CHINESE FARMERS.

the Celestials.

The Chinese have been noted as farmers for more than four thousand years, and, since 2,200 years before Christ, the Emperor has started the plowing for the nation. The Festival of Spring Plowing is the great event of the Chinese year. At this time His Majesty, "The Son of Heaven," after fasting and praying in the temple of heaven, makes sacrifices to the god of agriculture. He comes from the hall of Intense Thought, out into the fields surrounding the temple grounds, and puts his royal long-finger-nailed hands upon the rude plow, painted for the occasion with imperial yellow. Princes of the royal blood assist him while the water buffalo drags the rude machine through nine furrows, and couriers are sent forth to the farmers throughout the land to let them know that spring has begun, and that cultivation was connected.

while the water burialo drags the rude machine through nine furrows, and couriers are sent forth to the farmers throughout the land to let them know that spring has begun, and that cultivation may commence. At the same time, all over China, the same ceremony is enacted by the chief officers of the various provinces. Every official in China is called upon to be a farmer, and the governors-general, the revenue commissioners, and the justices of the peace act as chief plowmen.

The water-buffalo, the most ungainly species of the cow genus in existence, is the chief draft-animal of China, and, at the opening of spring, a life-sized paper buffalo is carried, on a table, in a grand procession, with bands of music and with appropriate ceremonies, throughout the cities of the empire, in order to announce to the people that spring has begun. A day or so later the millions of this great agricultural people are hard at work, and the smell of the newly-plowed ground rises from an area half the size of the United States.

The greater part of China is cultivated like a garden, and the people are gardeners rather than farmers. The holdings are very small, ranging in size in some districts from one to ten acres, and there are thousands of families in China who live off one-acre farms. The people, as a rule, in the districts of North and South China, through which I traveled, do not live on the ground that they cultivate, but in villages. The men, women and holders go out in the morning to work and come home at sunset. I spent a week traveling along the winding Pelio in a house-boat, through the great plain of North China, and I sometimes watched the sun rise, from my front door, on the water. At this time the fields, as far as the eye could reach, were spotted with processions of big-hatted, half-naked, yellow-faced men, the fields were not sandstone, about a foot high and six inches square, set up at the corners of the fields. The plows in use were of the rudest possible description, consisting of a beam-handle and a share wi radest possible description, consisting of a beam-handle and a share with a wooden stem, which was fastened to a sort of rest at the back. In some cases the share was tipped with iron, but I saw no furrows more than is inches deep, and in some places the plow merely scratched the ground. Chinese farmers measured the depth of a furrow as the Western cowboy does his whiskey or the farmer's wife measures her cloth—a furrow is so many fingers deep. One of these plows costs about two dollars, and the rude rope harness, which is fastened to the neck of the buffale by a wooden bow-like yoke, cannot be worth more than fifty cents. The work-clothes of the farmer are on the same inexpensive order, con-

waist-cloth, which comes as far down as the knees, leaving the breast, shoulders and feet bare.

Many of these farmers use spades, or rather the spade-hoe, a long-handled instrument, with a heavy blade about four inches wide, and more than a foot long. Such harrows as I saw were each made up of a heavy stick, to which one row of stout wooden or iron teeth was fastened, and attached to the back of which was a handle, by which the harrower pressed the machine into the ground, in much the same way as our farmer holds his plow. I did not see the women harnessed to either plows or harrows, though such instances are said to be common in the more poverty-stricken districts of the interior. There were, however, many women working in the fields in every part of China which I visited, and, at Fuchau, about a thousand miles or more south of Peking, I saw women hoeing and spading, whose wages were just two cents a day. These women were as hardy as the iish-wives of Paris. They had carrings as big around as a tin cup, and their silver hair-pins were a foot long, and often a dozen in number. In the fields near Canton I saw ascers of geess following a plow held by a bare-legged, pigtiled farmer, and drawn by a mangy black buffalo, and in every province I visited I found pigs, chickens, ducks and geese by the thousands.—[American Agriculturist.

the old boat had been torn away and the cattle were without shelter. The agent was not ready to receive them. Four o'clock came, and 5 and 6, and still he was not ready. Darkness set in, and the poor, shivering brutes continued to stand there in the pitiless storm. At half-past 1 the great man gave permission for the cattle to be driven on board. The drive was a torture. The gangway, owing to the difference in the level of the decks, was steep and the rain had made if slippery, but after much belaboring and prodding, and with many a fall and slip and sogmible, the miserable creatures were forced to ascend it to their prison.—[New York Tribune.

The Natural Glare of Jewels Subdued by Inimitable Workmanship.

The reason why the colors in an Oriental brooch or bracelet are so perfect is precisely the reason why an old Oriental carpet is better than any other. An Asiatic hates to be dazzled, to be blinded with glare, to have his eyes hurt and his brain heated by unsubdued effects of light. Consequently, though he dyes his wools in intense colors, having few others, he so combines them, so mixes them with black and with that dark cream which Europe has never caught the secret of, that the total result is restful, and the very idea of glare or of full daylight on the patterns is entirely absent. It is precisely the same with the Oriental jewels. Their natural glare is keept down by combination and want of polish. The Asiatic who carved in jade and sunk deep in scriptions on the sapphire could have faceted precious stones just as well as the cutters of Amsterdam, who till lately used no machinery; but he did not want to do it. He wanted subdued effects, and made of the garnet a carbuncle—which is a miracle of color without glare—or he cut off, as in many emeralds we have seen, a mere corner, so that the beholder, instead of being bothered with flashing green in his eyes, should peep at will into green depths. We do not say he was altogether right—as regards the diamond by the was altogether wrong—but we may rely on it he knew his business, and when he failed intended to fail. His intense appreciation of turquoise was due not only to admiration for its color—which, after all, can be matched only by one or two flowers—but to its being the one gem that, for all its brilliancy of color, does not flash. To this hour the high-class Asiatic loves the eat's eye as the European has made lovely jewels, and will make lovelier, but he will inver make the hearing as a place of turf. The European has made lovely jewels, and will make lovelier, but he will never make the perfection of its shade of color, and in the learn of the same jewels as the Asiatic, who with inimitable art will take from gold all its gold was gold of unalterable

the keeps, betting the teens, shoulders with the control of the co

The Story of a Fight With Femal

A firm of Rouen, France, has received from a traveler, who is actually at Kot-onon, a letter, containing the following particulars about the attack by the Daho-

and the moderate sleohol drinker will arrays him in genuine depreyity. The eyes of the man who has used alcohol as a beverage for a year start from their sockets, all bloodshot and revolting, a perpetual leer is upon his face, his complexion is blue and red by turns, his bole frame quivers, and all sense of moral daty is away from him. The ordinary drankard is not to be compared with the sleoholic slave. The dramer has on moral daty is away from him. The ordinary drankard is not to be compared with the sleoholic slave. The dramer has on moral daty is accorded by the same of the late of the same again? Of the alcohol drinkers in Kansas City none is more conspicuous than and old fiddler, without any name in particular, who requents the hotels, sloons, and public corners. This old man never wers a shirt. He keeps his tattered coat buttoned. He unbuttons his cost occasionally to take from its inside pocket amount, raises it to his bearded face with an unsteady hand, and before he lowers his head and replaces the flask in his coat, the fiery fluid, in a dose that would kill an ordinary man, has gone to his stomach. A grimace—that is all. The old fellow never thinks of drinking water before or after these alcoholic draughts—(Kansas City Times.

WORKING IN HIS SLEEP.

A Peculiarity of the Late United States Sonator Beck.

"It was overwork that had much to dow with Senator Beck's death," says a writer in the New York World. "His mind which he said to have told the following story concerning a peculiarity of his brain which he said to have told the following story concerning a peculiarity of his brain which he said to have told the following story concerning a peculiarity of his brain which was the best occample of perpetual motion was the best occample of perpetual motion with the said that the said power of the work was being discussed by a party of senator of the work of the party of the p and the moderate alcohol drinker will surpass him in genuine depravity.

The eyes of the man who has used alcohol as a beverage for a year start from their sockets, all bloodshot and revolting, a perpetual leer is upon his face, his somplexion is blue and red by turns, his hole frame quivers, and all sense of moral duits away from him. The ordinary drunkard is not to be compared with the alcoholic slave. The firmer has oh more than one occasion been redeemed; but who can point out the drinker of straight alcohol who has lived to become a man again? Of the alcohol drinkers in Kansas City none is more consplcuous than an

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Our Hannah Jane.

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Dr. Pierce's Pellets—cleanse and regulate the stomach, bowels and system generally. One a dose; purely vegetable.

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throat, nall in the foot, etc., etc.

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RHEUMATISM.

The Curep.

Lowell, Mass., July 9, 1887.

The boy Orrin Robinson, a poor cripple on crutches, who was cured by St. Jacobs Oil of rheumatism in 1881, is well; the cure has remained permanent. He is now at work every day at manual labor. GSO, C. OSGOD, M. D.



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