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ONE DEATH TWO LIKELY

(Continued from Page 2.)

and River streets, the reporter came to a court-yard which in appearance was similar to hundreds of others so sandwiched in front the street. Stairways, passageways, kitchens, sleeping rooms, groups of Chinese men, women and children, formed an indolent-looking picture, seemingly devoid of any secret openings leading to foul opium dens. Yet the guide mounted a sicker stairway at the top of which was a landing and an ordinary whitewashed door exactly like the dozen others facing the courtyard. It was apparently two and a half feet wide, but when pushed open by the guide after giving a signal, only a half of the door swung on hinges. Stepping through the aperture thus formed a space just wide enough to turn around in was discovered and further movement was stopped by another and evidently heavy plank door. The first door was three inches thick. Another signal and the second door moved back about twelve inches disclosing a dark passageway hardly a foot wide and heavily planked on both sides, through which the reporter had to walk sideways. The door was timbered and bolted together until it formed a formidable barrier of wood, five inches thick. The end of the passageway terminated in a room about ten by five feet lined with plank and contained a full complement of opium smoking outfits. The room had no windows, was planked in with two-inch timbers, small slits at the eaves providing the only means of exit for the smoke and ventilation.

The entire arrangement of landings, doors, passageways and heavily planked room displayed a clever ingenuity to defeat the police regulation, which is only found in the Celestial.

A second den showed even more cleverness of arrangement and solidity than the first one. This was reached by mounting a stairway which led into the second story of a house in the rear of a King street store. The door selected by the guide as the one leading to the secreted den, was a white-washed affair and looked as though it might lead into a small storage or attic room. When swung open, only half the door moved on hinges and was barely wide enough for one to squeeze through. The door was four inches thick, heavily planked. A peep-hole, which had the appearance of a knot-hole had been bored directly in the center of the door. After edging through this door a narrow and very steep stairway was encountered at the top of which was another door, in front of which were bars of wood, three inches in diameter, placed vertically, and so arranged in the sill slots that they could not be removed except from the inside when the door was opened. A circular peep-hole was in the center of the door, which was opened immediately, that is the usual six inches of it. The wooden bars were pulled into the room allowing entrance to the interior, which in this case was well ventilated and lighted by horizontal slits underneath the eaves. Bunks were arranged around the cramped and ill-smelling room, and a full kitchen outfit was also installed. The room was heavily boarded, and the upper door led from this room to the cellar beneath, which was evidently used to drop the opium and outfit into when a raid was being made by the police. A neatly fitting trap door covered the aperture, defying detection from a casual glance.

One peculiar feature of the slits and holes in the door was their arrangement, which permitted a Chinese guard looking through the uppermost doors through all the others all the way down to the courtyard, giving ample time to conceal opium and pipes if a police officer was discovered.

Board Meeting Last Night

A full meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Judiciary Building at 8 o'clock last night, for the purpose of discussing the method of continuing the work of cleansing Chinatown.

In opening the meeting President Cooper spoke of the magnitude of the work with which the Board is now confronted. To continue the present method of burning the houses in the immediate vicinity of buildings in which plague has appeared, will place a heavy burden of responsibility upon their shoulders, and the present meeting was called to obtain the general opinion of the public in regard to their present method of stamping out the disease, and to assure themselves of the public.

The matter of securing warehouses for fumigated goods taken from the condemned stores is also one for serious consideration. The present accommodation is barely sufficient, and any further demand or storage will mean an additional burden.

President Cooper said the responsibility should be fixed now regarding the destruction of buildings in the future.

Judge Carter, addressing the Board, said the press had supported the Board of Health, and so had the citizens generally, and he could not see how more support could be given. If a man has a burning that is condemned it is only his own fault.

Dr. Day said it would require most drastic measures to rid the city of the plague, judging from the experience of other cities. These infected buildings should at the earliest possible moment be destroyed.

President Cooper said he had been studying all day to devise methods of going ahead. The question of handling the merchandise in infected buildings was also to be considered. "The ideal way," said President Cooper, "would be to have barracks into which we could move every man, woman and child now in the infected district, and deal with the buildings afterward. Then there would not be a case of plague left. But this would require both time and money."

"The Board of Health should not hesitate," said F. M. Hatch. "If time stands in the way, a large number of assistants should be hired, and if money—if the Board of Health allows the question of money to stand in the way it will fall in its duty. Is any money available? Would the employment of 2,000 assistants exhaust the funds of the Government, or is the credit of the

(Continued on Page 3.)

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