

# CHINA'S FEMALE SLAVES.

They Number Millions and Are Bought and Sold in Every Province.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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Canton, Nov. 14, 1898.—If the powers are to modernize China they must in some way bring about the abolition of slavery. China is now the great slave country of the world. It has perhaps more slaves than all the rest of the world put together. There are, I should say, at a low estimate, 10,000,000 human beings who are in servitude here. China has 300,000,000 inhabitants. It has 80,000,000 families, and this makes one slave to every eight families. The average is greater in south China. There is scarcely a Chinese family of means in Hongkong, Canton, Macao or Amoy but what possesses one or more slave girls. Slave boys are less common, but the girls are found in every block and in almost every house.

## GIRLS FOR SALE AT LOW PRICES.

I was offered a beautiful Chinese girl in Shanghai for \$30. I did not see the girl herself, but her photograph was among some I was looking over at Yuen Ming's shop, and I admired her. Yuen Ming said: "Yes, she is pretty and she is for sale. She is a slave girl, but her master will part with her, and his price is \$40 silver in cash."

Girls bring from \$30 to \$100 and upward in this part of China. They are sold at any age from three to fifteen, and most commonly at seven or eight. The prices range from \$10 upward, according to age and beauty. The prettiest girls are the most desirable, as in cases of marriage or sale they bring more to the family which buys them. The most of the girls are bought to work about the house. It is cheaper to buy a servant than to hire one, for if you take a girl of eight you can have her service until she is fifteen, getting eight years of work for nothing but her board and clothes, and then sell her for perhaps ten times your original price. In such sales a clause is often put in the agreement that the girl is not to be resold for improper purposes. If not, their masters can do as they please.

## SLAVES IN A BRITISH COLONY.

Theoretically there are no slaves in Hongkong, as it is British territory, but in reality the city is full of them. They are the maid servants and nurses of the Chinese. Every small-footed lady needs slaves to help her about, and in the houses of the rich, where there are many daughters, it is not uncommon to find from twenty to thirty slaves in a single family. When I called upon How Gou, the millionaire, two slave girls brought his mother in to see me. The old lady weighed about 200 pounds, but she had feet not bigger than the end of a bamboo slipper. In going through the streets here you often see a gaily-dressed woman riding out to call on the back of a slave girl. The woman's arms are thrown about the neck of the slave and her bound legs and little feet peep out of her petticoats behind as she is thus toiled to the house of her neighbor.

Female slaves are often presented from one man to another, and not infrequently they form a part of the bridal outfit. They are commonly bought as secondary wives and often as teachers.

## A CHANCE FOR AN AMERICAN GIRL.

I heard the other day of a mandarin who is looking out for an English-speaking slave. He wants her as one of his secondary wives, in which case he can sell her again if he chooses. This man is connected with the vicerey of Canton, and his income is nominally \$50 a month, although it is probably ten times that in reality. He has four wives, sixteen children and twenty-one slaves. He keeps his family in another province, and recently wrote his mother to send down two of his wives to him as he was lonesome. The old lady replied that she needed the wives to take care of his sixteen children, and that he had better buy two more where he was. The mandarin has decided to do this, and inasmuch as he is now looking for an English or American girl to act as his companion, and at the same time procure his little ones for the new Chinese era. How much he will pay I do not know, but I suppose he would consider \$300 a high price.

## WHERE PRETTIEST GIRLS COME FROM.

There is as much choice in girls here as anywhere in the world. There are localities in China where girls are reared for their beauty. The cities Yang Chow and Suzhou are as famous for rearing handsome young girls as Georgia in the Caucasus, from where the Sultan's harem is replenished. There are persons in these cities who make a business of raising slave girls. They dream the country about for promising young females and put them through a regular course of training. They have farms where the slaves are taught to sing,

China the Great Slave Country of the World—Ten Million Human Beings in Servitude—Girls for Sale at Ten Dollars and Upwards—What Wives Cost and How Their Husbands Sell Them—Judge Yuan's Female Auction—Women at the Price of Pork—A Chance for an American Girl—Slave Brokers and How They Deal—China's Labor Slaves—The Slaves of the Imperial Palace—Their Number 3,000 and Are All Eunuchs—The Sale of Girl Babies, Which the Founding Asylums Buy at Twenty Cents Apiece.

play upon musical instruments and to acquire the other accomplishments, which, added to beauty, will cause them to sell for high prices to the rich mandarins. These girls are chiefly the daughters of poor people or the daughters of slaves. The slave girls of Shanghai are good looking and there are thousands of right pretty slaves on the lower boats of Canton.

## WOMEN BOUGHT FOR WIVES.

It is common here for a man to purchase his wife. Indeed, there are more women acquired in this way than in any other. Every man in China has a right to as many wives as he can maintain, and as I have already said, a secondary wife is cheaper than a hired girl. The first wife is the legal one, but the others have their rights, although they are practically slaves. Indeed, the largest class of slaves here are these secondary wives or concubines. I have seen it estimated that there are millions of such slaves in the empire. All men of all classes have one or more of them and men with means a number. Such women are usually well treated, and if their masters are rich they may have

Doctor Colman, one of the professors of the university at Peking, tells the story of a Judge Yuan of the district of Chinan-tu, which gives some idea of the stunting of women in China. This judge was something of a Dr. Parkhurst in character and he attempted the reformation of his district. He ordered all gambling houses and other improper places to be closed and demanded that all the questionable women of the town should be brought to his palace. When they came he told them that he intended to make honest wives of them by selling them at auction to the highest bidder. He sent forth a proclamation that they would be for sale only to bachelors, and that no one could buy more than one. There were several scores of women in the party and each select a wife from those in the yard, and that she would be put up and sold by weight. The men hung back, but at last an old farmer walked up and picked out a stout, healthy woman

arrive at the proper age are given respectable husbands.

The brokers, as a rule, do not buy babies. The cost of rearing them and the risk of death is too great. They prefer to have girls or boys of eight years and upward. The prices vary in different localities. I am told that in Peking a girl of eight years is worth from \$25 to \$35, while young women will bring from \$150 to \$300. Girls as a rule sell higher than boys, except in the case of a family wanting a likely boy for adoption. In buying slaves the broker often insists on them being left with him for a while before concluding the deal. He takes them on trial just as a doctor would take a horse. He wants to find out if the animals are healthy and sound. The greatest danger is leprosy. There are many lepers all over China, and in the first stages the disease is hard to detect. One method is to examine the slave in a dark room under a blue light. If this shows that the skin is of a greenish tinge the slave is all right, but if the tinge is reddish it is a sign of leprosy.

## SOME QUEER SLAVE LAWS.

Slavery is sanctioned by Chinese laws. It has existed from the earliest period of Chinese history. When Charles Denby was United States minister to China he sent the secretary of state a report on the subject, in which he mentioned some of the laws. He said that the law strikes the master and thereby kills him or sends him to death. If they kill them accidentally they are strangled, and if they accidentally wound them they are subject to imprisonment. On the other hand, if the master beats the slave to death for committing a crime he suffers 100 blows. He has the right to inflict certain punishments upon the slaves. He can buy and sell the children of his slaves and he can buy and sell his own children.

## LABOR SLAVES.

There are labor slaves in China. They have been worked within recent years in the coal mines west of Peking. There is a systematic scheme in that region to take men in gambling debts and then take them to the coal mines to make them work them out. Once in the mines they are subject to fines and other charges which make them slaves for life. The Chinese government recently learned of this condition and it has taken some steps to put a stop to the abuse, but I am told that it still exists.

You can nearly every Chinese city a class of women who go from house to house mending clothes. They come to the families of foreigners and do their darning and patching, sitting in the hall or on the doorsteps as they work. Some of these women are really slaves. They have been first or second wives, but their husbands have grown tired of them and have sent them out to work for themselves and for them.

## THE SLAVES OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE.

Among the queerest of Chinese slaves are the men who wait upon the emperor and empress dowager and their court. These are eunuchs bought at a fixed price for the purpose. A special report was made upon them some years ago, but for obvious reasons it was not allowed to get into the hands of the printers. This report states that every fifth year certain princes of China are each required to furnish for the use of the palace eight young eunuchs, for which they are to be paid \$300 apiece.

There are about 3,000 eunuchs connected with Emperor Kwangsheng and his court. He could have as many as he pleased and the number restricted to the emperor dowager is not limited. These eunuchs are, however, not persons of royal blood, cannot use such titles as princes and princesses who are the sons and daughters of the emperor may have thirty eunuchs apiece, but only nephews and younger sons twenty. All of the Buddhist priests who minister to the spiritual wants of the imperial harem are of this class. Indeed, of the 1,000 connected with the court every one is a slave. Some are of noble birth, but some are of low grade and rank. Some are paid salaries or rather expense allowances, ranging from \$2 a month upward.

It is said that the empress dowager was ruled by one of her slaves and that others had great influence with her. Shortly before the war broke out one of her eunuchs became angry at a wealthy Chinaman living near the palace. He concluded to be revenged, and taking the old empress to the top of one of the imperial buildings, persuaded her that she ought to have this man's house for a certain purpose. The result was that a notice was sent to the Chinaman that he was to immediately raise an enormous sum of money or his own house would be confiscated. He could not raise it and in despair he hung himself. The house afterward became the property of the eunuch.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

## ALL RUSSIA PRAYS FOR THE CZARINA.

Her Imperial Majesty's Condition Made Still More Serious by the Emperor's Illness.



Every loyal subject of the czar prays daily for the health of the czarina, upon whom the hopes of the empire depend. The empress yet may present her august husband with an heir.

slaves of their own. The standing of the secondary wife in the household is largely at the caprice of the master, although she is supposed to have no voice in the management of affairs, and cannot even control her own children. Sometimes her lot is a sad one. Persecuted by her husband's mother and his other wives she eats her heart out in discontent, for although well dressed she is still a slave.

## THEIR HUSBANDS SELL THEM.

It is not a common thing for a Chinese husband to sell his wife or his concubine, especially when they have given him children. There are cases, however, in which wives are sold, but the act is disgraceful, and is usually confined to opium fiends, gamblers and the poorest classes.

The man who is addicted to the opium habit will sell his children and not infrequently his wife to supply his appetite. Wives are sometimes sold by gambling husbands, being put up on the turn of a card or the rake out of the cash at fan-tan. A case of this kind recently happened at Peking. An inveterate gambler there having squandered all his ancestral property at fan-tan arranged to cover his losses and get a new capital by dealing away his better half. He made all arrangements, but before the sale was consummated the wife forestalled his brutal design by taking her own life. She swallowed opium, and when the gambler came home to tell her that he had sold her she was dying. He called in a doctor, but it was too late.

man of forty. "Weigh her!" said the judge, and, screaming and kicking she was put on the scales. "Ninety catties," said the weigher. "But how much a catty," asked the farmer rather scorned at the low price. "Ninety catties," said the judge. "Ninety catties is a catty," replied the police officer. Then sell them at ninety cash," ordered the judge, and at that price she was sold. Ninety cash at the present valuation would not be more than 1 cent in gold, so that the farmer really paid about \$4.50 for his wife. After the first sale the women went off rapidly, and by night the last one was sold.

## SLAVE BROKERS.

I am told that there are slave brokers in all the large Chinese cities. Their business increases at times of famine, and the starvation which now prevails in north China will cause many parents to sell their children. With some it will be a question of allowing them to starve or selling them, and the chances that girl babies will be a drug in the market. Think of giving a baby for 20 cents. This is the price which one of the infant asylums of Shanghai pays for them. The asylum is a missionary institution and the children are bought as a matter of charity and religion. They are reared surrounded by Christian influences, are taught all sorts of domestic duties, and when they

"That settles Leiter. He can never stand that town." And he didn't. It was too heavy. The Leiter corner went to smash, and Armour made more than recouped all his losses in the cleanup.

In 1891 the old man was on one of his annual trips to the German mineral waters. At Carlsbad he met the moneyed men of Europe, and he put together all the hints that he got from this one and that one, and out of these hints he evolved a theory. He picked up his grip and started for home, and the day he landed in New York he telegraphed for the heads of his departments to meet him in Chicago.

"How's business," he asked, cheerfully, as he sat down in the midst of the powwow and within range of twenty telegraph machines. "Never better," making money hand over fist," said the managers. "Cut everything down to the very edge," said the old man, in a very businesslike way. "There's a storm brewing. I'll sail in sail. Stock up every dollar of cash in the vaults that you can get your hands on. Go into the money streets and use the name of P. D. Armour for all it is worth. Get every dollar to be had, and then come back and tell me about it."

They all believed in their hearts that the old man was getting panicky. They proceeded nearly \$5,000,000. "That's not nearly enough. Go out and get more," he directed. "Don't be afraid. Get every dollar you can, and get it just as quickly as you can."

Finally they ordered \$14,000,000 in cash, and this, with securities on hand, footed up \$5,000,000. "Now, maybe we can weather it," said Mr. Armour, and his preparations were hurriedly completed before the crash of 1893 came.

One of the first things to happen in the desperate financial straits was a run to the biggest banks in Chicago. One morning a messenger brought word that a mob was lined up in front of the li-

inois Trust and Savings bank and that the people were demanding their money. Some of the most conservative business men had lost their heads, and the rush was enough to stagger any set of bank officials. Ogden Armour, son of the old man, was a director in the bank.

"This must be stopped," said P. D. Armour. He waited a minute to arrange the every bunch of ropes of the horn vase on his desk," said the man who told the story, "and then he snatched up his hat and started for the bank." Mr. Armour mingled with the crowd on the street, and then he went to the bank, going first to one and then to another, pledging his own credit for the deposits. He never left the place until the closing hour, and by that time the run had stopped. He issued a call for a meeting of Chicago business men the next morning. Then he called to London and bought \$500,000 in gold, which he sent over.

He ate a little luncheon and drove out to Armour Institute that afternoon as usual. He watched the classes at drill and then inquired, placidly: "Is anything wrong?" On his way home to dinner he stopped at the homes of his two sons for a little visit. After dinner he said he felt a bit tired that evening and couldn't account for it.—Kansas City World.

## THE MINES OF MIDWAY.

Where the Earth Yields Treasures to Those Who Search.

Midway, British Columbia, Nov. 12.—Dropped down among some of the richest mineral bearing mountains in western Canada and bordering the picturesque Boundary creek and Kettle river is what is known as "the most beautiful spot in British Columbia." Several years ago this spot was made the site

of what is now a thriving town. From its location in the middle of the stretch of territory between the Rocky mountains and the Pacific ocean and being on the international boundary line separating British Columbia from the State of Washington the town was called Midway. Midway, while being a mining center, has many other commercial interests, but the preponderance of capital invested in ore getting in the Rocky creek mining division naturally places in the van the traffic in the product of the numerous shafts sunk deep in the bosom of Mother Earth.

Mine hunting is one of the most thrilling and enticing pursuits ever invented in the human mind. The hopes and expectations, the uncertainty of their fulfillment, the suddenness with which big finds are made and great fortunes discovered, the freemasonry of an outdoor existence and the latent resources called into play by unforeseen happenings all tend to hold the searcher a slave to his profession. The passing of years and the whitening of the hair cannot loosen the clutches of the prospecting fever, and once a man starts out on such a career he will find his very blood infected with the germ. Mary and varied are the stories of men who have been "awake" for years.

Probably no one connected with this region has had more interesting experiences than Captain Robert C. Adams, an adventure loving capitalist from Montreal. Captain Adams was the founder of Midway and is the owner of immense tracts of land hereabouts. His holdings in the Yale district amount to more than 1,000 acres, and he holds title to 50 or 60 mines and claims now in operation. Captain Adams has tramped and camped weeks and months at a time among snow capped mountain tops, the scaled walls like precipices to perilous heights in quest of gold and silver. His reminiscences would fill a volume.

While pushing up through the Kootenay district in the direction of the Arrow lake Captain Adams once narrowly escaped losing his life. He followed Boundary creek northward from Midway for about 15 miles and then struck out to the eastward for a few miles to reach the Greenwood camp. He remained there a day and a night to replenish his supplies and, taking an Indian guide, aimed for the Arrow lake. The river was in flood and the captain's intention was to traverse the lakes by canoe and then branch out into the country at a suitable point. After three and a half days of canoeing—at which he is an expert—Captain Adams made a landing on the west bank of the upper Arrow lake opposite Nakusp. Rugged mountains barred his way, but, undaunted, he began his hunt. Two days of mountain eering found him on the crest of a small peak, at the foot of which flowed the Mosquito creek. The side sloping down towards the stream impressed the captain as a likely hiding place for deposits of silver. He resolved to satisfy his curiosity before returning to the Arrow lakes.

The task he had planned for himself was bristling with danger. The particular spot which he wished to investigate was situated directly below a glacier marked cliff. To reach it made necessary for him to descend the face of the rock in some manner. The captain was equipped for the occasion, and unslinging a light but strong piece of rope he carried across his shoulders he fastened the end to a sapling overhanging the brink and climbed hand under foot to the top of the cliff. There was a small size pick which he carried at his belt he excavated a hole. While intent on examining the dirt a large piece of rock from under the roots of the tree to which he was clinging, and was fixed crashed down the cliff. He had barely time to crouch closely into the burrow as the mass, several tons in weight, swept past him. Captain Adams was a quick man and in cramped quarters. He was not released until five or six hours after, when a party of prospectors from the gold quartz mines, attracted by shots he had fired from his

revolver, pried away the obstruction. The captain was badly cut and bruised as the result of his confinement, but he soon recovered and received the congratulations of his deliverers on his close call.

## TRAINED BATS AND HAWKS.

The steamship Curityba, which arrived at New York the other day from Cuban ports, had a weird experience with winged things on her trip up the coast. When she was off the town of Matanzas an off-shore gale, permeated with tropical moisture, puffed the comb. ers about her. On the blast came thousands of land birds and bats. Mate Bregman says the bats literally covered the ship, roosting on all the rails. He says they appeared to be a "cross between a vampire and a squirrel." When the weather moderated and dawn came the bats were near enough to one of the Bahamas to venture leaving the ship.

A hundred or more miles off Florida the Curityba was visited by what the seventh mate, who is English, declares was a flock of "heavies." The eighth mate says he believes they were "howls," and the ninth mate positively asserts that they were "awks." Whatever they may be called, Captain Hoppe and his men captured two of them, which measure, according to the new ultramarine reporter, who was sent out by the ship news expert to get the yarn, "about eight feet from tip

to tip." There were altogether twenty eagles or hawks or owls in the flock. The news collector at quarantine reported the invasion of birds thus: "On Thursday, when off the coast of Florida, two hawks much exhausted, flew aboard the steamer and roosted on the vessel's spars. One of the crew went aloft and secured the birds. On the following days a large number of birds were sighted; some flew near the steamer. Captain Hoppe shot one, but failed to secure it, as it fell into the funnel and was burned in the furnace. All the birds appeared to be exhausted and had evidently been blown off the land. The two captured birds are hawks of the species commonly known as fishing eagles."

## Good Advice.

The most miserable beings in the world are those suffering from Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint. More than seventy-five per cent of the people in the United States are afflicted with these two diseases and their effects, such as Sour Stomach, Sick Headache, Habitual Constipation, Waterbrash, Grawling and Burning Pains at the Stomach, Yellow Skin, Corrupted Tongue and Disagreeable Taste in the Mouth. Coming up of Food after Eating, Low Spirits, Etc. Go to the Druggist and get a bottle of Anker-Purifier for 75 cents. Two doses will relieve you. Try it. Get Green's Price Almanac. For sale at A. C. Smith's Drug Store.

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Any Suit in the store for only . . . \$6.85  
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It will pay you to examine our goods. Remember the Place—

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## "OLD MAN OF THE MARKETS"

The "Old Man of the Markets" is at it again. It is now P. D. Armour, acting commissary general to the czar of Russia. What the Russian government has asked its commissary general to accomplish is one of the most stupendous undertakings in the history of army supply.

"Transport 7,000 cattle a distance of 10,000 miles over seas. Send me 6,000,000 pounds of beef on the hoof from San Francisco to Peking!" is the substance of the order from the czar.

Mr. Armour is now organizing a fleet of transports at San Francisco in which to ship this immense amount of cattle and meats to China. He has chartered the Argonaut ships of the American seas, and an option has been asked on every boat in the carrying trade from San Francisco to Seattle. Every day the Armour company buys enough cattle in the markets of America to fill this Russian order. Within three days that many export cattle, fatted to a king's taste, could be bought by the firm in Chicago yards alone. They could be purchased for instant shipment in the pens throughout Western stock markets. Where the trouble comes in is getting a fleet of cattle big enough to carry 7,000 steers on the hoof from San Francisco to the Orient. There are not enough boats to be found on the Pacific coast. To move such a fleet, once it is obtained, with its cargo of 6,000,000 pounds, across the Pacific ocean, will be a feat unparalleled.