

PANDERERS TO VICE.

"The almond-eyed celestials of California are getting in their work upon the *jeunesse doree* of that glorious climate in a manner well calculated to excite the envy even of Chicago gamblers, to whom, I understand his satanic majesty has credited the most complete destruction of more souls than their kin in any other part of the world can boast of having attempted to destroy." When T. C. Calkins, a white-haired merchant from the Golden Gate, made the observation recently to a Chicago *Post* reporter, he puffed vigorously at a dying perfect, and upon once restoring it to active life, continued: "Yes, the celestials of Chinatown may be said to be satraps in pandering to vicious instincts. I do not know that it is because they are in love with such a vocation so much as their appreciation of the fact that it pays them. Deus of iniquity of every imaginable kind they have within the precincts of their town; but of all, the worst is the opium joint, or perhaps I should say the opium palace. It is only recently that the frequenting of these latter places by young Americans of the coast has been known. Its discovery was due to the confession of a bright young fellow of wealthy parents when the ravages of the habits had compelled him to seek the assistance of a physician. Acting upon the information given by this premature physical wreck, a raid upon the place was made. Entrance to it was through a dingy laundry, most forbidding to a sensitive person, thence through a dark passageway, which opened into a large, sumptuously furnished apartment, the walls being alcoved on all sides. Beautiful paintings adorn the walls above the alcoves, and card tables and easy chairs abound. At these tables when the raid was made young men were playing poker. Bottles of wine, from which the players frequently helped themselves were handy. Inside the alcoves were wide soft lounges, and on seventeen of them were as many men not over twenty-five years of age, either insensible from the fumes of the drug or rapidly becoming so. In three other alcoves were three girls, two sisters and their maid, totally unconscious. The entire lot belonged to well-to-do families and of such influence that the raid was never published, except in a very brief way. The place had been running a year, and from some of the young frequenters it was learned that there were many like it in Chinatown; but not one would locate them. Yes, the place I tell you of was broken up and the celestial owners arrested. But the vice has secured a foothold, and so long as the Chinamen are permitted to remain the vice will continue to grow. It's horrible I know; but truth is not noted for its pleasant pictures."

SHERMAN'S RELIGION.

The question as to whether General Sherman became a Catholic before his death by being baptized into the church, and whether extreme unction was administered to him, has caused a good deal of newspaper and general comment, and there is a strong desire to know just what religious rite or

ceremony was performed in the general's sick chamber. In a published interview Rev. Father Rudolph Meyer of St. Louis university, than whom probably no better authority on the Roman Catholic church laws is known, speaking on the subject, said as follows: "Some misunderstanding might have occurred which resulted in the administration of extreme unction without the full knowledge of the facts as they existed. This is hardly probable, however, as the laws of the church, as taught to all priests, unmistakably point out the course to be followed under such circumstances."

"Can extreme unction be administered without baptism?" was asked.

"Most positively it cannot. Before extreme unction can be administered the rites of the church must be complied with, and one of the most important of these rites is baptism. No person can become a Catholic until he has received baptism."

"Can an adult be baptized without his consent?"

"Under certain circumstances. A sick person who has expressed willingness to affiliate with the church and in the meantime becomes unconscious, can be baptized while in that state. A verbally expressed desire is sufficient to warrant the administering of the sacrament of baptism."

"If the case is correctly reported, can General Sherman be buried with the rites of the Catholic church?"

"As to that I can only cite the laws of the church. No person can be buried with the rites of the church unless properly baptized. If the baptism occur after the loss of consciousness, and General Sherman's opposition to such rites were known to Father Taylor, I cannot see how the burial can take place according to the recognized rites of the church. But what action the proper ecclesiastical authorities may take is not for me to say or predict."

"As the matter has been reported in the newspapers I cannot consider, under my knowledge of the laws of the church, that General Sherman was a member of the Catholic denomination."

"THE DIVORCE PROBLEM."

The latest important contribution to the many dissertations on divorce is made by the *Independent*, which presents a valuable symposium of the opinions of gentlemen qualified to express themselves intelligently and clearly on the subject. Whatever conclusions they reach, the main facts in the case remain unchanged and ask our best attention to a problem of increasing importance and corresponding difficulty. We hear from time to time that divorces are more frequent than formerly and understand in a general way that there is danger in the present tendency to legal separation after marriage, but we do not often stop to consider whether that tendency is leading us or to inquire closely into statistics which might show us more than we care to know. But the article in the *Independent*, written by W. S. Willcox, Ph. D., makes plain in two or three numerical statements the status of contemporary divorce legislation, and leaves us with the conviction that the business of

divorce is more widely spread than we had supposed. In the last twenty years, according to Dr. Willcox, there have been about 315,000 genuine divorces for known causes in this country, and in 1885 we granted more than all the rest of the Christian world beside! In that year the number of divorces in the United States was more than 23,000, and yet only 21,000 were granted in the remainder of America and in Christian Europe. It is not proposed to say at this time whether this number was too great or too small; it is certain, indeed, that in many cases legal separations of man and wife were effected where they should have been refused, and equally certain that divorces should have been granted in other instances, if divorce in theory and practice is right; but there is food for thought in the simple figures as they are given by Dr. Willcox. Mr. Simon E. Baldwin, of New Haven, well known as a lecturer on law, and more recently as the president of the American Bar Association, is entitled to special hearing when he declares his opinion on the subject, and it is well in this place to note the phase of the matter which he presents. He says that uniformity as to the causes of divorce is hardly to be hoped for in the United States, but that there is no reason why there should not be uniformity everywhere in the main conditions of divorce jurisdiction. In other words, it should not be possible for a person legally divorced in one State to be not divorced in another. The usual doctrine of private international law requires that one party to the divorce should have had his home, his legal domicile, in the State or county granting the divorce, but some of our States grant it to a man or woman simply resident within their limits, while the actual domicile of such person is hundreds or thousands of miles away. As an illustration of the trouble effected by this condition of affairs, Mr. Baldwin cites the case of an Englishman who came to this country a few years ago, leaving his wife behind him, and settling in Kansas. A year after his removal to that State, he applied for a divorce; notice was given to his wife by publication, as the law of that State requires, and, though she had no actual knowledge of the suit, and, therefore, could not appear to defend herself, the man's petition was granted, and he married again. When his first wife learned of the occurrence, she applied for a divorce in England on the ground of his adultery with the other woman, and the English court granted her plea, holding that the Kansas marriage was null, because the man's actual domicile was in England, though he had made his residence in Kansas. The turmoil occasioned by these two legal actions is as well imagined as described. A remedy quick and efficient is not easy to find, although much has been said and written on the subject, and all are agreed that some reform should be instituted. It is proposed in some quarters that an amendment to the Federal Constitution be adopted, giving authority over marriages to the National Government, and in others, where the present wisdom of this action is doubted, that uniformity be brought about in the divorce laws of the several States. There is, indeed, activity