

THE CALIFORNIA CHINEE.

Celebration of the Celestial New Year by the Heathen at Oakland—A Sunday-School in Full Blast.

(Oakland (Cal.) Correspondence Chicago Times.)

The Chinamen celebrated the advent of their New Year "altee same as Melican man" his independence, with tomtoms and crackers at midnight, and today many a fair hand has reluctantly turned to homely service in the absence of John, who has gone to celebrate. Our own Celestial said, "I not go this time; I spend heapee money last year, I heapee foolee;" but a chum came along, and he could not resist the prospect of a few days of jollification. The Chinese Y. M. C. A. kept open house during the day, and this evening their doors were thronged with Caucasian visitors. The appearance by gas-light was very pleasing and especially novel to a newcomer, fresh for Yankeedom, in the centre of the room stood a table laden with Chinese fruits, confectionery, and curiosities, intermingled with jonquil blossoms whose sweetness filled the air. The cover was of rich, plushy scarlet, embroidered with golden dragons and those grotesque forms which only Chinese ingenuity and skill can design and produce. Above the table revolved a large and brilliantly illuminated air-castle, bearing hundreds of nodding figures, fantastical in shape and barbarically gorgeous in color. At the rear was a sideboard spread with Chinese comfits and delicacies, and the dearest little cups and saucers that gave promise of a deliciously fragrant beverage—if so small a quantity as they held may be called a beverage. Two Chinamen received callers at the door, two others conducted them to the table of curiosities, explained all the mysteries, presented bright red New Year cards, then offered seats and served refreshments. These were arranged in good taste, and were highly palatable, with the exception of a certain dried fruit, which was execrable. Having taken a portion of this, knowing that many almond-eyes were upon me, I was obliged to swallow the detested morsel without wincing to the utter disgust of the inner man. The delicate rose-like aroma of that tiny sip of tea beggars description, and I refrain from discussing the merits of that charming decoction. By request they sang "Precious Jewels." All carried the air, keeping excellent time and harmonizing well, their soft, liquid English producing a pleasing effect. The attention paid by the Melicans was duly appreciated and good feeling prevailed. Before leaving, the callers shook hands with each, wishing him a happy New Year and all manner of prosperity. The 1st of February is not only the Chinaman's New Year, but his birthday also; every John among them reckoning his age from the beginning of the year.

It was recently my privilege to visit the Chinese school held in the parlors of the First Congregational Church. Mr. Sanford, Melican superintendent, called the school to order, and a Melican miss presided at the piano. Chinese hymns printed in muslin were suspended from a frame, and a young Chinaman, baton in hand, turned over the sheets and announced the opening piece. The piano struck up "Shining Shore," and the Chinamen joined in singing, the leader pointing to each word as they sung. The long meter doxology followed, after which the superintendent announced, "I Need Thee Every Hour," from the English cards. Several hymns followed, during the singing of which I took occasion to study the dress and general appearance of the pupils. They were notably clean, cheerful and intelligent, very courteous to teachers and officers. All were young, scarcely out of their teens, and, with a single exception, wore queues that reached nearly to the feet or were wound around the head. The front part of the head was shaven closely, leaving on the back a plait of hair from four to eight inches in diameter. The upper garment was a shirt-like affair, having a slit in each side, immense flowing sleeves, a narrow collar, and closed on the right side with three gold buttons. Many of the boys wore three of these garments, that next to the body being white, the second light blue, and the outer navy blue. Some were made of very nice worsted trimmed with silk, others of coarse cotton. The stockings were of white cotton and hung about the ankles in unsightly folds. The foot was encased in the customary rosetted black or blue slipper with wooden soles. Prayer was offered by a teacher—this service is sometimes performed in Chinese by a convert—then all pro-

ceeded to their work, some to study Bible lessons, and more to read in primers and books used in day-schools. Each teacher had charge of three or four pupils. The first read his lesson and changed places with the second, after him the third. While one read to the teacher the others read by themselves aloud, making, to unsophisticated ears, an intolerable jargon, which, however, did not seem to disturb the members in the least. Nearly an hour was spent in this manner, after which volunteers quoted passages of scripture, many of them rendering in English and translating into Chinese. Eighty Chinamen were in attendance, and 25 white teachers, both male and female. All the evangelical churches carry on Chinese schools, and with gratifying results. The sentiment in Oakland is decidedly in favor of the Chinaman. He is the favorite house-servant, and his employers can not commend too strongly his tidiness, celerity and general efficiency.

A Story from Persia—A Specimen of Oriental Justice.

The Rev. Arch-Priest Cuciago shivered perceptibly, spite of the warmth of the reception-room in the Bishop's residence, when he came down to welcome the reporter this morning. Contrary to his usual custom, he wore thick and soft robes of brown cloth, bordered with Persian silk embroidery.

"Ah," he said, in his quick, vivacious French, "your country is cold, but the faithful of your country know how to give a warm welcome to the stranger guest from the Orient."

"Is not the Nestorian priesthood recognized in Persia?"

"The patriarch of the Nestorian Church is practically an independent sovereign, having his seat in Koordistan. His jurisdiction ecclesiastically extends over the Nestorian Christians of Persia, and it is his policy on the part of the Cabinet at Teheran to cultivate his good will. He, too, has to pave the way to favor with gifts, and the Shah finds him a useful ally, particularly in his relations with Russia."

"Tenez," he said. "I will give you an instance that occurred a short time before I started for Rome. A wealthy Christian had a very beautiful daughter. By chance a Mussulman of high position saw her, and desired to add her to his already extensive harem. He applied to her father for her, and was, of course, indignantly refused. A few days afterward the house of the Christian was invaded by a horde of scoundrels, headed by the rejected lover, and the girl abducted. The Christian, mad with grief, bought his way to the foot of the Cadi, and laid his grief there. The Judge ordered the parties to appear, and the defendant was instructed to produce the abducted maiden. A day was fixed, and the defendant appeared with a veiled Mohammedan woman, whom he represented and swore to be the Christian girl. The woman, on her part, swore that she was the daughter of the Christian, that she had long desired to embrace the Mohammedan faith, that she had been a consenting party to the abduction, had since become one of the four lawful wives of the abductor, and had been received into the Mohammedan fold. The Christian was at once consigned, heavily fined for attempting to interfere with the faith of a child of the Prophet, and driven out of court. Within an hour a host of Mohammedan officials swooped down upon his house, confiscated every thing he had in the world, and drove him and his family beggars into the street. This is by no means an isolated case, either," added Monsignor.

"How many Christians are there in Persia?"

"About one million. The total population is twelve millions. They are mainly agriculturists, raising rice, barley, cotton, tobacco, etc., for the Russian market."

"Are taxes high?"

"High! They are simply crushing. A man raises a crop and has only about one-twelfth of it for himself after the local and general Governments have secured their share. The life of the peasant is that of abject slavery, and yet the Government is always poor, on account of the peculation of officials."

"Have any good results followed the Shah's visit to European States?"

"I rather think, yes. We have no reason to complain of the Shah. He has always conducted himself en bon garcon, and if he could have his way there would be equal rights, but the mollahs are too many for him. He has two many fanatics around him, who destroy the effect of his good intentions and decrees. He actually has tried to govern better since his return, but his promises far exceed his performance. His ideas of enlightenment are crude, and he is too fond of pleasure to see that his good intentions are carried out." —Detroit News.

Caring for the Dead Pope.

ROME, February 10.—At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon the corpse of the late Pontiff was removed from the iron bedstead on which he died, vested in full pontificals, and placed upon a bier. A golden miter was upon the head, the hands were crossed, and a crucifix was to be seen upon the breast. The features were calm, the lips closed, and upon the face appeared that smile which in life gave so singular a charm to the conversation of Pius IX. At half-past five the body was ready for transport. The ante-chambers were crowded with Princes, gentlemen of rank, noble guards, and privy chamberlains, the entrance being rigidly restricted to those personages holding position in the Papal court. A few Cardinals came to see the corpse and knelt in prayer. Bishop Clifford was amongst the visitors, and Cardinal Bartolini, after kissing the forehead of the deceased Pope, sobbed aloud.

About 6:30 the procession began to move. Between files of Swiss Guards marched the palafrenieri in red liveries, with clergy bearing torches. Then came mace-bearers and a detachment of Swiss Guards preceding the bier, which was surrounded by Noble Guards and Penitentiaries with torches. Monsignor Ricci (majordomo) followed, and then came Monsignor Macchi (maestro di camera), Monsignor Sanmimatelli (almoner), Monsignor Negrotto, Casali, Di Bosogno and Della Volpe (privy chamberlain), Bishop Marinelli (sacristan), Monsignor Vanuettelli and Sacchetti (foriere), and Serlupi (master of the horse), Duke Cattelvecchi, Prince Altieri, and other officers of the Noble Guards; Cardinals, two and two, with torches, reciting psalms; Prince Orsini (prince assistant at the throne), Prince Chigi (marechal of the Conclave, in a black robe), Prince Ruspoli (master of the sacred hospice), and Signor Cavalletti (Senator of Rome). After these walked Princes, Nobles and Camerieri Segretti, wearing their collars and orders, a detachment of Palatine Guards terminating the procession.

The sad cortege passed through the ample halls and corridors of the Vatican, the Sala Ducale and the Sala Regia, some ladies and gentlemen, by special favor, being permitted to stand in the passages to view the proceedings. The Basilica had been closed at 5 o'clock, and at 7 the body was brought into the Chapel of the Sacrament by private access, being received by the Chapter of St. Peter's. The corpse was placed on a platform erected in front of the altar, with the feet toward the gates. Prayers were sung by the choir of the Cappella Guila, and Canon Folicaldi performed the absolution. Cardinals and all now withdrew, leaving the remains of the Pope in the custody of the Noble Guard.

St. Peter's was reopened at 6:30 today, and immense crowds thronged in to look up the body, which will remain for three days in the Chapel of the Sacrament.

The embalming began at 8 o'clock on Friday evening, and was finished at 4:30 yesterday morning. Dr. Ceccarelli and eight assistant medical men performed the operation. All the bodily organs were found to be perfectly sound except the heart, a portion of which showed some slight signs of thickening of the walls, tending to cause an impediment to the circulation. The flesh of the body had no appearance of emaciation, and the skin was white and healthy. The legs bore marks of the wounds whence the humors had free exit to the last. The viscera were carefully removed and deposited in a jar, which was closed up by the Polish Penitentiary with a seal supplied by the majordomo. The operation was conducted in the presence of the Noble Guards and the Penitentiaries, the corpse lying on the iron bedstead alluded to above. The process of injection was employed, and was attended with perfect success, the windows of the room being opened to purify the atmosphere loaded with the odors of the powerful aromatics made use of. Photographs were taken of the corpse before the embalming took place, and a portrait sketch was made of it by Petacci.

Toombs as a Soldier.

The Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution says: In a conversation with General Longstreet concerning the Confederate Generals with whom he was associated, he said: "Do you know General Robert Toombs, of your State, was one of the bravest and most dashing soldiers that I ever saw on any field?" "He was pretty hard to manage, was he not?" "Yes, sir; at first. He had literally no idea of subordination. He was born to rule, and had been carrying out the purpose of his birth pretty well up to the time he entered the army. It was

hard for him to give up his lordly habits even then.

"I remember a characteristic instance in which General Toombs figured. I sent out his brigade on picket duty once. Of course, the discretion of placing the brigades was in the hands of the proper officers. Toombs had been out that day dining with a Marylander named Dennis, who had been one of his colleagues during his Congressional career. They had good old wine for dinner, and Toombs was riding home feeling like a lord.

"Suddenly he ran against his brigade on picket duty. He was very much angered.

"Who put you there?" he shouted. "He was answered that it was the orders from headquarters.

"Well, by —, my orders are that you come back to camp. I'm not going to have all the picket duty of the army put on my brigade. Come along!"

"And sure enough, he led them back to camp. As soon as I heard of it, of course, ordered him under arrest. As was the custom, he was simply ordered to ride in the rear of his brigade. I thought every thing was going off all right, when suddenly an officer came to me and told me that we should have a revolt in the army if I did not interfere. I asked him what he meant, and he told me that General Toombs was riding along in the rear of his brigade and exhorting the soldiers against the oppression that had been practiced toward them and him. My informant said that the soldiers were getting very restless.

"I ordered General Toombs back to Gordonville. I kept him there a day or two, when, having received a very handsome letter from him, I ordered him to the front again. He came as fast as his horse could carry him. When he reached us, General Lee and myself were together consulting about the opening of a battle, which was just then pending. As General Toombs rode up and saluted, I stated that I would take great pleasure in sending a courier with orders restoring him to his command. He spoke up rapidly, and said that as a charge was imminent he would like to head it, and hoped that he might be the bearer of the orders himself.

"I, of course, assented. In a few moments Toombs's brigade passed us, hurrying to the charge, and Toombs flying in the front like a comet, leading them to the assault. He was as dashing a soldier as ever went on the battlefield, and a hardy and impetuous fighter."

A Ghastly Joke on Water Drinkers.

A Philadelphia telegram of the 24th ult. says: The water drunk by Philadelphians will not be so palatable to many to-morrow. On Christmas Day last, Maggie Lutz, 18 years old, left her parent's house, apparently for a visit to a neighbor's house. She was attired in a new print dress, and her hair was neatly arranged and clasped by a ribbon. At night she had not returned, and the alarmed household searched for her vainly that night and the succeeding days, and her fate, until yesterday, offered food for speculations more or less ghastly and anxious. About 11 o'clock this morning two young men, taking a stroll along the walk skirting the reservoir, saw what they presumed was a dead animal of some sort floating near the south face of the eastern basin. They informed the Superintendent, whose little watch-house surmounts the center of the wall dividing the east and west basins. He procured a scoop-net, and made several lunges at the object, until, with a more vigorous effort, it sank and reappeared with a bound, disclosing the upturned face of a young girl, whose form was neatly attired. With assistance the body was taken out, and, all dripping, removed to the Twenty-second District Station-house. The many pedestrians who, passing by, beheld the policeman's burden, soon spread the tidings like wildfire. Some of Magistrate Lutz's relatives visited the station-house, identified the body as that of the long-lost wanderer, and it was removed to her former home. Hundreds of people flocked to the basin yesterday, and the general inquiry was, "In which basin was she found?" Many experienced mawkish feelings when they reflected that for two months past they had been drinking water in which a drowned girl had been macerating all the while. Numerous inquiries were made of the Superintendent whether the water would be drawn off, to which he replied, "What! run 10,000,000 gallons of water just for one drowned person! I guess not! Why, you're drinking this Delaware water all this time, and that is always flavored with about a dozen drowned men." In order to accomplish suicide, if such it was, the girl must have climbed over the paling fence, nearly six feet high, surrounding the basin.

THE SILVER VICTORY.

[From the Chicago Tribune.] After several months of the most thorough and exhaustive discussion of the silver question, after an unparalleled pressure brought to bear upon Congress by the money power of the nation, and in spite of the declared opposition of the most influential members of the Administration, the main principle of remonetization of the old silver dollar, giving it a full legal-tender function for all debts, public and private, has been decided affirmatively by more than two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress. The struggle has been long and bitter, and the result is a notable triumph of the popular will over the desperate resistance of the money-lenders—of the country at large over two or three money-centers. It has at no time been a party question, since members of both political organizations have been ranged on either side. If regarded sectionally, then the result is a fair triumph of at least thirty-three States over five, for only New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Vermont can be counted as against silver. If regarded from a popular point of view, remonetization was demanded by at least ten to one of the voting population of the United States. So far, then, the Congressional indorsement of the principle is in accord with every theory of popular government.

The story of this legislation may be briefly told, though the discussion has extended over a period of many months. The double standard was abandoned by a revision of the Coinage act of 1873 which was made in 1874. It was so clandestinely accomplished that it was not till two years later that it became generally known that the monetary system of the country had been radically changed. Meanwhile many persons who had been members of Congress, and many others officially connected with the Government, were profoundly ignorant of what had been done. As soon as it became evident to the country that this legislation, in connection with the Resumption act, was forcing a futile but disastrous effort to resume specie payments in gold alone, there was an instantaneous and universal cry of "Halt!" The first step to take was the restoration of the old money standard, to the abandonment of which the people had never consented. Mr. Bland, of Missouri, introduced a brief and simple bill as long ago as last spring to restore the silver dollar and provide for free coinage thereof on the same terms and conditions as the gold dollar; this bill failed for lack of time before the expiration of the session. At the beginning of the new Congress, a bill similar in terms was reported by the House Committee on Banking and Currency, and has been known by courtesy as the Bland bill. It passed the House by more than three-fourths majority. In the Senate the bill was so amended as to eliminate the provision for free coinage, limit the coinage of silver dollars to \$4,000,000 a month, secure to the Government any profit that may accrue from the purchase and coinage of silver, and provide an appropriation for an International Commission to urge the general adoption of the double standard. It is this bill, adopted in the Senate after an able and elaborate discussion of several months, in which the House has now concurred.

The bill now passed received an actual vote of 48 yeas to 21 nays in the Senate, or more than two-thirds, and, allowing for the known sentiments of the absent Senators, a full vote would have been 52 yeas to 24 nays—also more than two-thirds. The vote by which the House refused to table the bill as it came from the Senate (which was the test vote) was 204 yeas to 72 yeas, which was nearly a three-fourths vote in favor of the bill. If all the absentees (41) would have voted against the bill, which is absurd to maintain, there would still have been more than two-thirds majority for it. The bill was accepted by the House not because it is satisfactory in its details to the silver men, but because it provides a legal acknowledgment of the double standard, and furnishes a basis for making this double standard fully operative by future legislation.

An analysis of the vote in the House shows that, of the 72 yeas cast against it, 50 were Republicans and 22 were Democrats. Among these there were only three Western members—Garfield of Ohio, and Stewart of Minnesota, Republicans, and Williams, Democrat, from Michigan. There were eight votes from the South against the bill, viz.: Bisbee, Republican, of Florida, Gibson and Leonard of Louisiana, Jorgensen of Virginia, Metcalf of Missouri, Schleicher of Texas, Swann of Maryland, and Williams of Delaware. Of all the votes against the bill, New York furnished 14 Republicans and 10 Democrats, Massachusetts 8 Republicans and 1 Democrat, Pennsylvania 7 Republicans and 1 Democrat, New Jersey 3 Republicans and 3 Democrats, Vermont 3 Republicans, and Maine 4 Republicans. The extreme inflationists, under the lead of Springer, of Illinois, and Ewing, of Ohio, developed very little strength in their effort to oppose the bill on account of its shortcomings, and this encourages the belief that, if the bill is permitted to promptly become a law under the sanction of the President, the Greenbackers will be powerless to carry through their pet schemes of an unconditional repeal of the Resumption act, and the substitution of Greenbacks for National-bank notes. But if the President interpose his veto, and the veto shall have the effect of preventing the bill from becoming a law, or even the effect of occasioning an indefinite and hazardous postponement of a final settlement of the question, no man can foretell the extreme lengths to which natural resentment and justifiable indignation will drive the representatives of the people.

The personal sentiments of the President on the silver question have long been known, but it should now be seriously considered by him whether he has a moral right to place himself in opposition to the people after it has been absolutely demonstrated that they are represented in this question by more than two-thirds in both houses of Congress. If the original vote were less than two-thirds, and it were a matter of doubt whether the requisite constitutional majority could be obtained to prevail over the veto, the President might justly justify himself in using his prerogative, if prepared to give constitutional reasons for doing so. But the two-thirds vote has already been cast; it is not possible that the President can urge any reasons, constitutional or otherwise, that have not already been ably presented and overridden; and to interpose his veto under these conditions will be to assume the personal responsibility for all the expense, disturbance and anxiety incident to the unnecessary delay a veto will occasion. It is a responsibility which no one man should be willing to take upon himself.

The Virginia City (Nevada) Chief of Police has been arrested, charged with having liberated a Chinaman in his custody on the charge of murder and put a paid Chinese substitute in the place of the prisoner. The substitute was discovered by a relative of the man murdered by the prisoner, the latter having been fully identified by the same man at the time of the arrest.