

# CHINESE LIFE.

## PECULIAR CUSTOMS AS SEEN IN THE CITY OF CANTON.

**Pawnshops and Poultry Stores—Birds' Nests For Food—A Visit to a Prison—Various Forms of Punishment—An Execution.**

I VISITED Canton several times while at Hong Kong, staying from one to two days each time, and under the same guide, Ah Sin, writes Frederick Stearns in the Detroit Free Press. This, as well as other guides, knew some "pigeon English, as it is termed, but as for any intelligible explanations of historical

the laggards are sure to come in for a beating. The coffin stores are abundant, and a good coffin is a costly thing—when of precious wood, a thousand dollars; and it is one of the proper things for a son to give his father a nice coffin as a birthday gift on the close of any decade in his life after fifty. They are of the form of the lower trunk of a tree, and, indeed, consist of the trunks of two trees, including the spread at the root. Each trunk is sawed into two planks lengthwise, and the four planks so joined edgewise as to afford space for the body; that is, the side edges of the planks are fitted so the plain surfaces are at right angles to each other, the convex surfaces outside; a square panel is placed in each end. It takes six to eight coolies to

bridal crowns and other requirements. Furniture of Chinese models, of heavy woods, is stained black and considerably carved and often profusely inlaid with bits of mother-of-pearl. Little of this is exported, but there is a very large home market for such among the wealthier classes. I visited the places where weaving of Chinese figured silks was done. The same old primitive hand loom, clumsily made and half buried in a dirty floor, with a stout Chinese "cherub" of about one hundred and fifty pounds "sitting aloft" on the frame, pulling up alternately clusters of the warp threads as the shuttle went back and forth below and so formed the figures in the web, all of which is changed in western countries by the Jacquard device.

age, though they are generally beheaded in lots of four to fifteen at a time. It is said that at the close of the Taiping rebellion, a few years ago, over 50,000 of the rebels were beheaded in one year in this way. Life is cheap in China, and nothing so convinces one of the fact like a sight of the prisons and of this Golgotha of a yard. In the street Sheng-mun-tai, or street of booksellers and publishers, is an old double-arched gateway—formerly a section of the city wall crossed the street, but that was removed long since, leaving this ancient arch as a temple or shrine. On top is an old clepsydra or water-clock, which has kept the time for about 700 years. It consists of four large inverted cones like leaching tubs, made of copper, placed on a stair-like mass of masonry. From openings near the bottom of each the water slowly drops from the top one into the next below, and so on to the bottom one, which has a perforated cover, and through this hole the graduated staff of a float rises as the water rises slowly and regularly. The water is returned twice a day to the upper jar, and at the beginning of each hour a big board with the name of the hour is placed on the outside wall, so it can be seen from the various high buildings and fire watch towers of the city. Here one can buy sticks or circles of punk, or incense, which, lighted at dawn, burn slowly, and mark the time by hours by means of black spots on the punk. I was much interested in overlooking the house-tops from this old gateway. The tiled roofs, on each many rows of round stone jars filled with water for putting out fires; but what seemed most strange was a railed-in wooden walk that led over the houses, up and down, adjusted to the varying heights, abruptly turning to the right or left, bridging over intervals; all this for the elevated night watchmen, who in this way patrol large districts of the city above the house-tops, on the lookout for fires and robbers. Robbery is very common, and yet the authorities make short shrift of the robbers when caught. The gables or ridges of the roofs are always parallel with the streets. The tiles are coarse brick, alternating flat with half-round ones to break joints, these set in mortar.



EXECUTION OF A CHINESE CRIMINAL.

objects, religious symbols or reasons for most habits, ways and customs, they seemed densely ignorant. I shall in this writing give without close connection, or in the sequence as I saw them, some interesting points.

The pawnshops are a striking feature in the architecture of the city. They are lofty (seventy feet or so), about fifty feet square, brick, with but few and small windows, and those high up; a large doorway in one front corner—six feet—a strong wooden partition, a barred opening in this about five feet from the floor, behind which Chinese clerks receive the bundles of clothing or other things which are offered in pawn for money. These pawnshops exist under imperial licenses of sixty years, for which a large price is paid, as well as a moderate annual tax. These places charge from one and a half to three per cent. per month interest on the money loaned on things in pawn, the limit being two years. The city treasurer loans money to the pawnbrokers at twelve per cent. per annum, which aids them in ready money capital. If one pawnshop fails the rents are required to make good the Government loan at least. Some bad years, late in the season, when the distressed poor need the winter clothing and bedding placed in pawn in the previous spring, the Government interferes and compels the pawnbrokers to reduce the interest, so that really the system is under some sort of control. In Canton there are over a hundred of these pawnshops; in the province over a thousand.

The flouring mills are common and primitive enough. One—Hop Sing's—a narrow but deep building, in one lofty story, has twelve run of stone, not cased in at all, each about thirty inches in diameter; the lower stone fixed, the upper one revolving, the grain fed in a centre hole in the upper stone; a scowful at intervals runs as coarse meal from the middle of the edge. The power was in shape of blindfolded oxen, blinded so that the short circle they tread, going round and round for hours, would not make them dizzy. To keep the droppings of the animals from contaminating the flour and mill, tubs were tied under them. The sifting of the flour from the bran was done by a simple sieve or bolt.

carry one of these; they are smooth outside, and sometimes painted. A large industry consists in making from paper imitation money, clothing, shoes, hats and many sorts of objects used in worshipping the dead and at funerals, which are afterward burnt, and in spirit find their way to the abodes of the dead to help them, or pay their way to Nirvana.

Tseng-lan street is largely given up to shops that deal in the edible birds' nests. It is evidently a prosperous business. In the back of each is a restaurant where one can have the soup made from this delicacy served at prices according to its quality. These nests are found in or near rocky sea-coasts, caves in Borneo, Java and Sumatra, and are builded by species of swallow, from probably a delicate seaweed which they find in the surf, and which, with some secretion of the crop, they form the nest, which is like a little rounded shelf, slightly concave, of the appearance of Russian singlass, and is affixed by its own gluey substance to the face of the rocks. The best white ones are \$20 a catty; the darker ones, soiled with feathers, etc., less, down to even \$5 per catty. These darker ones I saw soaking in warm water, by which they fell apart, looking like shreds of wilted cabbage; from these the long, dirty-nailed Chinese clerks were picking out the cleanest bits. I bought of clean nests enough at least for one soup.

The wholesale drug stores were very low buildings, full of strange-looking bales. At the doors were many Chinese, shaving or planing roots into thin sections and drying leaves on bamboo frames. The retail drug shops were full of strange-shaped packages and curious vials, as foreign to me as if I had never been in a drug store. My guide was useless so far as helping me in obtaining any information in these places.

The pottery stores were disappointing, inasmuch as the ware now made seems rough, heavy and without beauty. Very few old pieces are seen in the curio shops, which latter are abundant, and such pieces are not as fine as commonly seen in the collections of Europe. Hence it must be that the ware of the old dynasties is scarce and has mostly gone abroad. Jade is the precious stone of the Chinese. Every man, woman and

I went through a narrow street, nearly a half mile long, which was occupied almost exclusively by pearl button makers, each with a little reversible lathe and a file or two for tools.

Another was a spectacles street, and there everyone was busy cutting out lenses from water-white masses of natural rock crystals, by long steel wire saws and oil and emery powders.



PRISONER WEARING THE CANGUE.

A curious but rather coarse painted enamel on copper was the product in another district; it is rather pretty and very cheap, the painted design being burned on.

Whole streets seemed to be nothing but fan-making shops, and feather fans, at that. I do not remember of ever seeing such in our country. It is said that whole villages in China do nothing but make the common open palm-leaf fans so much used in America, and that the palms are especially grown for this purpose on large farms.

The shops for head and foot wear and for clothing are endless. The Chinese shoe with its thick felt sole is a good idea—easy to wear, noiseless, warm in winter and water-proof, all excellent qualities. Of course the coolies are barefooted, or wear only straw sandals.

There are many places where second-hand embroideries, the slightly-worn garments are sold, of the wealthier people, mandarins and their wives, and of such I was enabled to get some very fine examples at nominal prices. Every master of such a shop brought out his recommendations given by foreign patrons, many of which read, "I have bought embroideries of so-and-so and found them unusually clean."

The prisons and the halls of justice claimed attention. I found myself in with a lot of miserable creatures, who crowded around me, saying, "Money, money," I asked the guide who they were. "Those sentenced to be beheaded," he said. They were in a sort of dirty court yard with a shed for shelter, and looked as if beheading would be a relief. Another room—part room and part court—was filled with prisoners wearing the cangue, or three-foot square wooden collar. They cannot feed themselves or lie down, save they place the big square collar at an angle, one edge on the ground, and then it is a half incline with the neck resting on the edge of a two-inch plank, and yet I saw a lot of them asleep on the ground, and in the filth upon it. Torture is still used—bastinado, beating the ankles, ball and chain, whipping, thumb screws, impalement, crucifixion and all that sort of barbarity. From thence I went to the execution ground—a long, narrow space used between times for drying coarse pottery before it is burned. I interviewed the big headsman, number one, with his sword. When he saw me draw a bead on him with my camera he scowled and went back into his den, but headsman number three saw some silver in my hand, and he took up the scimitar, rich with the blood of many hundred dismembered necks, and struck an attitude, so I boxed that picture, the crowd grinning. The pavement, gory with bloody sawdust, cheap and common, great jars as large as barrels stood there full of heads, from which quicklime was slowly eating away the flesh. About one execution a day is the aver-

age, though they are generally beheaded in lots of four to fifteen at a time. It is said that at the close of the Taiping rebellion, a few years ago, over 50,000 of the rebels were beheaded in one year in this way. Life is cheap in China, and nothing so convinces one of the fact like a sight of the prisons and of this Golgotha of a yard. In the street Sheng-mun-tai, or street of booksellers and publishers, is an old double-arched gateway—formerly a section of the city wall crossed the street, but that was removed long since, leaving this ancient arch as a temple or shrine. On top is an old clepsydra or water-clock, which has kept the time for about 700 years. It consists of four large inverted cones like leaching tubs, made of copper, placed on a stair-like mass of masonry. From openings near the bottom of each the water slowly drops from the top one into the next below, and so on to the bottom one, which has a perforated cover, and through this hole the graduated staff of a float rises as the water rises slowly and regularly. The water is returned twice a day to the upper jar, and at the beginning of each hour a big board with the name of the hour is placed on the outside wall, so it can be seen from the various high buildings and fire watch towers of the city. Here one can buy sticks or circles of punk, or incense, which, lighted at dawn, burn slowly, and mark the time by hours by means of black spots on the punk. I was much interested in overlooking the house-tops from this old gateway. The tiled roofs, on each many rows of round stone jars filled with water for putting out fires; but what seemed most strange was a railed-in wooden walk that led over the houses, up and down, adjusted to the varying heights, abruptly turning to the right or left, bridging over intervals; all this for the elevated night watchmen, who in this way patrol large districts of the city above the house-tops, on the lookout for fires and robbers. Robbery is very common, and yet the authorities make short shrift of the robbers when caught. The gables or ridges of the roofs are always parallel with the streets. The tiles are coarse brick, alternating flat with half-round ones to break joints, these set in mortar.

A Novel Blouse. The smart blouse which is shown in this sketch is arranged in a lovely new material which has only just made its appearance in Paris. It is a soft and silky velveteen, with small silver spots scattered over it and sunk into the velveteen surface as though they had been stamped upon it with silver paint. The upper part of the blouse, both back and front, is quite full, the graceful folds being drawn in at the waist so as to show the outlines of the figure, under a very wide hand formed of black moire, smartly held in place by large buttons of fine jet. Below this moire band there is a very be-

coming pointed basque of the blue and silver velveteen. The sleeves are of velveteen from the shoulder to the elbow, and of moire trimmed with jet from the elbow to the wrist.—New York World.

Trinidad's Queer Little "Lapp." The climate of the island of Trinidad is ideal. It has an average summer heat of seventy-nine degrees, a winter heat of sixty-eight degrees, and owing to its lovely scenery, fine fishing and picturesque natives, is coming into notice as a health resort and pleasure ground. Sportsmen love to hunt the "lapp," a small animal, whose flesh is said to be finer and more delicious than even that of the reindeer. It is a queer, spotted, long-snouted little creature that often hides in the water when pursued, but lives in the hills. Its flesh tastes of



THE QUEER LITTLE LAPP OF TRINIDAD.

veal and pork, and is better than either, or both.

The Parisians annually consume, per inhabitant, 145 pounds of apples, twenty of cherries, 120 of pears, 183 of plums, two of raspberries and thirteen of strawberries.

# SOLDIERS' COLUMN

## ONE OF CARNEY'S STORIES.

The Close Call a Scout Experienced in The Hands of Bloodless Secessionists.



THE scouts of whom I desire to speak were attached to the Bureau of Information of the Army of the Potomac and had to go wherever they were sent. It was at all possible for them to get there. They frequently made trips for miles inside of the lines of the enemy. If their adventures were written and gathered into book-form, it would take a very large volume to hold them all.

But I shall confine myself to one eventful trip, from which the scout was rescued in escaping with his life, and I shall be charged with unduly coloring the matter, I shall endeavor to give the story as nearly as possible in the words of Anson B. Carney, who was for a long time employed as one of the scouts at Army Headquarters. Here is the story, substantially as Carney told it:

"While a member of the company of scouts, and about the time I was making preparations to go into winter camp in the Fall, I was ordered to report at Army Headquarters. On arriving there I was informed that some rebel deserters had come into our lines and reported that a part of a brigade—or, perhaps, two or three brigades—of the enemy had left Gen. Lee's camp and taken all their camping outfit with them. The deserters said they knew this to be a fact, but they could not tell how many rebels had departed, neither could they give their business or their destination.

"I received orders to go out and find out if possible the truth or falsity of this report, and bring back all the news I could gather regarding this statement. Judson Knight, the well known scout, went with me, and crossing the Rappahannock at Kelley's Ford we marched on through the country till we reached a point above Falmouth. From there we cautiously worked our way in the direction of Chancellorsville, and not very far away from Gen. Lee's Headquarters at Spottsylvania Courthouse we visited a Union man, whom we were acquainted with, and telling him our business, we induced him to go south toward Richmond and find out for us all he could, as well as get us copies of late Richmond papers. I withheld his name as he has some relatives living who might not wish to have all the facts known.

"When the Union man returned, he said that, as near as he could find out, two brigades had reinforced Gen. Stuart in the Valley and were contemplating a raid over in Maryland for horses, forage and recruits. As it was important that either Knight or myself should get back to Gen. Meade's Headquarters as soon as possible we drew cuts and the lot fell upon me.

"I started that night about 10 o'clock and having arrived near the Rappahannock river a little after daylight next morning I concealed myself in the bushes all day. I tramped all the next night, and about day-break reached the vicinity of Chetten's Mills, on the road from Harwood Church to Kelley's Ford. I thought I was near enough to the Union pickets to be out of danger, unless I should accidentally meet a rebel scout. Yet, I kept in the cover of the woods as much as possible, but while working along a bridge path and eating some chinquapins I had gathered on the way, the rebel I knew I was looking for, drove my carbine barrels, and the rebels shouted at me.

"'Halt! Surrender! Unbuckle that belt! Don't touch that pistol!' "They took me right down a steep hill and away from the road, where they stripped me of all portions of my clothing that they thought better than theirs. Now I had in the lining of my boots a paper on which I had sketched some plans that could be understood only by myself, and I also had copied Richmond newspapers. I accounted for the Richmond papers by saying that I had been on a visit to a brother of mine, who belonged to the 4th Pa. Cav., and who was on picket, and that my brother had traded newspapers with rebel pickets over the river.

"But, unfortunately the men who had captured me were rebel scouts, and as they did not want to return to their camp for a few days and besides as they did not wish to be bothered with guarding a prisoner, two of them were determined to shoot me then and there. Lucky for me, however, one of the scouts, by name Eason, who lived near Beaton Station, said that he would take charge of me and see that I was safely landed in Libby Prison.

"All these men had been raised in that vicinity, and were well posted about all the roads and bridge paths and after debating awhile as to whether I should be killed, they took me to the house of a man with whom they were well acquainted and called for someone to eat. I began to think my time had come, because the old man and his daughter joined in with those of the scouts who thought I ought to be shot.

"Eason pleaded my cause as well as he could, but was overruled by the others, who condemned me to die as soon as they got what they wanted in the house—that is, something to eat.

"In the meantime, the old man, Stratton said that he would be my executioner, and that as he was too old to serve in the ranks, he could serve his country by killing a Yankee prisoner, and thus show his loyalty to the Confederate Government. Not only did Stratton say he wanted to shoot me but his daughter said she wanted to be present when the shooting was done.

"Of course by this time I had made up my mind that this was a case of 'root hog or die,' and it can be well imagined that I did a great deal of rapid thinking. Well, they all sat down to their hocks and mackerel, and I was told to take a back seat in a chair by the window. Of course as I was condemned to be shot as soon as they had eaten it was not thought best to waste any Confederate victuals on me. About this time I noticed a pail of water near the window and a gourd hanging on a nail above it, so I rose to my feet and said I wanted a drink of water.

"I started for the pail and at once jumped through the window, and then of course I struck out as fast as I could for the woods. They fired some bullets after me, but I kept on running, though one bullet made a flesh wound under my right arm. You can easily imagine that I had a hard time of it that night in the woods in my bare feet, but I so soon as I started I was taken to the quarters in an ambulance, where I made a full report of all I had discovered.

job of shooting me. This time circumstances had changed and Stratton was very friendly but said he had nothing to eat. However, we did not believe him, so he hunted around and found plenty of victuals, and we also found his son in law, who belonged to the rebel army.

"Somehow or other his buildings all caught fire and burned down, and it remains a mystery to this day how those buildings caught fire, especially when so many people were about.—H. M. CONYER in National Tribune.

## KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS.

PROHIBITION CONVENTION. HARRISBURG.—The Prohibition State Convention held here was attended by 90 delegates and Henry F. Morrow, of Delaware county, was nominated for Congressman at Large after an hour's contention over the party rules.

In the platform adopted an encouraging view of the Prohibitionists is taken because of the numerical progress it has made the past two years. As to the depression in business the platform has this to say:

The political and business conditions now existing we claim are not of recent origin, but are the result of causes culminating for years; that these conditions are chargeable to the Republican and Democratic parties, who have fostered and perpetuated the liquor traffic to drain business and burden taxpayers at the rate of over \$1,000,000,000 annually; who have inflicted upon the country class legislation to the benefit of the few at the expense of a fair and equal chance to the many; who through profligate public expenditures have imposed needless taxes, who have winked at political debauchery and bribery till to-day ruin and cast are the potent factors in securing majorities and municipal rule especially has become an acknowledged farce.

PENNSYLVANIA BANK RESERVES. The returns of the condition of national banks in the State of Pennsylvania exclusive of Philadelphia and Pittsburg, on December 19 last, show the reserves to have been 28.30 per cent; loans and discounts, \$104,632,000; individual deposits, \$97,279,000 and lawful money reserves, \$12,125,000.

THREE SONS KILLED ON THE RAILROAD. GREENVILLE.—Alfred, son of John McAndrews, was killed near the rolling mill by a Pittsburg, Shenango and Lake Erie railroad train. This is the third son of Mr. McAndrews killed on the railroad within two years.

BOILED TO DEATH. JOHNSTOWN.—A 4 year old son of Frank McGuire of this city was boiled to death by falling into a tub of scalding water. The skin fell off the child in great patches and death followed rapidly.

MINERS' WAGES REDUCED. JEANETTE.—The Penn Gas Coal Company has issued notices to its employees that January 16 the miners' wages will be reduced 10 cents per ton and outside employes 10 1/2 cents.

ADJ. GEN. GREENLAND has issued commissions to National Guard officers in the Second Pennsylvania Brigade as follows: Alonzo Miller Porter, captain, Company H, Tenth regiment; John R. McKewen, captain, Company C, Fourteenth regiment; Frank Barr, first lieutenant, Company F, Sixteenth regiment; J. Conrad Kay, major, Eighteenth regiment.

The Governor commuted the death penalty in the case of Joseph Zappe to imprisonment for life. The reasons of the Board of Pardons for the extension of executive clemency speak of the good character of Zappe and that a careful review of the facts furnished reasonable basis for doubt that Joseph Zappe actually inflicted any wound.

HENRY MILLER and Thomas Doyle were lodged in jail at Butler charged with burglary at Delano and other places on the West Penn railroad, a number of articles found in their possession being identified by owners.

T. A. BUTKIEWICZ, who has been appointed postmaster of Naticoke, Luzerne county, is the first Pole to be appointed to a Federal office in this country. He is a hustling politician and can speak eight languages.

Four deaths from diphtheria have occurred within ten days in the family of Andrew Albert at Water Gap, and two members are still down with the disease.

REFORMED church preachers of the Lehigh valley at a meeting in Allentown declared in resolution that "Santa Claus" entertainments in churches are irreverent.

LAFAYETTE LOWMY, a farmer near Jermyn, fell over the side of his wagon in such a manner that a wheel caught his head and in its revolution broke his neck.

CLARENCE BURNS, 13 year old son of Martin Burns of New Brighton, Sunday night died from the effects of eating wild haws. The seeds lodged in his bowels.

MR. AND MRS. W. T. WILSON of Shady Plain were dangerously and perhaps fatally injured by being thrown from their carriage by runaway horses.

The Scranton glass company drew the fires under its big tank furnace. Three hundred workmen are out of employment.

Two Poles and a Hungarian were killed by a train in Carney's tunnel on the Pennsylvania railroad near Greensburg.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to have the trustees of Franklin and Marshall college, Lancaster, open its doors to female students.

At the East Stroudsburg glass works, non-union, the wages of all employes have been reduced 10 per cent.

The Reading railroad managers have ordered a wholesale discharge of shop hands all along the route.

The Parkersburg iron works have shut down and 300 hands are out of employment.

SCARLET fever is an epidemic at Washington and the schools have been closed.

The Eighth Ward Hotel at Altoona was gutted by fire. Loss \$8,000 partially insured.

MAPLE SUGAR making, once a considerable industry in Berks county, is nearly dead.

NEAR Selkirk, Frank Brown was run over by a tram car and killed.

To Measure Ocean's Depths. An instrument has been invented for sounding the depths of the sea without using a lead line. A sinker is dropped containing a cartridge, which explodes on touching the bottom; the report is registered in a microphone apparatus and the depth reckoned by the time at which the explosion occurred.

Durability of Woods. After two years' trial with pine, oak and greenheart in the Suez Canal works, it has been found that while pine and oak are destroyed by the borer worm, the greenheart, which comes from British Guiana, was un-

harmful.



CHINESE BOAT.

One whole street is devoted to preserving eggs, mostly rather small ducks' eggs, which, as offered for sale, look like lumps of soft mud. The process, I understand, consists of pickling them in a paste of wood ashes, common salt and lime, wet with water aromatised by boiling cedar or fir leaves in it; after some days of this they will keep almost indefinitely.

Near this is a poultry street, where fowls—ducks, geese, as well as many kinds of game birds, including owls and storks—are sold alive, with eyelids sewed up to keep them quiet; and here I should mention that enormous quantities of ducks' eggs are hatched by artificial means by special persons, who sell the young as soon as out to certain boatmen, whose business it is to feed and raise the ducklings. These boatmen have broad, very low boats, on each side of which are bamboo coops to accommodate sometimes 3000 birds. At first they are fed with boiled rice and similar food, but they soon get so as to forage for themselves.

These duck villages float around the shallow places, where at low tide they are let out on the flat and where they find abundant food in the mud and shallow water, and from which they return promptly to the boat at a given signal, with a perfect rush, as

child, even coolies, seem to wear heavy, round bracelets or amulets of this substance. It varies in color from a grayish-pearl of a green appearance to mottled copper-green. Earrings, finger and thumb-rings, amulets, hair ornaments, besides buckles and open-work carved ornaments are seen; these, however, without grace or beauty. Jade is very hard and the difficulty of working it adds to its cost.

Ornamental silver work, consisting of jewelry and various vessels, in both filigree and repoussé, abound, and the white-silver amulets on the brown skins of the children and women look appropriate.

Ivory carvings by the Chinese are familiar to most persons in our own country. Such show much labor and detail in deep and undercutting, are in design crowded, crude and tasteless; for export they follow European designs.

I noticed that each street at its end or where there was a jog in it had strong, wooden gates, which are closed at night, and a special watchman guarding them.

Besides funeral undertakers there are numerous wedding undertakers, who furnish on hire everything, such as sedans, umbrellas, ornaments,