



THE TRAMP CHINAMAN.

QUEEREST OF ALL TRAMPS.

The Original Chinese Nobo Is in New York. HE COMES FROM SAN FRANCISCO. Plays the Sam Sam, and in This Way Ekes Out a Gin-Soaked Existence.

Ching Lee, the original Chinese tramp, has just reached New York, via New Jersey. So far as known, he is the first Celestial recruit the hobo contingent has ever had.

This exception to all Chinamen who have visited the United States objects to being called a tramp, on the ground that he is a troubador. His claim finds basis in the fact that he carries with him what seems to be a violin with one string, but which, according to Chinese custom, is known as the sam sam. Discard is a cardinal principle of Chinese music, and the sam sam is an admirable illustration thereof.

Ching Lee, however, differs in one respect from the typical tramp—he makes a slight exertion for the whimsical to render existence comfortable. He loves liquor and detests hard work and his generally frowzy appearance shows that personal adornment is not one of his hobbies.

It rarely occurs to any one to imagine a Chinaman with an adventurous spirit, but his strange specimen seems to have been an exception to the general rule, as is evidenced by what little of the past he has revealed, through an interpreter, to a Journal reporter.

Ever since the day, some forty years ago, according to Ching Lee's computation of time, that the light first dawned on him, as he lay in his mother's arms in a little hut on the banks of the Yang Tse Kiang River, he has been possessed of an adventurous spirit. The necessities of most people do not quite extend back to their natal day, but Ching Lee avers with solemn earnestness that he remembers, just as sure as the pig-scone roasts on the tower of Kwang Wok, and no Chinaman ever says that unless he means it.

Ching's father was a boatman, one of those who dart in and about the myriad craft on the Chinese rivers, and will take you anywhere for a few kopangs, while a reel is a fortune. So the little Ching boy grew up, almost in his father's boat, and tutored a fondness for going about that only the true boatman really knows. By the time twelve years had passed over the boy the spirit of unrest grew so strong that he fled away from home, and drifting to Poo-shay, because the boy of all work on a junk, a Chinese junk is not poetic, especially if you are the boy who is kicked and buffeted by every one, from the captain down to what English-speaking people know as the foremast hands. That is why, one day, Ching again ran away, this time from home, life had dreamed of being over since he had been old enough to build castles in the air.

Fearful of capture and the dreadful punishment that would be his in that event, Ching wandered inland, just how far he declines to tell, until he reached the great rice plantation of Ti Zung. Ti wanted a boy, and as Ching was a robust specimen and looked as if he was not afraid of work, he was given the place.

without either employment or home. Lovers with obstinate parents don't elope in China, unless they want to lose their heads, and as Ching was possessed of no such ambition, he sought new adventures. There is a gap of several years in history at this point, which no one can supply but Ching, and he declines. The thread of narrative is taken up at the point where Ching becomes the captain of a junk and the husband of a pretty little woman in a queer black gown and a big scarlet shawl, which Ching loves to speak. The day came, the saddest in his life, Ching says, when he had to leave family and junk and become a soldier.



The Barometer Frog.

A Chinese soldier does not tread the primrose path. He receives about the same consideration granted the homeless dog. Ching's spirit rebelled against this life and the next thing that happened was the discovery of China in a stowaway on a vessel bound for San Francisco.

China was a cook, of course—all Chinese are—and he made himself very useful around the ship's galley. When the ship reached San Francisco, however, Ching again indulged his fondness for running away, and the ship saw him no more. His career at the Golden Gate was as varied as ever. He was in succession cook in a restaurant, handymans, domestic in a private family, laborer in a vineyard and lastly an employe of a gambling house.

The Chinese who do not love gambling is as rare as one who dislikes rice, and here that phase of Ching's career that ended in his becoming a tramp found its beginning. Lower and lower he dropped until at last with his sam sam he joined the huge mass of human boats and junks that drifts from ocean to ocean.

This is how Ching Lee became a tramp. This is the life story of the little Chinaman who once sang gaily as he peddled about the Yang Tse Kiang, but who now, a gin-soaked wreck, plays the sam sam to gain sufficient money to get that which will befor his brain and make him forget there is a past.

SOAP BOOKS NOW.

Volumes for Travellers the Leaves of Which Are Made of Soap and Various Useful.

"If cleanliness is next to Godliness, then a soap book must rank next to the Bible," said the ecclerist.

"What is a soap book?" inquired a Journal reporter.

The ecclerist took from his pocket a small volume the leaves of which looked like waxed paper. Reaching one of the leaves from the book, he plucked it and his hands into a basin of water, whence they emerged covered with a profuse lather. The leaf had disappeared, having been transformed into the lather. The leaf was pure soap.

"It is the most convenient form for soap for the traveller," said the ecclerist, "and it's a regular up to date invention. All the while the men and women are beginning to carry it.

SURPRISE FOR SNOOPPERS.

A Fountain and a Statue in a Dry Goods Store.

ELECTRIC CASCADE IN THE ROTUNDA.

A Famous Work of Art From the World's Fair to Be Seen in Sixth Avenue.

When the big new dry goods store of Siegel, Cooper & Co. is opened on Sixth avenue, the shopping crowd will be treated to a surprise. This firm is the well-known Chicago house which is building on the southeast corner of Nineteenth street, and they mean to open up their New York branch with a flourish of trumpets.

The Chicago people who are erecting a replica of the beautiful statue in New York propose to place it exactly in the centre of their great building. It will be placed in the centre of a marble fountain forty-four feet in diameter, with a water surface thirty-two feet across the middle.

The pedestal of the statue will not be more than two feet from the water level, but the figure will rise to the heroic height of thirteen feet. In making the statue this height Mr. French follows exactly the first model he prepared for the gigantic structure at the Fair. It will thus be a perfect reproduction of the Chicago statue.

But it is the electric and water effects that will attract New Yorkers by the thousand to the new store until the novelty of the sight wears off. The statue standing alone in its marble basin with its surrounding floor of marble mosaic will be a magnet indeed, but the public is promised other beauties. Visitors to the World's

Fair will remember how they stood for hours watching the marvellous play of waters in the electrical fountains and the still more wonderful effects produced by the colored lights thrown by skillful electric appliances through the body and spray of the water. It was one of the most wondrously beautiful things to be seen at the Fair, and crowded night Court of Honor and every point of vantage round the Grand Basin.

The great feature of the fountain, however, is the electric play of light. The electricians are devoting their best energies, will be found in the arrangements by which four cascades in the basin will be made to play in the most varied and beautiful way. The fountain will present the ordinary appearance of sprays gushing from rocks in the head of the statue in the center. Then the halo of thirteen stars around the head of the Republic will twinkle at night with the brightness of their counterparts in the firmament. The globe held in the right hand of the great figure will in all probability be made of glass, crystal or some translucent substance, and will contain a pure white light.

The ensemble of the fountain when the colored waters are playing can be better imagined than described. If the plans now being drawn by the architect are followed, there is every reason to believe they will be, the big dry goods house will become by the time the fountain is completed one of the most beautiful buildings in New York. In looking around for an attraction that will prove permanent, and at the same time a masterpiece of art, the men could not have chosen anything better or more suitable. They will earn the gratitude of all artists and persons of artistic tastes and feeling by preserving Mr. French's acknowledged masterpiece, which is in itself an object lesson to every citizen of the Republic. The fountain will have a two-fold attraction in the fountain of color, and the statue within the fountain, that will never cease to attract attention to their store.

It is safe to predict that thousands will enter the store for the purpose of seeing the things that would never have others cross its threshold. The Republic and the fountain will be the envy and despair of every other retail dry goods house in New York. If anything is to be regretted in connection with it, it is the fact that the Park Commissioners did not conceive the idea long ago and carry it into execution.

Chicago has its illuminated fountain in Lincoln Park, which is visited by hundreds of thousands during Summer evenings, and there are other hundreds of thousands who would flock to see such a sight in New York. Mr. French, the street scene manager, holds the Lincoln Park fountain, and his street cars reap a huge reward in the people they carry to Lincoln Park to see it. The Metropolitan Furniture Company and the elevated roads might profitably do the same.

THE NEW DOUBLE BED.

A Piece of Furniture That Is Expensive but Is Thought to Be Hygienic and Healthful.

Fashionable physicians are responsible for a new style in beds in this city which just now is adding largely to the profits of dealers in high-class furniture. Like all new fashions, the divided bed comes from Paris by way of London. It is a unique and clever idea. The Astors, Stornes and Vanderbilts were, it is said, among the first to take up the divided bed in both their town and country houses.

In appearance the divided bed is just what its name implies. If it were made out of ordinary materials it would look like a double bed of usual width cut in two.

The price of a divided bed is quoted by Fifth avenue furniture dealers all the way from \$200 up to \$4,000. A bed of a price about midway between these two extremes has been recently ordered by a man whose grandfather was glad to lay his head upon a corn-husk pillow. Sardinian, enters largely into the making of this regal couch. It is carved and hand-painted in the Elizabethan fashion, and stretched at the corners at the head of the bed is a canopy of silk. In accordance with the dictates of modern hygiene the canopy is not attached to the framework of the divided bed.

It has long been a wish of physicians to introduce upon hygienic grounds the divided bed. Since society has taken it up it will possibly not be long before it comes into general use. The divided bed has several distinct advantages.

It is believed by most physicians that it acts as a safeguard against the transmission of disease germs. It insures greater advantages of ventilation. In the case of sickness or any form of illness the divided bed considerably lessens the chance of contagion by supplying separate pillows.

CEMENTING THE DEAD.

A Process That Secures a Cast of the Body.

IT IS USED IN A NIAGARA CEMETERY.

Described by an Advocate Who Had Two Daughters Buried in This Way.

Cementation is the name given to a method of disposing of dead bodies which has now a considerable number of advocates. The most remarkable and curious result of cementation is that it would preserve a perfect cast of the body.

This system, it is claimed, has all the sanitary advantages of cremation, while it avoids the destruction of the body, which is repulsive to the sentiment of many, if not most, people. Cementation has already been put in practice. Several human bodies have been buried in cement. These have not been exhumed, but the bodies of several animals so treated have been taken up and found to justify the claims made for the method.

The most conspicuous apostle of cementation is Judge Theodore G. Hulet, of Niagara Falls, N. Y. Through his efforts it has been the prevailing mode of burial at Oakwood Cemetery, near Niagara Falls. The first body cemented there was his daughter, the next body another of his daughters. Since that time about sixty bodies have been buried in cement.

There are two processes of cementation—one by imbedding the coffin in cement, the other by pouring the cement around the nude body. When the first method is used it is necessary to prepare the body with antiseptics, in order to preserve it thoroughly. This method is the one commonly used at the cemetery. The other method is the one which Judge Hulet has prescribed by will shall be used in his own case. It preserves a perfect cast of the body.

The cementing of a grave as practised at Oakwood Cemetery is described by Judge Hulet as follows: The grave is made of the usual depth and sixteen inches larger than the rough box that is to contain the coffin. A concrete mortar is then prepared of fresh water, lime, cement,



A BODY BURIED IN CEMENT.

sand and fine broken stone, the proportions of which are one part cement to three of sand and broken stone. This mixture is put in the bottom of the excavation to the thickness of about eight inches; the rough box is laid upon this cement so as to leave a space of about

A FROG AND A PROPNET.

This Creature Tells You What the Weather Will Be. NEVER MAKES A MISTAKE. He Is a Source of Wonder to Hundreds of Curious Visitors.

New York has a frog that is a weather prophet, and he follows the ups and downs of the mercury with unflinching regularity.

This frog, which is probably the only one of its kind in America, was recently imported from Germany. It is known commonly as the "barometer frog." Its present home is in the office of Dr. W. S. Berkmann, at No. 37 Third avenue. This peculiar faculty for forecasting the weather is an accredited scientific fact. The encyclopedia defines this curious visitor as a "batrachian reptile of the tailless order, embracing the group of phanero-glosses found in Central Germany."

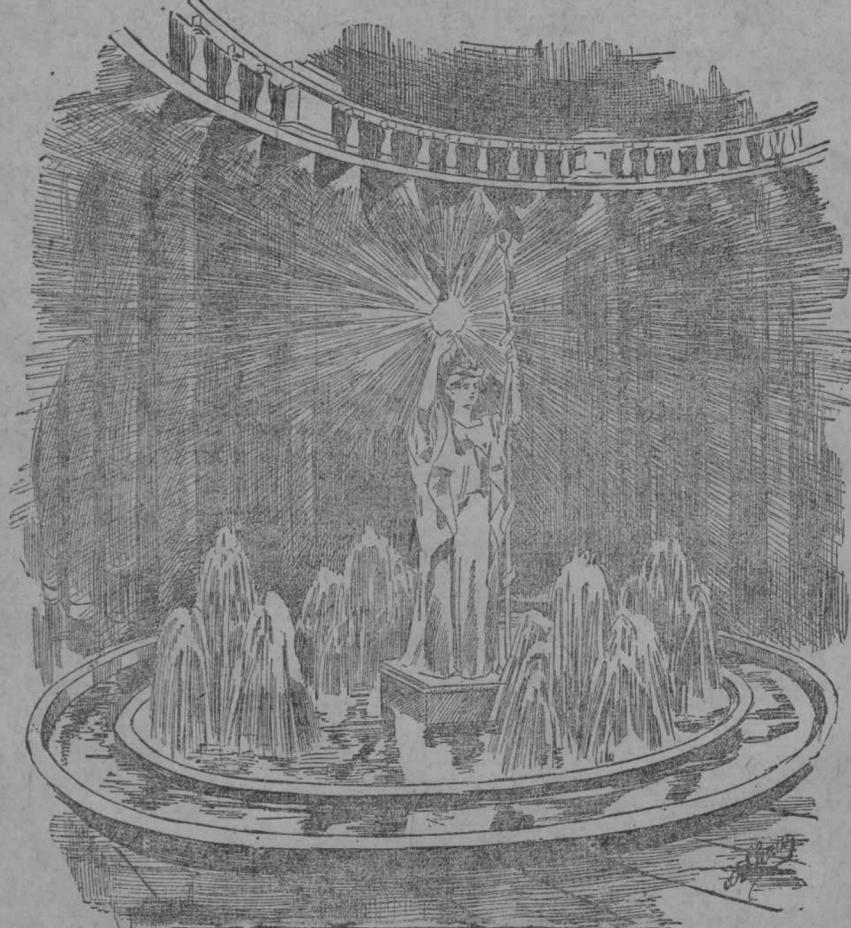
The weather frog has been comfortably installed for the last two weeks in a glass globe. There is a rocky island in the midst of the watery ocean contained in the glass globe. When the barometer is a set fall, the frog swims himself upon this rock. He devours enormous quantities of roaches purchased by the bagful and fed to him by his owner. When the small boys in the neighborhood collect anything in his name of these delicate and toothsome morsels, which the batrachian declares to be superior in quality to anything in his native swamps, a fine beefsteak, chopped fine, keeps his majesty alive. So far his digestion has not been known to interfere with the prompt performance of his duties as weather prophet to the population of southern Third avenue.

The weather frog is a comparatively rare animal. It has not taken long for his fame to spread, and a great number of visitors have come to see him. It is a visit to the dentist for the pleasure of listening to the mournful notes which come in the soul-stirring chords from the deep, solid red chest.

If that green-backed, red-chested and brown-throated batrachian is fanning himself on the summit of the island upon a fine Saturday afternoon visitors go away rejoicing. It will be a fine and perhaps hot Sunday. On the other hand, should the frog slide into the water and begin to sink, though the sun may be shining that day, they know it will rain ere morning. If the frog drops quickly, they look out for squalls. If he remains persistently at the bottom, it is an augury of long continued rain or disagreeable weather. The movements of this long-legged reptile are so carefully adjusted to the small variations of the weather that it has been suggested to his owner that a graduated glass introduced into the globe would give daily readings which might be posted outside the building for the public benefit.

Dr. Berkmann has watched his movements very closely during the past few nights, and is prepared to say that he compares more than favorably with the man on Broadway. It has been suggested to him that it is not right to keep his weather prophet hidden at the bottom of a tank in a dentist's office, but should request the Government to appoint the frog to the Weather Bureau as an adjunct to the present official staff.

The weather frog is valued at \$25—a price at which it is not likely to be taken in this country. His hind legs are abnormally long, and his front legs exceedingly short. He is slow in motion, but makes up for any deficiencies in this way by being extremely sensitive to sound. He can hear the approach of an enemy even if he has not the ability to get out of the way very quickly. As for his voice, it is unlike anything heard even in the bullfrog region, and must be listened to carefully before a musician can form any estimate of its beauty.



The New Double-Single Bed.

eight inches on all sides between the earth and the box. The concrete is poured into the space around the box, and is well stirred with a wooden point, so as to make it of an even consistency. This part of the work may be done the day before the burial.

After the coffin has been lowered into the box a lid is screwed on to the latter, and then a coat of cement eight inches thick is laid on the lid. Care must be taken that this cement unites perfectly with that surrounding the sides of the box.

When the top coat of cement is hardened, the name of the deceased and any embracing the group of phanero-glosses found in Central Germany."

In the other method of cementation, which Judge Hulet considers preferable, the body is laid nude in a rough box. It is supported by a number of unburned bricks. Cement is then poured in until it completely surrounds the body and fills the box. When it is hardened the inscription is made on the top and the lid is screwed on. All this work may be done by the undertaker, who will have the body completely cemented for the funeral ceremony.

This last is the ideal method of the advocates of cementation. It preserves forever the form and features of the dead and saves the expenses of clothing, costly coffins and other features of the common system of burial. It also provides a perfect guarantee against the dangers to public health of the decomposition of animal matter. The cement for all practical purposes prevents the gases of the body from escaping and reaching the earth. There would be no process of decomposition similar to that which takes place when the body is exposed to the air.

The body would wither very slowly, and the block of cement would therefore preserve in its interior a perfect mould of the body of the dead. It would be possible to open the block and obtain a perfect cast of the body.

If this process should be universally adopted, future generations would know exactly what the great dead looked like. They would not have to rely on the imaginative works of sculptors and painters.

An economical advantage of the method is that the blocks of cement could be placed, one on top of the other, in the earth, whereas now a coffin must be a considerable distance below the surface.

During the baby blizzard of last Wednesday the brass eagle which surmounts the flagpole on the top of the Federal building appeared to bend over and seize the American flag that was hung to the breeze immediately below it in its beak. At any rate, a moment later a long streamer of red, white and blue fluttered from the brass eagle, giving a semblance of life to the bird and its banner. Hundreds of people stopped for a moment to gaze at the unique spectacle, and when night joined the storm in settling down over the city the brass eagle still flew the emblem of Uncle Sam.

A BIG DRY GOODS STORE NOVELTY.