peru, once took two white men to a theater in Chinatown. After the performance he conducted his friends to the rear of the stage, slid a secret door back and asked his guests to follow him. They walked for an hour through tunnels leading past doors to gloomy apartments, some of them dungeons, against the bars of which unfortunate prisoners of both sexes pressed their faces.

In telling afterward of their experience the visitors said that there appeared to be hundreds of women and children as well as men in this underground town. Ordinary tourists saw only the picturesque and more or less pleasing side of Chinatown. In the underground city rich Celestial merchants carried on a slave traffic, leprosy flourished, and numerous murders were committed. Battles between the "tongs" were fought and the victims buried far beneath the surface.

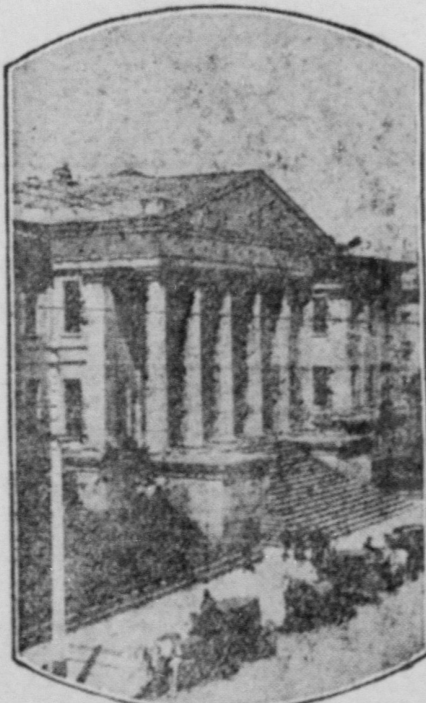
But now the catacombs in which these deeds were done and in which so many persons dragged out a miserable existence lie exposed to the glare of the sun. The new Chinatown, if such a place exists in the San Francisco of the future, will not rise above the holes in the earth which a short time ago were dens of vice. The Chinese are being quartered at some distance from the site of their former colony, and it is prophesied that the conditions which made the old Chinatown a plague spot will never exist again. In the days now gone by it was a very easy thing

for a highlander who had just snort or stabbed a fellow countryman to get away from the police. The roofs of many of the buildings almost touched. A fugitive would skip to a roof and, taking a plank, cross upon it to another building and next to another, always taking his bridge with him. Then he would go down into an underground passage and either remain hidden away from the police or come up blocks away from the scene of the crime and escape suspicion in connection with it.

SAVING OF THE MINT.

One of the incidents of the Great San Francisco Fire.

One of the most exciting incidents in the history of the destruction of San Francisco was the feat of the men who saved the United States mint from being devoured by the flames along with almost all the other structures in that part of the city. The mint is an imposing stone building, and its construction proved to be of a character to resist to the utmost the attack of fire. But it was surrounded by large buildings which were going up in smoke, and only brave and skillful work on the part of the men who defended it prevented the mint from sharing a similar fate. Large quantities of coin and bullion were stored in the vaults, and the employees knew that their destruction would be a serious loss. Together with the United States soldiers they kept up a fight against the flames for seven hours, most of the time surrounded by a sea of fire. Everything on the roof that would burn was thrown into the yard. The mint possesses a well, and water was pumped from this to the fighters on the roof. When walls of buildings opposite had fallen in a bull came, and the gallant work of the impromptu fire fighters was crowned with success.



THE UNITED STATES MINT AT SAN FRANCISCO.

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A MOVING ROADWAY.

Novel Method of Transportation Installed in Cleveland.

The novelty has scarcely yet worn off from the moving stairways in use in large stores in some cities to convey shoppers from one floor to another. To many the moving steps of elevated railroads, installed to assist passengers in mounting from the ground to the



A MOVING ROADWAY.

platforms of stations, are also unfamiliar sights. But most novel of all is the moving roadway for teams recently installed in Cleveland to facilitate traffic over a bridge. This roadway is 420 feet in length and rises to a height of sixty-five feet. Electricity is used for the motive power in operating it, and it has a transportation capacity of 600 vehicles a day. The spectacle of the constant stream of vehicular traffic as it passes almost noiselessly and without visible effort on the part of the horses over the moving roadway is unique and fascinating.

General Greely was the first volunteer private soldier of the civil war to reach the rank of brigadier general in the regular army.

A matrimonial blunder is not always due to the exuberance of youth.

Concerning "The Man With The Muck Rake"



MISS IDA M. TARBELL.

"THE man with the muck rake" has been a notable topic of discussion since the president of the United States dignified him with notice in a recent speech. Mr. Roosevelt in this address did not wholly discourage and discommend the "muck rake man." He acknowledged that he has done much good and that there is sometimes imperative need of his services, and he condemned him only when, like the man with the muck rake in "Pilgrim's Progress," he can look no way but downward and refuses to see that which is lofty and indicative of the good in mankind, perceiving only the bad and the evidence of degradation. It was a curious succession of events that culminated in the president's speech on this subject. One of the pioneer wielders of the muck rake in an economic sense was Miss Ida M. Tarbell, whose virile description of the operations of the Standard Oil company has done so much to influence public opinion on the subject of that great trust. She is the most notable instance of the woman with the muck rake. Following to some extent in her footsteps came Lincoln Steffens, now editor of McClure's Magazine, with his articles about the alliance between the corporations and the politicians in many of the states of the Union. Then Tom Lawson came along with his contributions to Everybody's Magazine on "Frenzied Finance," and close on the heels of the alleged exposés given by him came the insurance investigation with its revelations as to the methods of men high up in the financial world. Toward the close of this inquiry occurred the crusade of Collier's Weekly against Town Topics.

Some writers went to extremes in their comments upon the insurance investigation, in the opinion of District Attorney William Travers Jerome of New York, and he voiced a sharp note of protest in a speech at a dinner which preceded by only a few days the



DAVID GRAHAM PHILLIPS.

utterances of the president on the same subject. Mr. Jerome took exception to the phraseology of a series of articles by David Graham Phillips in a current magazine entitled "The Treason of the Senate." Mr. Roosevelt also condemned what he termed "indiscriminate assault upon men in business or men in public life." The president's utterance is said to have been suggested in part by an investigation he has been conducting into the truth or falsity of Upton Sinclair's new book, "The Jungle," wherein are described the alleged evils and abuses of life in the portion of Chicago known as Packingtown. Mr. Roosevelt determined to get at the facts as to the charges made in this book and if he found them measurably true to institute methods to change the conditions so forcibly described by this remarkable young writer. In pursuance of his plan he sent to Chicago two experts of the bureau of animal industry to investigate the inspectors appointed by the government and on duty in Chicago. They made a report to the effect that the book told the truth only in patches. Not satisfied with the extent of this inquiry, the president next ordered Charles F. Neill, commissioner of labor, to make an investigation of the conditions under which men are employed in the packing houses of Chicago. Still another phase of the investigation he entrusted to the care of James R. Reynolds, who is to ascertain the facts as to tenement house life.

Charles Edward Russell was one of the first to expose to public view in the columns of the press alleged deplorable conditions in connection with the packing industry. David Graham

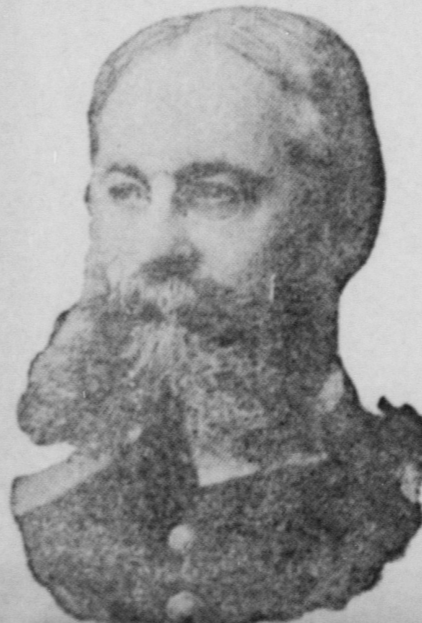
Phillips is another writer of the same type. He has done other things besides wield the muck rake, but he has made his greatest fame from his vigorous turning up of muck in places where it is fair to ask that things be pure and sweet. He generally uses fiction as his means of expressing his views on political and social problems. Mr. Phillips is about thirty-nine years of age and is a Princeton graduate. His first notable success was a story entitled "The Great God Success."

SOLDIER AND SCIENTIST.

Varied Achievements of General Adolphus W. Greely.

Major General Adolphus W. Greely, who commands the regular army troops of the division of the Pacific, was absent from San Francisco when the destruction of that city by the elements occurred. He had started east to attend the wedding of his daughter, but took the first train west again when he learned of the disaster. During his absence Brigadier General Frederick Funston, who is in command of the department of California, one of the departments under General Greely's jurisdiction, was in charge of the military forces which did such effective service in preserving order and administering relief. When General Greely resumed the chief command at the Presidio he did not omit to commend General Funston for what the latter had accomplished.

General Greely's qualifications for directing work such as that which has



MAJOR GENERAL A. W. GREELY.

fallen to the regular troops in connection with the San Francisco disaster have been obtained in many hard schools of experience. He is not a West Point graduate and was not educated in boyhood in the science of war. Born in 1844 at Newburyport, Mass., he attended the high school of his native town and graduated just as the civil war broke out. He enlisted at once in the Union army and served throughout the war, being wounded three times. He was brevetted a major at the close of the great civil struggle. In 1867 was appointed a lieutenant in the regular army and was detailed on signal corps duty in the south and west. In 1881, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Hamburg international geographical congress, he was placed in command of the United States expedition to establish one of a chain of thirteen circumpolar stations. Greely's arctic experiences form one of the most thrilling chapters in the history of the exploration of the far north. He went nearer to the pole than any one else had been able to do up to his time. Many important discoveries were made, but most of the party perished of starvation, two relief expeditions failing to reach the imperiled men. Greely and six others were rescued at last by Rear Admiral W. S. Schley. General Greely was for many years chief signal officer and has superintended the building of thousands of miles of telegraph in Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines. He is the author of numerous works on military and scientific subjects.

In describing a wedding an Indian Territory exchange announced that one of the bridesmaids wore "a velvet outfit a mile long, and 16 rows of buttons on her gloves. Her hair was dead yellow, tied up like a bun and had a lot of vegetables in it."

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