

WHERE LIFE IS CHEAP.

Tragedies Among the Mountains of Tennessee—Strange Ideas of Fair Fighting—What It Means to Get the Will of Moonshiners—Three Cabins and Their History.

Crossville, Tenn., Sept. 17.—That the hills dark and bloody ground might be called to parts of Tennessee as well as to Kentucky is borne out by recent disclosures made by Augustus W. Griffing, owner of 120 or 100 acres of dense woodland in the Cumberland plateau region.

Mr. Griffing is an eastern manufacturer who a short time ago purchased an immense tract on the plateau merely in the nature of an investment. His idea was to prospect the district thoroughly for possible paying veins of silver or deposits of iron and coal.

While on an investigating tour through part of his newly acquired possession, Mr. Griffing discovered in an out of the way spot three log cabins built from roughly hewn pine trees.

In a half circle they stood at the bottom of a small valley. Deserted for years they seemed to have been. No windows had they. Worm eaten, rickety doors of knotted staves were the only connections between the outside world and the musty interiors.

Hon. Jehabel Snodgrass, congressman from the Crossville district, gives the following history: "The last cabin in the row is perhaps the most fearful to me, as there fifteen years ago my oldest son Percy met an uncalled for death. He was at the time paying attention to the daughter of a middle aged couple who occupied it.

One evening in July, 1885, he mounted his horse and rode to the door of the house. He dismounted, tied his horse to a nearby tree and entered.

Hardly had he seated himself when a young fellow from the other side of the county, who also admitted this girl, rode up. He saw Percy's horse, kicking in his stirrups he called loudly: "Come out. Come out here, I'll fix you!" Percy opened the door, and as he did so his rival, taking deadly aim, shot him through the heart with a repeating rifle.

In answer to questions as to why the congressman's son's death had not been avenged, Snodgrass replied: "Oh, it was a fair fight! Percy had a chance to use his gun. 'Twas better to let the trouble drop."

"The first house," said the congressman, "as you leave the wagon road was, in the days of the civil war, tenanted by a happy family. There was a boy about 15 years old. The lad was very active, and when Sumpter was fired on he said he was going to war. His mother and father came from the north, and they said he could go if he fought with the Union army.

He had been sent to the Cumberland mountains to spy on the moonshiners. "The Cumberland mountain region had always been in ill repute with the revenue officials, as the distillers of the illicit mountain dew were well organized to withstand interference. "One night a well known business man of Crossville, riding horseback past the house, wondered at the disorderly condition of the usually well kept home. In the gloom he could see the door broken from its hinges. Evidently a fight had taken place. Looking closer, he saw the dead body of the brother with several bullet holes in the head and breast, outstretched on the floor. The two sisters were gone. "People in the surrounding villages were notified. A diligent search was instituted. No signs of the girls have ever been found. The supposition is that some of the moonshiners, feeling sure they were being watched, made a raid on the family and after killing the brother carried away the sisters. Papers found on the body showed that the unfortunate people came from Potomac City, N. C. Nothing more has ever become known."

WIFE AND CHILD OF A PENNSYLVANIA COAL MINER.



This is a specimen of the work imposed upon women. Wives of coal miners in Pennsylvania carry water-bucket long distances, as shown in this photograph. Even the little children slave like France's felons.

OATH BOUND CHINESE.

Powerful Influence of Secret Societies in the Celestial Empire—There are Many of Them, Both Religious and Political—Fear and Superstition the Chief Elements of Their Strength.

Special Correspondence.

San Francisco, Sept. 19.—Those who have come in contact with many Chinese in this country and have seen the abject fear that shows in every line of a Chinaman's face at the sound of the word "highbinder" know something of the terror inspired by the secret societies in China. Even here the very word will blanch the face of any native of that country to a sickly white. It means that a sudden and terrible death awaits the victim. It is not long since a Chinaman was found murdered sitting in his chair in his laundry, where he had hoped to distance his rivals in the business by lowering the prices, and he had been tried by his society and condemned and executed, and though every Chinaman in the city undoubtedly knew of it, no one was ever found guilty or even accused. But his death had been swift and merciful, unlike the most of the offenders against the code that binds them in solemn compact.

There are numberless secret societies of them, for the White Lotus had as many members on land as on sea or rivers, and no one dared to incur their enmity.

Another secret society of fearsome renown is the Ko-Lao-Hway, or League of the Filder Brother. The Mohammedans in China have a secret society, numbering 25,000,000, called Hway-Hway-Jin. This is considered more of a religious fraternity than a political union, but when so many are leagued together they become a power for good or evil.

Just now the Teal-I-Hway has its headquarters at Tien-tsin, and two others are known as Tsze-T'wan-Kouou and the Tan-Pai-Kouou, and their secrets are absolutely unknown. All the Chinese associations in this country are branches of the parent ones, and the members pay their dues, which, after paying the necessary expenses in this country, are sent to the head of the order in China. It is claimed by some English and other foreigners that the societies resemble the Freemasons to a marked degree, and many of their symbols are exactly the same. The Tien-I-Hway means the union of heaven and earth, and the triangle is its symbol. Man is represented as the base and the apex God, and all together is to show the unity of God and mankind.

All the laws of these societies sound most noble and moral and demand that the members live simple and moral lives and be charitable and compassionate. And they must forgive. The Sam Hap society is called the Triad. This society and probably also the other last named society use much more or less the same features of the inquisition did in Spain in the old days to gain adherents. It is claimed that gaining converts and new members goes on all the time. The more recruits the more money for the fund of the society. If a man is asked to join and does not, he is from then a marked man and may soon expect all the calamities to befall him, among which are terrible beating, arrests on false accusations or possibly, if the case seems to warrant it, he is seized and carried to some spot where his cries are not heard and tortured and decapitated.

No tales invented by the enemies of Freemasonry can match the actual facts of the tortures and horrible mutilations inflicted on those deemed inimical to the safety of the different societies, and many have perished miserably. It is impossible to know the workings of Chinese justice, hampered as it is by the secret power of the societies. One part of the oath is a command to mind each his own business, and next he is ordered under penalties of death and mutilation never to tell any part of the secrets belonging to any of these societies, and one of them sentences him to the most cruel death if he calls upon any officer of the law or judge or magistrate of any kind under any circumstances whatever. If a Chinaman ever goes into court, it is because for purposes of his own an officer of the society to which the man belongs orders him to go there for his own reasons. Every member of all the societies is obliged to refer all troubles and disputes to the council.

This puts a power into the hands of these societies impossible to explain or imagine. They hide each other's crimes and help the condemned to escape, and often hapless innocent men are beheaded or mutilated and tortured beyond recognition. After one of their uprisings and some were beheaded on one day, and it is asserted that the most of them were enemies to that society, taking unwillingly the places of the real offenders. At one time an effort was made to crush the Wu-Wei-Kouou, and after months of fighting so many thousands were taken that the viceroys offered liberty to those who would break their vows against meat. Some did this, but they might better have been beheaded at once, as they one by one paid the penalty of their broken oaths by the Ling Chee method. One affair would have been amusing had it not been so tragic. It lasted several months and seemed almost like magic, and at last the whole population was thrown into panic. This was caused by the dropping off of their pig tails. After several months it was discovered that men of the society of Wu-Wei-Kouou were doing these sacrilegious acts by means of small scissors and some means which cut the hair to rot and fall off by its own weight, and they were arrested, and as soon as the government found out who had done it all they promptly squelched the investigation. The Wu-Wei-Kouou is strong, and it is more than probable that this society more than any other is the power behind the scenes in the affairs. They have headquarters in Hunan and Honan, which are the central provinces. The society is mostly composed of soldiers who are said to be vicious and bloodthirsty and to claim their descent from the true imperial line. This is considered by those in a position to know to be a military conspiracy. It has caused several disturbances, the worst being in 1862 when it was their intention to blow up the powder magazine.

The control which the Six Companies exercise over the destinies of the Chinese in this country, and particularly on the Pacific coast, is well known, but little understood. All we know is that the Chinese have their own courts of law and justice and can receive and bear their own punishment without the knowledge of our courts, and they are condemned to death and executed by their own executioners. One day in Hongkong five men were beheaded, one day because they were members of a secret society plotting against the peace of the empire, and it was afterwards asserted that not one of these five men was guilty of belonging to that society, and it was five prisoners in jail for small offenses whose heads were cut off. One young Chinaman was not only beheaded, but mutilated in the most horrible manner, and his execution was given out as punishment for having killed his stepfather, whereas the real truth was that he was suspected of telling the secrets of his society to an English doctor.

Does It Pay to Buy Cheap? A cheap remedy for coughs and colds is all right, but you want something that will relieve and cure the most severe and dangerous results of throat and lung troubles. What shall you do? Go to a warmer and more regular climate. Yes, if possible, if not possible for you, then in other cases take the only remedy that has been introduced in all civilized countries with success in severe throat and lung troubles, "Doan's German Syrup." It not only loosens and stimulates the tissues to destroy the germs disease, but allays inflammation, causes easy expectoration, gives a good night's rest, and cures the patient. Try one bottle. Recommended many years by all druggists in the world. For sale at A. C. Smith's drug store.

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HOW TO HANG PICTURES, AND DO IT ARTISTICALLY

Scarcely less important than the proper selection and framing of pictures is their hanging. It is a serious mistake to hang all sorts in a room. If possible, only oil paintings should be hung in one room, water colors in another, etchings, photographs, etc., in another. Where one's house is not large enough to divide up the pictures in this way one at least may avoid hanging pictures that disagree on the same side of the room it being always borne in mind that oil paintings more than any other style of picture are best kept to themselves.

Most persons have learned not to "skew" pictures. If they are worth anything at all, they are not to be got them out of sight entirely. No fast and hard rules can be given about hanging pictures, as their proper place depends greatly upon the size, form and furnishings of the room. In general, it is good to avoid placing a picture directly in the center of a given space and other stiff and formal arrangements. A good place for small pictures is along the stairway if the hall is light enough to show them to advantage.

Miss Hay Denies Bryan Story. Chicago, Oct. 5.—Lulu D. Hay, of Jacksonville, Ill., has sent to Senator Jones, chairman of the Democratic National committee, a sworn denial of the alleged Kingman story that she knew that W. J. Bryan to have paid \$150,000 in silver mine owners to cause a silver plank to be incorporated in the Kansas City platform.

TOP STORY OF FACTORY SLICED OFF BY GALE.



Here is one of the strangest freaks of the Galveston hurricanes. The furniture factory of Anderson & Son, Allyn, Texas, is unharmed so far as the lower story is concerned, but the entire top floor has been sliced off cleanly as if cut with a knife by the gale that slew so many thousands.