CITY WAIFS.

Taking Care of Lost Children in the Metropolis.

Parents Seeking their Little Ones at Police Headquarters.

A great policeman, big enough and strong enough to have felled a horse with a single blow, carrying in his arms a little golden haired girl, upon whose sleeping face the tears had washed clean blaces in the dust and grime, walked briskly toward Police Headquarters in New York city. The child was slumbering as comfortably as though she had been in the little crib at home, and the officer was as tender as if the little one was his own and helped make sunshine in his home on his days off duty. Half a dozen children of the street, quick to catch sight of the pair, followed close on the big policeman's heels until, says a Sun scribe, he went up the steps to the marble building in Mulberry street, and was lost to view behind the swinging doors.

Bluff Sergeant Kelleher was on duty, and when he saw the little bundle of humanity brought in, he sat down at his desk and began to turn, in a businesslike way, the leaves of an enormous book which lay in front of him. He kept turning until he came to the page where he had written last. Then, after carefully adjusting his eyeglasses, and dipping his pen in the big inkstand, he queried:

- "Boy or girl, officer ?"
- 4 'Girl.'
- "How old ?"
- "Bout four years."
- "Where did you get her ?"
- "Sixty-fifth street and Third avenue. "Take her upstairs."

"Upstairs" meant to the top floor of the big building where Matron Webb presides and acts the part of foster mother to the waifs and strays and foundlings of this big city who are picked up by the police.

The same scenes are enacted every night, and each day sees the pages of the big book which Sergeant Kelleher keeps fill up one by one with the brief stories and records of lost children.

Every night in the year fathers and mothers visit Police Headquarters and ask for the children who have been lost during the day. On pleasant evenings they sit on the stone steps and wait, if the child has not already been found, the American pigtail twist, which they and on stormy nights they go home, to return again later on.

A woman comes running down the street. She is one of the East side poor. A shawl answers the purpose of cloak and hat. She stops long enough to ask of an idler on the corner:

"Where is the head quarters?"

"Down where you see the green light," is always the answer and she is off again. Up the steps she runs eagerly. As she passes the swinging doors she almost runs down old Joe, the doorman, who keeps a little private record on a slate of the children who are brought in during the night. Joe's voice is gruff, but it belies his nature.

"What's the matter?" he growls. "Have ye found me baby?" and the

toil worn hands clutch nervously at the frayed edges of the old red shawl.

"Boy or girl?"

"A little girl with light hair." "Go upstairs and look-top floor."

The stairs are steep and tiresome to climb, but mothers on such errands don't tire easily, and up she goes. Five minutes later a step is heard on the stairway. She is coming down again and the red shawl is the background for a head of golden hair. Two dirty. chubby hands are about her neck. The man is smiling now She isch go out to the street, but Old Joe again is in the way.

"Go in there and give your name." and he points to S rgeant Kelleher, and chirrups at the baby.

The sergeant takes the woman's name and address, and, hugging the lost one lightly, the woman passes out into the street.

Stowaways.

The ship was hardly well out on the appearance, and later in the day five more. The next morning six more came up, and during the two following days they kept coming up in twos and threes until they numbered 25 all told The ship seemed to be teeming with stowaways, and the officer on watch was fairly bewildered. There was a plaintive pleading in his voice as he said to the last comer: "Say, hadn't you better send the rest up at once?" "They are all up now, sir," replied the stowaway with repressed cheerfulness, and the officer gave a sigh of relief. When the vessel arrived at Quebee the captain sent a dispatch ashore with the pilot boat to be forwarded to

vessel came alongside, to arrest th men. The police were in readiness on the wharf, but the steamer stranded in midstream, and lighters had to be sent off to relieve her of part of the cargo. One of the lighters was alongside when darkness came on, and she had to lie to until sunrise. When the lighter was fully loaded she drew to the wharf to discharge, but hardly was she moored when there was a movement among some sacks and a stowaway leaped out and made a break for the wharf. Another immediately sprang out from the other side, and in another instant the whole deck of the lighter was alive with stowaways, running up the wharves and leaping over the obstacles that came in their way. The captain was powerless with amazement, and did nothing but stand and look on in a daz:d sort of a way. When the last of them had cleared the vessel's side and things had quieted down a bit, he recovered himseif, and, walking over to the sacks, he poked carefully about among them, but finding nothing he resumed his former position. Suddenly another stowaway, who had been unable to get out with the rest, jumped up and cleared. This was too much, and the captain shouted, "If there's any more passengers going ashore they had better go now." the whole consignment had escaped free of duty. - Chambers' Journal.

Chinamen as Smokers.

The Chinese smoke early and often, and it is as good as a play to watch one of the nobles of China using tobacco. He prefers the water-pipe, and he has a servant who puts the pipe-stem in his mouth, and waits till he has taken half a dozen whiffs before he carries it away again. The smoke comes bubbling through the liquid, and the almond eyes of the Celestial sparkle with enjoyment as the nicotine enters his blood. Li Hung Chang smokes in this way, says Frank Carpenter in the Courier-Journal, and during the interview which I had with him at Tien Tsin, his servant he.d a pipe with a stem at least four feet long to his lips, and lightel it for him at intervals of ten minutes. The great viceroy took about ten whiffs at a time. and then the servant took the pipe away, pulled out its metal bowl, and refilled it with tobacco, bringing it back a little later on to patiently hold it to his excellency's lips while he smoked.

The Chinese do not use cigars nor chew. They have a tobacco much like cut up for smoking, and they are largely addicted to snuff. You will find snuff stores in the larger cities, and the article use 1 is coarser than the Scotch snuff. The women smoke, and not a few of the boys and men are addicted to the use of cigarettes. The average Chinese eigarette is the poorest and cheapest in the world. You can get three of them for one-tenth of a cent, and they are dear at that.

A Famous Wooden Leg.

A celebrated wooden leg has been discovered in an old Vincennes shop. which was once a smithy. There is abundant evidence to prove that the relic in question is the sham limb which replaced the leg which General Daumesnil lost in the big wars of the First Napoleon. This rugged old warrior defended the fortress of Vincennes against the allied army, and is famous for having said to the invaders, when summoned to give up the place, "Bring me back my leg which you shot off and you shall have my keys!" The wooden leg now found had been sent by Daumesnil to a Vincennes smith in order to be "shod," as the general himself expressed it. Before the article was sent back the old warrior died suldenly and his sham limb remained in the ancient smithy until the present day. It will now be placed in the artillery museum of the Hotel des Invalides among many other martial and historic souvenirs .- Lindon Telegraph.

The East Indies.

The name East Indies is now generally disused; it was former y applied vaguely to that part of Southern Asia lying east of the river In lus and to the islands adjacent. Thus it took in on ocean when two stowaways made their the mainland Hindostan, Burmah, Siam, Annam and Malacca and the islands of Ceylon, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, the Celebes, the Philppines and the rest of the great archipelago. More recently, according to Colton's atlas, the name was applied to these places, excluding Hindostan and Ceylon. So the term takes in both mainland and islands.

Modern Improvements.

Real Estate Agent (out West)-"This is the house I told you about."

Eastern Man (anxious to grow up with the country)-"Rather a pretty place! Contains all the modern improvents, does it?"

Agent-"Yes, siree. Which will Montreal, asking that a detachment of you look at first, the cyclone cave or the the harbor police be at hand when the carthquake cella ?" - Now York Weekly. Yr' Herold.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

That a sealskin sacque does not always keep the heart warm.

Hospitality sometimes degenerates in to profuseness and ends in madness and

It is better to sacrifice one's love of sarcasm than indulge it at the expense of a friend.

That "doing as well as you know how" is all right if you always know how to do well.

We should do by time as we do by a torrent, make use of it while we may have it, for it will not last always. The surest way of governing both in

a private family and a kingdom, is for a husband and a prince sometimes to drop their prerogative. There are certain garbs and modes of

speaking which vary with the times; the fashion of our clothes being not more subject to alterations than that of our speech.

Some people will say things about other people without thinking that other people can say things about some people as big as beams compared with motes.

Throw physic to the dogs, if the physic is liable to prove fatal. There is too much physic in the world and too many dogs. Let one evil destroy the other.

If courting be a fraud, in which each deceives the other, and the parents and friends deceive both, you must not make faces and growl at "marriage being a failure."

The main principles of reason are in themselves apparent. For to make nothing evident of itself unto man's understanding were to take away all possibility of knowing anything.

Hope is a prodigal young heir and Experience is his banker; but his drafts are seldom honored, since there is often a heavy balance against him because he draws largely on a small capital, is not yet in possession, and if he were, would die

The Women of Tonquin.

Both men and women in Tongain wear their hair long and twisted up into a kind of chignon on the top of the head. It is, of course, always lanky and jet black. Their dress is of the most simple kind. The men wear a loose jacket and trousers, and the women wear a long, straight shift reaching from neck to heels. The Annamite man is a very poor creature, and it is only among the upper classes that one sees occassanally a well-formed or handsome face, with some elevation or dignity of expression. The women are much better looking, and would often be pretty except for the stained mouth and teeth, which renders them horrib'e to a European eye. But in figure they are much the more favored of any seen in the East, and in the course of a walk in Hanoi, the principal city of the country, you may meet a dozen who are straight enough and strong enough and shapely enough to serve as a sculptor's model. Their native dance is a burlesque of the Japanese, to the accom paniment of a fiddle six feet long .-Washington Star.

The Snow Flower.

Count Anthoskoff's curious discov ery of the snow flower is likely to interest floriculturists for some time to come, as from the accounts given of it, it ap pears to be not only a remarkable but a singularly beautiful plant. It was discovered on the perpetually frozen ground of Siberia, but Count Anthosk off has succeeded in raising plants from seed placed in a pot of snow at St. Petersburg. The bloom lasts only for a single day, and comes once in two years. A French contemporary thus describes it: The leaves are three in number, and each about three inches in diameter. They are developed only on that side of the stem toward the north, and each seems covered with microscopic crystals of snow. The flower when it opens is star shaped, its petals of the same length as the leaves, and about half an inch in width .- London

How She Counts Her Children.

A Philadelphia woman who attended a reception given to George Macdonald, the English novelist, when in this country, tells of a queer fad indigid in by the author's wife. The latter wore, wherever she went, a belt from which dangled what appeared to be a number of golden balls. During a conversation with the novelist, the Philadelphian happened to ask how many children he had.

"One the wrong side of twelve," was his answer.

"I suppose you mean thirteen?" "No, madame; I have only eleven." Then Mr. Macdonald called his wife, who opened the golden balls (which proved to be lockets), and showed the photographs of all her children. - New

Origin of the Diamond.

Some theories about the origin of the diamond are very ingenious and interest-ing, though the amount of truth they embody remains to be proved. been suggested that the vapors of carbon during the coal period may have been condensed and crystalized into the diamond; and again, the itacolumite, generally regarded as the matrix, was saturated with petroleum, which, collecting in nodules, formed the gem by gradual crystalization. Newton believed it to crystalization. Newton believed it to have been a coagulated, unctuous sub-stance, of vegetable origin, and was sus-tained in the theory by many eminent philosophers, including Sir David Brewster, who believed the diamond was once mass of gum, derived from certain pecies of wood, and that it subsequently

assumed a crystaline form.

Dana and others advance the opinion that it may have been produced by the slow decomposition of vegetable material and even from animal matter. Burton says it is younger than gold and suggests the possibility that it may still be in process of formation, with capacity of growth. Specimens of the diamond have been found to inclose particles of gold—an evidence, he thinks, that its formation was more recent than that of the precious metal. The theory that the diamond was formed immediately from carbon by the action of heat is opposed by another, maintaining that it could not have been produced in this way. and even from animal matter. Burton not have been produced in this way, otherwise it would have been consumed. But the advocates of this view were not quite on their guard against a surprise for some quick-witted opponent has for some quick-witted opponent has found by experiments that the diamond will sustain great heat without combustion.—American Analyst.

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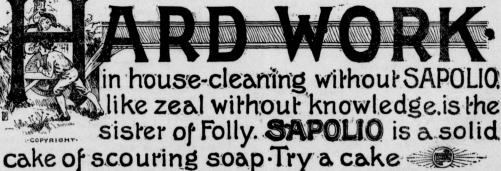


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