

CHINESE OPIUM JOINT.

Visit to a Den in San Antonio—Lights and Scenes that Seem Stranger than Fiction.

[San Antonio Evening Light.]

Much has been said about the opium smoking in San Antonio. A Light reporter was around looking for items last night, and, by accident, ran across a Chinese den on South Flores street. He gained admission by going with a couple who were acquainted and not looked upon with suspicion. The party was conducted into a small room about 8x10, in which were two long tables, and there beheld a sickening sight, four men—three Chinamen and one white man—were stretched out in a reclining position. Two of the Chinamen had their legs, and feet spread out up against the wall looking like a paw of a lobster. Two of the Chinamen had just begun smoking and were chatting in their native tongue, sounding like a drove of blackbirds. The third Chinaman had evidently been smoking some time, and appeared so much under the influence he did not recognize any of the visitors. The white man was a fine looking, well dressed person, who had on underclothing only. He was filling his pipe and smoking, seemingly enjoying it very much. The smoking didn't seem to affect him much, except, as he said, it made him feel good.

It is said this den is visited daily by from 15 to 20 people, who are regular smokers. Four men and four women had just come out a few minutes previous to the visit by the reporter.

While there one of the party with the reporter let the word drop "a reporter is present, and he will have an item for his paper to-morrow," when the white man jumped in a very startled manner, dropping his pipe, saying, "What? I'll just have him fired out." The reporter felt rather ticklish just about then, who punched the blabber and had the statement corrected, and the smoking continued. The reporter was tendered the pipe and invited to smoke, but respectfully declined, saying he had not yet forgotten his first cigar and didn't care about tackling opium.

One woman, it is said, visits the place about noon every day and stripping herself of all clothing, except chimezette, smokes the pipe and lies there in a stupid state for several hours. The reporter was informed where there were several other dens of a like character in the city, but was unable to gain admission. As above stated, much has been said in the public prints regarding this baleful influence of the almond-eyed heathen and little attention has been paid to it. But the statements here recorded are true, and sights are seen in these dens that are stranger than fiction. We do not know that there is any law applicable in the matter, but these places can be readily found, and we suggest that the authorities take a look through and see for themselves the evil that is daily and nightly practiced in them.

Married in a Hurry.

[Post-Dispatch.]

"The quickest courtship on record," said one old resident, "was that of Dr. Nick McDowell, who, driving along the street in his buggy one day, saw a beautiful girl standing at the window. He immediately stopped and hitched his horse, rung the bell, inquired the lady's name, was ushered into the parlor, announced his own name, said he was 'pleased with her appearance and wished to marry her at once.' Nothing but the knowledge that she was actually in the presence of the celebrated physician kept her from fainting. To her plea of 'surprise at this unexpected announcement' he only replied, 'Now or never.' When she asked to 'take a week to consider' he said, 'I am going down street to attend a critical case and have no time to spare right now.'

"Give me a day, then."

"I'll tell you what I'll do. When I am through with this professional visit I'll drive around and get a preacher. If you've made up your mind to marry me by that time all right," and he left her breathless and unable to articulate another word. When he returned they were quickly married. "No cards."

He Didn't Relish the Blamed Joke.

"I have a good joke to tell you," said an Arkansas Colonel to his friend the General. "The other day, you know, Higgins announced himself as candidate for judge. Well, I met him, and told him that you made fun of the idea, and declared that he didn't have sense enough to serve on a Coroner's jury. He is a notorious coward, you know, but he became furiously angry. Now here's where the joke comes in. 'The General,' I said, 'is the biggest coward in the world.' 'Is that so?' Higgins asked. 'Yes,' I replied, 'and what you want to do is to meet him and thrash him. He won't fight you, and you'll have an easy victory.' Everybody that is acquainted with you knows that you are a brave man, General, and when the joke gets out we'll have a good laugh."

Several days afterwards the Colonel again met the General. "Hello, General, what's the matter with your eyes and nose?"

"Your blamed joke. You know, you told that fellow Higgins that he could whip me."

"Yes."

"Well, d—d if he didn't do it."

The Last Spike.

The driving of the last spike in the completion of the Northern Pacific railroad, which shall tie together the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, will be a memorable event. The spike is to be of solid gold, the sledge of silver, and the strong arm of President Henry Villard will supply the muscular force. The point fixed upon for this ceremony is about ten miles west of Helena, where the track layers will meet. The time has not yet been definitely fixed, but will be about the last week in August. President Villard's special train with about four hundred invited guests, will start from New York. Many of the guests will be from Europe, who will come over for that special purpose. After the spike-driving ceremonies and jubilee the party will proceed to the Pacific coast and view the wonderland of the western terminus, of which so little now is generally known.

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PAUL C. HUDSON, Attorney at Law and Notary Public, Alvarado, Texas, will practice in the courts of Johnson and adjoining counties, in the State Appellate and Supreme Courts. All business entrusted to his care will receive prompt and faithful attention. Office—up stairs over Cotter's dry goods store, north side of square.

D. O. CALL, Lawyer, Notary Public and Land Agent, Hillsboro, Hill county. The firm of McKinnon & Call has been dissolved, and I remain collector of all claims heretofore in the hands of said firm. Will attend to general collecting and land business. I have special facilities for collecting claims in this section of the state. References—Hill County Bank; Geo. F. Sturges, Banker; Ferrill & Fox, N. Brown, John D. Warren, Hillsboro. Missouri Pacific Railway Company and Texas Central Railway Company. Very respectfully, D. O. Call, office in Warren Building (up-stairs).

Hotels.

CENTRAL HOTEL, rock house, south side of public square, Alburn, Texas. S. P. Stinson, proprietor. Sample room for commercial travelers. Free hack from depot hotel.

CRACKETT HOUSE, Bonham, Texas, clean beds, airy rooms, a good fire-proof safe, sample and well-arranged bath rooms.

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SOCIETY NOTICES.

Band of Hope. ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE Band of Hope are requested to meet at the reading room Saturday, 8 p.m. Regular meeting every Saturday afternoon. M. F. GRANT, Superintendent.

W. C. T. U.

THE W. C. T. U. WILL HOLD THEIR regular meetings every Tuesday at three o'clock p.m., at the reading room over Max Elser's old stand. All the ladies are requested to attend and aid us in our work. MRS. T. J. KENNEDY, President. MRS. A. A. JOHNSON, Secretary.

O. of R. C.

THE O. OF R. C. EVERGREEN 57, REGULAR every first and third Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in K. of P. Hall, corner of Third and Main street. JOHN HOPKINS, Secretary.

AMERICAN LEAGUE OF HONOR. TRINITY COUNCIL NO. 529 HOLD THEIR meetings on the second and fourth Friday evenings of the month at K. of P. Hall. Hour of meeting, 8 o'clock. J. W. WRAY, Com.; F. M. GEARY, Sec.

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