

## WAR AMONG THE HIGHBINDERS

**Tom Sue's Dishonesty Causes Bad Blood in Chinatown.**

**IS GIFFORD A BIGAMIST?**  
Serious Charges Against the Man Who Married Allen G. Thurman's Daughter—Sports on the Coast —Mrs. Langtry's Ranch.

**Warm for Wong Ah Tie.**  
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16.—[Special to THE BEE.]—There is trouble among the Chinese highbinders belonging to the See Yip, Sam Yip and Wong families, and they are anxious for one of the red-hot battles which have given Chinatown a name and which have caused the festive highbinder to be feared by the law-abiding Chinese in the community. The chief of police and the Chinatown detectives were notified of the coming trouble and extra large squads were sent to do duty with special instructions to guard the alleys and the entrances to the theaters.

The cause of all this trouble was the arrest of Woo Yook and Tarm Yum, the former a member of the See Yip society, on charges of attempting to defraud their customers. Woo Yook and Tarm Yip were members of the firm of Sung Wo Tai & Co., Tom Sue, a member of the firm, left for China about two weeks ago, taking with him about \$28,000 belonging to the See Yip. His employers expect that they would make good the losses, and they were allowed to go with the business.

About a week ago they discovered that the business was a failure and that they could not redeem their promise; so about 2 o'clock on Monday morning they commenced to pack their stock over to the store of one of their cousins. The friends of Sam Yip, manager of the Jackson street theater, and one of the heaviest creditors of the defunct firm, notified him of the operation, and he had the sheriff attack the building and had Yook and Yip arrested on charges of attempting to defraud their creditors.

He also charged them with being in collusion with the one who went to China.

Then the trouble commenced. The night following the one on which the attachment was levied members of the See Yip and Sam Yip societies attacked Wong Ah Tie, the ticket-taker at the Jackson street theater, and although ten shots were fired Tie was not injured. Officer Sam Alden was not over fifty feet away, and it was probably his presence which made the aim of the highbinders fail.

The Wong family, which is the most powerful of all the Chinese clans, sent their fighting men on the ground to protect Sam Yip and Wong Ah Tie. They have notified the See Yip and the Sam Yip people that they are in the fight to stay, and the first movement against any member of the Wong family will cause a battle which will result in a severe loss to the See Yip and Sam Yip people.

**MIS THURMAN'S PECULIAR MARRIAGE.**

Thomas Scott Gifford, who was recently married to Allan G. Thurman's daughter, is likely to get into serious trouble before his honeymoon is over, and the present developments indicate a sensation which will far surpass that which attended their wedding. It is alleged that Gifford at the time of his wedding was engaged to a pretty French woman with whom he had lived four or five years. It is positively asserted that if he had not been married to her, he had, at least, lived with her, and they had been residents of Cordova Beach for over twelve months. It is said they continued to live together until within two weeks of his marriage with Miss Thurman.

STAMFORD AND HIS 2:12 RECORD.

W. C. Crawford has won his bet of \$5,000 with Senator Rose of Los Angeles that Stamford would not trot in 2:12 before January 1, 1890, says Orrin Hickok, Stamford's driver; that it is too late to get Stamford into fix again to win the bet, and the Stamboult would be sent to San Mateo Farm and be let up for the winter. It will be remembered that Stamford recently won at Napa in 2:12, thus losing the chance to win the bet by a quarter of a second. Had the weather remained fine there is not the least doubt that Stamford would have won.

The peculiar feature of the whole affair is that Miss Thurman is said to have known all about Gifford's connection with Mrs. Gifford No. 1 before her marriage. He told Miss Thurman that he had two children by the woman, but that they had never been married. This apparently seemed but a slight detail in the disclosure of Mrs. Gifford No. 1 to make room for Mrs. Gifford No. 2 was soon arranged.

Gifford denies that he was legally married to the woman who claims to be his wife, and has employed attorneys to defend him in case any action against him should be brought. He declares that she would not purposely make him trouble and that the whole matter is the work of some person in Ohio. Gifford left tonight on the steamer Manuel Dublan for Lower California. It is understood that he is bound for the Alamo gold district. Despite Gifford's denial, his lawyer arranges for his married friend of Mrs. Gifford No. 1, now living here, asserts that he has seen his marriage certificate.

**THE SULLIVAN-JACKSON PURSE.**

The warmest and most unkindest discussion that ever ensued in a public meeting of a club was on the occasion of the McCarty-Kelleher contest when the Sullivan-Jackson purse was discussed and the club placed its vote on anything above \$10,000, and yet \$15,000 had been offered and accepted on the one part by John L., who declares that he will not fight for a cent less, and that all must go to the winner. It is whispered upon the streets that there is a \$10,000 difference between the two in the language of the sporting men. "Where do the dealers get off on the proposition?" Some are maintaining that the little bonus is to come from the pockets of several members who are public spirited enough to give it up just to keep the battle of the giants from coming off elsewhere, while others not as charitably inclined hint at a different solution. However that may be the fight seems an assured fact, and a consensus of opinion shows that Sullivan is still the idol of San Francisco, as was according to exhort himself, he put his hand into his pocketbook and Ryan asleep at will.

John McAuliffe looks sad, and says that he fears that Sullivan and Jackson may meet—not that he fears to meet Sullivan, but that he wants the chance to show Jackson the difference between Benedict and Celestine McAuliffe. McAuliffe is sighing like a furnace to meet Kilmarn, and, like a real good mission boy, is keeping himself in prime condition for any contingency that may arise.

**WAH ON THE SCALPERS.**

Everyone who knows anything of rail-

road matters, knows how overland excursion tickets are worked by scalpers. A round-trip excursion ticket from Chicago to this city, good for six months, is sold for \$100, a reduction of \$45 from the first-class rate. The ticket is sold with the understanding that it is not transferable, but those who know assert that the round-trip that has not been resold is the exception. The ticket was arranged originally to induce eastern residents to see California in view of its position, but now nearly every traveler going either east or west, obtains a round-trip ticket with the understanding that he can dispose of the return part of it at the other end of the road to good advantage. The result is that two travelers make a single trip for \$100, where otherwise they would each have to pay \$72.50, the regular rate between Chicago and Pacific coast cities. Scalpers have a regular system of crusing the name of purchasers on tickets and leaving the blank open for the next man who wants to use it. It is now reported that the rates are coming down, considering the question of abolishing the \$100 excursion ticket. If they do this, it is said they will follow up the action by reducing the first-class fare and probably the second-class as well. The present second-class rate between here and Chicago is \$17.50, of which \$12.50 goes to the low fares. A cut of \$10 on both first and second-class rates would be welcome to residents of this coast. The officers of the eastern railroads associations are laying plans for the demoralization of scalpers and will make war against them.

**MRS. LANGTRY'S RANCH.**

A letter just received here from Fred Gebhard announces that he will soon visit California and will spend some time at his and Mrs. Langtry's ranch. Mr. Gebhard desires to come and take a personal hand in the improvement of the ranch. He has a number of hours to do so. Now he is coming to stay a good while. Mrs. Langtry is still in Europe and it is not known when she will get here. However, as her residence has been improved, it is thought she may come next spring.

**LARGE CARGO OF GIN-SENG.**

A part of the cargo of the steamship Gaile, which has just sailed for Hongkong, is 20,000 pounds of ginseng, valued at \$65,500. This is the largest shipment of the article ever made at one time, and goes to show the increasing demand for it from this country by the Chinese, by whom it is considered the panacea of all bodily ills. Most of the shipments going through this port are from New York, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the states along the Ohio river. The article is a root, somewhat resembling ginger root, has a bitter-sweet taste, and is aromatic and pungent.

In speaking about ginseng one of the Chinese merchants said that the article in this country was not considered as good in quality as that raised in China and Korea, but the demand for it was so great that it brought very large prices, no matter where it came from. In all the districts in China where it is found the emperor has a monopoly collecting and selling it. It is mostly used for making a decoction which is drunk daily by the rich and poor of all classes who afford to pay the price. The Chinese medical fraternity introduces it in most all of their prescriptions for the purposes of restoring strength to the sick. Healthy people drink it as an invigorator and appetizer.

Outside of the Orient ginseng is not looked upon as possessing any medicinal properties, and the antiquity and faith in its virtues is its sole recommendation and only explanation of its continued great consumption by the Chinese. About one hundred and fifty years ago it was worth its weight in gold. Today it is mostly used for making a decoction which is drunk daily by the rich and poor of all classes who afford to pay the price. The Chinese medical fraternity introduces it in most all of their prescriptions for the purposes of restoring strength to the sick. Healthy people drink it as an invigorator and appetizer.

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