

J. H. KOOGLER, Editor.

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 Editor and Proprietor.

**New Game of Chance.**

That the heathen Chinese are not to be done out of their gambling pleasures by the raids made upon them in their dens, was clearly seen by a reporter recently. Sauntering along one of the alleys of Chinatown, his notice was attracted by the unusual amount of business being done by one of the fortune tellers, who locates his stall at a corner to attract passers by. The rapidity with which each votary took his departure struck the reporter as something out of the common, as the practice with the professors of futurity is to keep their victims in suspense before letting them know their fate.

Approaching the stall he discovered what to a casual observer appears nothing but a small box containing Chinese writing material, but in this case the innocent-looking box had a small slide on the top. The slide being pushed aside showed a small card inscribed with characters denoting an animal, a fish or a reptile, also a rude representation of the subject. Each Celestial at the time of paying his stake, namely, a dime, guesses the name of the object he thinks will appear on the face. If another object appears he loses his stake. Should he be fortunate to hit the right animal he receives a dollar, but the chances of winning are so much against him, the bank rarely loses. The reporter having questioned the venerable moon-eyed astrologer, found that his species of gambling was conducted on a larger scale at an establishment ostensibly devoted to the sale of drugs, in the heart of Chinatown, and having ascertained the name of the shop, leisurely proceeded to make some further inquiries into the modus operandi of the game.

At first admittance to the back room where the performance was carried on was refused, but a few words gave assurance and an entry was made. Assembled in a small apartment were about thirty Chinamen. A narrow counter divided the manager of the game from the crowd, and as the pool was about to open the reporter stepped in and took a hand. Selecting a character and handing two bits to the banker, he received a piece of red paper, upon which was written the character he had chosen. Thirty-six cards, each bearing a particular designation, and corresponding to similar characters shown upon a red paper about eleven inches square, which was suspended from the wall were then deposited in an earthen pot. Diving into the pot, the assistant banker, who was blindfolded, drew a card, and the fortunate individuals whose papers bore similar characters were paid ten times the amount of the stakes against the winning numbers.

The cards were named as follows: Four literary graduates, represented by a white fish, a frog, a goose and a peacock. Seven merchants, represented by a flying dragon, a white dog, a white horse, an elephant, a wildcat, a rat and a hornet. Four Buddhist priests, represented by a tortoise, a fowl, a yellow cat and a fish. Five beggars represented by a shrimp, a snake, a caterpillar, a little singing girl, and a sheep. Five generals represented by a butterfly, a piece of jade stone, a white sparrow, a pigeon. Four lucky personages of the upper world, represented by a monkey, a toad, a kite and a sea dragon. Two Taoist priests, represented by a white stork and a gold-color cat. One nun, represented by a ravenous wolf.

Should any purchaser of a chance not happen to be present when the drawing takes place he comes to the shop and enquires, not about any gambling question, but simply says: To day how is the great "Sz Maehin" meaning one of the five generals—as he holds a ticket with the characters "Wong Che Ko," the earth dragon, alias, "Sz Maehin," the generals, and this to a novice, that might be in the shop, appears to be making an inquiry after some person. The Chinese courtesans are great customers and send their children to purchase the tickets to avoid notice being taken of the game by the uninitiated. The game is called "Tsefa" and is likely to prove a large source of revenue to the banker, now that fantan and other species of gambling have been uprooted in Chinatown.—San Francisco Chronicle.

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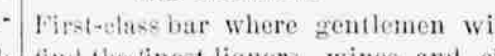
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