

a great deal more there than it does here. The rivers which form the only means of travel outside of dirt roads are frozen up, and Peking, the capital, is shut off from the rest of the world for four months of the year. It is reached by the winding Peiho river, which flows into the Yellow sea near the Taku forts. Tien-Tsin is fifty miles inland, and this is a city of a million people. Peking is about eighty miles north of it, and the only conveyances are rude Chinese carts. Letters which go to Peking in the winter have to travel overland several hundred miles after they reach China, and they first go to Shanghai, and are carried by pony express.

#### A NATION IN SHEEPSKIN.

Nearly all the northern Chinese dress in sheepskin during the winter, and coats of this kind and jackets and pantaloons of quilted cotton make up their clothes. The colder it gets the more garments they put on, and a girl, who, in the winter, looks like the fat woman of the circus, may slowly fade into the ethereal type of the living skeleton as she sheds jacket after jacket, when the warm weather approaches. Clothes of this kind cannot be washed, and those of the poorer classes are dirty in the extreme. The richer people wear magnificent garments of wadded silk lined with fur, and I saw one man's wardrobe which contained at least \$1,000 worth of costly fur garments. The furs used are of all kinds, and you can get magnificent cloaks of Thibetan goat, such as our ladies use for opera cloaks, for about \$10 in gold. They have fine sables, but they are costly, and a number of Li Hung Chang's nobles had silk gowns lined with mink. The fur markets of China are as fine as any in the world. There are long streets in Tien-Tsin which are filled with fur stores, and there is a square in Peking which is devoted to a fur market. Every morning about 4 o'clock you may find there several hundred wholesale fur dealers with their goods spread out on the ground, and you can buy all sorts of skins from the cheapest of squirrels, to the finest of seals. There are lots of second-hand fur stores, and old furs are bought and cleaned and resold.

#### CHINESE FUEL.

The Chinese do not use fuel to keep warm, and it is only in the rarest of instances that you will find well heated houses. Fuel is remarkably scarce, and everything is carefully saved. I saw hundreds of women pulling up stubble and gathering straw and old weeds in order to make fires, and one of the chief businesses along the Yangtse-Kiang is the cutting of reeds which grow on the low shores, and tying them up in bundles to be carried into the cities for sale. I saw no iron stoves in China and the rooms which they pretended to heat were furnished with what are called kang. These are ledges or platforms of brick about two feet high, which fill one side of the room. They are heated by flues, and a fire of straw is started under them, and is kept burning until the bricks are hot. The people sleep on the kang, but the trouble I found with them was that when they were fired up they roasted me, and as soon as the fire went out the kang became as cold as a stone. I slept on them many nights during my interior trip, and was continually afflicted with a cold. Had the fuel been wood or coal, they might be better, but with straw they were worse than no fires

at all. The stoves of China are usually of clay, and charcoal is largely used for cooking. There is said to be coal in nearly all parts of the empire, but only a little is mined. All of that brought into Peking is carried on the backs of camels, and I saw many merchants who sold nothing but coal dust. They mixed the powdered coal with dirt, and molded it up into lumps of about the size and shape of a base ball. It was sold by the basket and it brought high prices.

#### CHINA'S IMMENSE COAL MINES.

Still, China has some of the largest coal fields in the world, and a German geologist who has examined into the matter says that the extent of the workable coal beds of China is greater than that of any any other country. There is said to be coal right near Hankow which is now being used in the making of iron, and every province in the empire is said to have coal in it. There is, however, only one mine which is being operated on anything like scientific principles. This is at Tong Shan, about eighty miles from Tien-Tsin, and the Chinese have been mining about two thousand tons of coal a day here for years. I visited the works last summer, and took a look at the miners. They receive about sixty-three cents a week, or about nine cents a day, and the mines pay very well. The coal is bituminous, and it was about the only source of supply which China had during the trouble with the Japanese. The railroad runs through this region, and it was first built to carry this coal to the sea. There is said to be good anthracite coal in the hills near Peking, and when China is covered with railroads coal will be the cheapest fuel.

#### HOW THE RICH FREEZE.

I was surprised at the way the richer Chinese suffer from the cold. I almost froze during my talk with Li Hang Chang, and he wore a fur gown during my interview. In some of the Chinese homes which I visited there was little bowls of charcoal in the best rooms, but there was no signs of open fires anywhere, and the Chinese know nothing of the joys of the fireside. Their buildings have many draughts, and the windows and the doors seldom fit well. When they get out of order, they are allowed to remain so, and nearly all of the old houses are shabby and dilapidated. I took a trip over the great plain from Peking to the mountains of Mongolia on the edge of the winter, and I nearly froze to death in the hotels. During this time I passed many of the Mongols riding on the great woolly camels which are common to north China, and which you find, I think, nowhere else in the world. These camels have wool about a foot long, and it hangs down in great fringes from their necks and their bellies. They have two humps, and they are usually of a tan color. The Mongols upon them were all dressed in furs, and both men and women wore pantaloons. Both sexes rode astride, and they were very insolent and rough in their greetings. They are very dirty and greasy, and they eat all sorts of fats. They carry great quantities of black tea from Peking into Mongolia, and they make a tea soup which they strengthen with mutton tallow. Some of them have on robes of sheepskin with the wool of the sheep turned inward, and these fall from their necks to their ankles. They wear shaggy fur caps with earlaps, and they

sometimes put their feet into bags of wolfskin, or other fur, to keep out the cold.

#### THE JAPANESE IN CHINA.

A great deal of sympathy is being wasted on the Japanese soldiers who are now in China. Many suppose that they have come from a warm country, and that they cannot stand the rigors of a Chinese winter. There was never a greater mistake. Japan is a land of many climates. If I remember correctly, the country is about thirteen hundred miles long from one end of it to the other, and the north is very cold in the winter. You find snow all over central and northern Japan, and Tokyo has severe snow storms. The climate of Japan is moist, and a damp cold is much more trying than the dry cold such as you find in China and Corea. The Japanese are used to cold weather, and the daily baths which they take prevent them from taking cold easily. They are well hardened, and I have seen men in Japan trotting about in their bare feet in the snow. They have made good provision against the climate, and if they carry out the policy which the army had when it entered Corea, they probably have their fuel with them. During the first part of the Korean invasion they carried shiploads of wood from Japan for cooking their rice. The wood was done up in bundles just large enough for a coolie to carry, and they brought a lot of coolies along to transport the fuel. Corea in winter is much like some of our northern states, save that it is cold is dry, and the sky is usually clear. The houses are heated by flues which run under the floor, and the people of the Korean capital are, on the average, much more comfortable than those of any Chinese city. They wear more clothes than the Chinese, and a Korean's winter stockings are about two inches thick, and they are made of wadded cotton. There are good coal mines near Pinyang, and after the war troubles are thoroughly settled these will probably be developed.

Frank G. Carpenter

#### DEATH OF NATHAN DAVIS.

Nathan Davis, one of this city's early settlers, surrendered the struggle for earthly existence at his home in the Seventeenth ward at 11 o'clock today, Saturday, December 29, 1894, at the advanced age of 82 years, 3 months and 27 days.

The deceased was well and widely known by the people of this Territory, with whom his interests were common. He was for many years master mechanic of the public works located on the Temple block, and served as Bishop of the Seventeenth ward from 1861 to 1875, when he resigned that office to be succeeded by Elder John Henry Smith, when he was ordained a patriarch, which office he held at the time of his death. He was the father of A. W. Davis, the present Bishop of Center ward, this city.

Robert Latta Jr. has been instantly killed by a fall down the shaft of the New Zealand at Cripple Creek, Col., a distance of 260 feet.