

and both the city and state have passed laws against it, but it does a greater business today than ever."

#### SOMETHING ABOUT THE HIGHBINDERS.

"Suppose a Chinaman refuses to obey the Six Companies, Mr. Quinn," said I. "What happens then?"

"In the first place he is ostracised," was the reply. "Next begins the persecution that will ruin his business if he is a merchant, or cost him his place if he is a laborer. All help in time of sickness or financial trouble will be denied him, and fourth, his bones will have to lie after his death in alien soil instead of being boiled, cleaned, scraped and polished and sent back to China. This means disbarment from the heaven of Confucius forever. So much for lawful persecution. If his crime of disobedience is important enough it may cause his death, and this will be brought about by the highbinder societies of the Chinese, or the Tongs, as they are called. The Six Companies claim that they have no connection with the Tongs, but not long ago when two of these societies were engaged in a murderous war upon each other and the Chinese consul general and the Chinese merchants joined with the police to try to stop their murders, the Six Companies refused to do a thing or give a dollar to hinder the crime or to punish the guilty."

#### KILLED FOR OBEYING THE LAW.

"What are the highbinders?" I asked.

"The Chinese highbinders," was the reply, "is a Chinaman who never works, but lives off of the earnings of bad women and the proceeds of blackmail. He doesn't need to have a man's secret to threaten him, but he has merely to go to him and say, 'Unless you pay the highbinder society \$500 or more, as the case may be, before Saturday night, we will kill you.' There is no half way measure about it, and should the merchant thus blackmailed cause the highbinder's arrest his doom is sealed. The highbinder cares nothing for the law. Clothing himself with a coat of mail made either of fine steel chains or of twenty or thirty thicknesses of newspaper quilted together and made into a garment that covers the entire body from the throat to the thighs, he arms himself with a long-barreled revolver and knife and goes into the streets and waits for the man he is to kill. When the man comes along he begins his work, regardless of the presence of the police, and he finishes it, though he may know he is to hang for it the next day. This sounds horrible, but such things have been done in San Francisco, and will, I doubt not, be done again. Only a few weeks ago one of these men named Lee Sing killed a Chinaman named Yik with three policemen in sight of him. He had drawn the black bean of the society, which sentenced him to kill this man Yik, and he killed him. There were four men killed by the highbinders at this time. They were killed because they had registered themselves and had urged other Chinamen to do the same—in other words, to obey the laws of the United States. The highbinder society held a meeting and drew lots as to who should kill the men, and they were all killed according to the drawing. Do you wonder that the Chinese are afraid to fight their own people rather than the laws of the United States? I have had opposition of this kind to contend with ever since I

have been in office out here. I have promised to protect the Chinamen who have obeyed the laws; but what can you do? It is an outrage, but how can you help it? You have to fight organized crime and organized money."

"I suppose the Chinese of this city are very wealthy?"

"Yes; there are at least twenty millionaires among them, and the 27,000 Chinese of San Francisco have their hands on all the Chinese money in the United States. As to rich men, take, for instance, Wong Fat, one of the twenty Chinese millionaires of San Francisco. He owns a little store on Dupont street and the room he occupies is only twenty by fifty, but he has branches in every town in southern California and he has establishments in Denver, Salt Lake, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Indianapolis and New York. His branches in these other towns have smaller branches radiating over the whole country, and he gets reports from every one of them. The Chinese in New York and Washington report to the Six Companies here just the same as the man who lives a few doors away from the company's offices. Wong Fat himself controls more than 2,000 laborers and the most of these have been smuggled into this country. It costs a Chinaman \$600 to be smuggled into the United States, and he pays this money over to the Six Companies out of his wages. He is landed and rented out by the companies to one of these rich Chinamen, Wong Fat, for instance, at \$20 a month. Wong Fat rents him at \$30 a month to some one else and of the money he earns the laborer gets only from six to eight dollars a month till the \$600 due the Six Companies is paid. If he is sick, however, he is taken care of, and if he dies his bones are sent to China."

#### THE MISTAKE AS TO PHOTOGRAPHS.

"I think that the greatest mistake that has been made in the Geary act was the removing of the provision requiring photographs. A Chinaman will maim himself in anyway in order to fit any description needed, and one of the most skillful Chinese doctors in the United States was employed to help along the smuggling. This was Dr. La Po Tai, who had a practice of something like \$100,000 a year, about one-third of which he got from white people. La Po Tai made moles, scars and hairlips to hold his countrymen in this country. He died only a few weeks ago and he was buried with great honor. The photographs, however, beat the Chinamen. Being of nearly the same height and looking much the same they can make themselves correspond to other men's passports, but they could not make themselves look like other men's photographs. The smuggling of them nets the Chinese large fortunes every year, and I don't wonder that they fought the law. What I have said to you is nothing in comparison with what I might say. The whole situation is an outrage upon America and American civilization." FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Miss Karin Gyllencreutz, of Stockholm, is the oldest lady in the service of the state railroads of Sweden. She is 65 years old and has been connected with the railroads since 1866, and still tends to her duties with promptness and efficiency.

## THE FAR NORTH.

### SWEDEN.

The big Lindahl watch factory in Kalmar was burned down the other night.

Ex-sheriff Carl John Cederburg, of Vermdo, died in Stockholm at the age of 82 years.

Hundreds of laborers are without work in Lulea, and consequently in great distress.

A big fire raged in Boden the other day. Many houses were burned down and several lives lost.

During the three first months of the present year Swedish butter was exported in much larger quantities than during the three first months of last year.

A part of the large country mansion, Sprotorp, in the parish of Sloeinge, was burned down the other day. Forty cattle were roasted to death.

A statue of Oltaus Petri, the great reformer of Sweden, will be erected at the great square in Stockholm. The cost is estimated at 25,000 crowns. The money will be raised by subscription.

The Friends of Peace presented a bill to the Riksdag declaring private property inviolable during times of active warfare, but it has been buried out of sight in both houses.

The Good Templars of Stockholm after the manner of the Salvation Army, have decided to have a week of denial for the purpose of raising money for covering a deficit in the treasury.

A law prescribing the ringing of the church bells morning and evening every working day has been repealed by the Riksdag. Henceforth that matter will be left to the decision of the local churches.

### NORWAY.

The Trondhjem Trælast company has bought the Tegefors saw mills and a large tract of pine land in Jenitland, Sweden, for \$64,800.

In making excavations for sewers near the market place of Bergen, a great number of piles were struck. A two-edged sword with gold ornaments were also found.

The liquor association of Christiania gave a surplus of \$20,000 for the past year. About \$1,000 will be appropriated for the establishment of a temperance coffee house.

The Christiania electric railway has ordered the entire electric outfit from a great Berlin firm, which will also put up the dynamos and wires, the consideration being about \$80,000. The same firm has constructed most of the electric railway plants on the continent of Europe.

Kunt Hunsun gave a lecture on modern literature before the students of Lund, Sweden, and was greeted with uproarious cheers at the close of the lecture. He has left for Paris, where he intends to remain a year. His next book will appear just before Christmas.

A monument to Edmund Neupert, the great Norwegian composer and pianist, who died five years ago in New York, has been unveiled at Our Savior's church Christiania. The monument consists of a plain granite shaft, on one side of which is a gilt bronze medal showing the features of Neupert in relief.