

LIFE IN CHINA.

*Seemingly Too Many People, and Then
Such Awfully Queer Food.*

How hard life becomes when a land is over-populated, says a letter from China. There are more than a million souls in and about Amoy alone. They are so crowded together that when you see them you forget they are human and imagine them ants or bees on a larger scale than usual. They have to live and they do it in a way that would astonish a citizen of the great republic. Labor is a drug in the market. An expert joiner, carpenter, or metalsmith receives 25 cents a day, \$1.40 for a week, or \$5.25 for a month. A laborer is glad to get 15 cents a day or \$3.50 a month. An old woman or small boy receives \$1 a month. But to live upon these rates demands infinite economy, and this prevails everywhere in China. At low tide the beach is crowded with men, women, and children.

They gather sea moss and convert it into gelatine, seaweed, and change it into a nutritious food, sea worms and sea urchins, and by slow cooking transmute these into mysterious stews and chowders. The driftwood thrown up by the sea is dried and utilized for fuel. Even the tiny animal, which build little shell houses in the mud or under rocks and boulders are pried out one by one and served up on the dinner table. Two hundred scarcely fill a small cup and require four hours' hard work to gather, but they are in the market every day and sell for 3 or 4 cents a pound. The children are trained to pick up dead leaves, sticks, and straws and put them aside to dry until usable as firewood. One child keeps a family supplied by working eight hours a day.

Necessity teaches them how to prepare for food what we consider worthless weeds. The tops of turnips, carrots, sweet potatoes, and onions, the seeds of watermelons, squashes, sunflowers, and fruits, the entrails of animals, the fins and bones of fishes are all utilized, and it must be confessed made into very savory dishes. What can not be digested by the human stomach is reserved for the pigs, chickens, and ducks with which every coolie family is provided. Thus nearly all the vegetable growths have excellent tips when they begin to grow. The coolie housewife boils them until they are soft and digestible, cuts off the extreme portions for the human members of her household, and puts aside the remainder for her various animals.

I have seen grass, clover, thistles, cabbage, stalks, cactus, century plants, and even palm-tops treated in this way, and witnessed the delight shown by the people to whom they were served as the chief dishes of their daily provender. The rich mandarins go to the opposite extreme and dine on bird's nests at \$80 a dozen; on hand-fed gold fish, fattened frogs, tigers' livers, preserved duck's eggs, truffles, bamboo, oysters, cock's combs, and other luxuries. Frequently a mandarin dinner will cost from \$20 to \$50 a plate. When it is remembered that little or no wine is used at these repasts the extravagance of the cuisine is easily appreciated. —Chicago Times.

LEARNING BY NOTE.

*Some Things Which Children Love That
They Do Not Understand.*

Speaking of children's classics, annotated in an article on "The Oppression of Notes," in the Atlantic, Agnus Reppiler says: It is healthy and natural for a child to be forcibly attracted by what she does not wholly comprehend; the music of words appeals very sweetly to childish ears, and their meaning comes later—comes often after the first keen unconscious pleasure is past. I once knew a tiny boy who so delighted in Byron's description of the dying gladiator that he made me read it to him over, and over, and over again. He did not know—and I never told him—what a gladiator was. He did not know that it was

a statue, and not a real man described. He had not the faintest notion of what was meant by the Danube, or the "Daclan mother," or "a Roman holiday." Historically and geographically, the boy's mind was a happy blank. There was nothing intelligent or sagacious in his enjoyment—only a blissful stirring of the heartstrings by reason of strong words and swinging verse and his own tangle of groping thoughts. But what child who reads Cowper's pretty remonstrance to his spaniel and the spaniel's neat reply, wants to be told in a succession of dismal notes that "allures" means "tempts," that "remedy" means "cure," that "killing time" means "wasting time," that "destined" means "meant for," and "benest" means "command?" Cowper is one of the simplest writers, and the little boys and girls who cannot be trusted unarmed in his company had better confine their reading to "Robinson Crusoe" in words of one syllable, or to the veracious pages of "Mother Goose." But perhaps the day is not far distant when even "Mother Goose" will afford food for instruction and a fresh industry for authors, and when the hapless children of the dawning century will be confronted with a dozen highly abbreviated and unintelligible notes referring them to some Icelandic saga or remote Indian epic for the bloody history of "The Three Blind Mice."

She Wanted to Be a Bird.

A certain young gentleman is courting a young lady. He called on her a few evenings ago. She seemed to be under the weather, and there was a peculiar drug-store smell in the room. "What ails you, my darling?" he cooed.

"I wish I was a bird," sighed the young lady.

"So you could fly into my arms?" queried John, suggestively.

"No; I want to be a bird, so I could not get the toothache any more," replied the lady, swinging on her jaw and groaning audibly. —Texas Siftings.

Buried by Beetles.

A resident of Nyack, N. Y., contributes this bit of natural history to a contemporary: "I was crossing a field when my attention was attracted by a snake rolling over and over. The snake was about three feet long and appeared to be propelled by some power I couldn't see. I knew it was dead from the way it moved, and on looking closer saw that two big beetles were supplying the motive power. They were behind the snake, and by burrowing under it at either end acted as rollers to send the snake ahead. I saw them move it over ten feet. I spent most of the day in watching. They propelled it twenty feet further and then stopped. One of them went away and soon came back with at least one hundred more beetles. This little army set to work and actually dug a hole in the ground about five inches in diameter and half a foot deep. It took them half a day to do this, and just about dark they appeared to be satisfied with their task and the whole army set about dumping his snakeship into the hole, which they did by coiling up its body so that it fitted into the space nicely. Then they covered it up and disappeared in the thicket."

When Woods Decay.

Tests have been made to determine the variations in the length of time that is required to produce decay in different kinds of woods when buried under the surface of the ground. The birch and aspen were both found to decay in three years, the willow and the buckeyes in four years, the maple and the red beech in five years, elm and ash in seven, while the larch, juniper and arbor vitae were uninjured at the expiration of eight years.

The most certain sign of wisdom is a perpetual cheerfulness.

Every man is religious when he is scared of death.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE OF JESUITS OR AMERICANS.

The Grand Island Independent says the Obligation Printed Alongside the Jesuit's Oath Below, is Used by the A. P. A.—It is Not—You Can Decide What Class You Would Rather Have Govern This Country.

JESUIT'S OATH.

I, —, now in the presence of Almighty God, the blessed virgin Mary, the blessed Michael the archangel, the blessed St. John the Baptist, the holy apostles St. Peter and St. Paul and the saints and sacred host of heaven, and to you my ghostly father, I do declare from my heart, without mental reservation that the pope is Christ's vicar-general and is the true and only head of the universal church throughout the earth, and by virtue of the keys of binding and loosing given to his holiness by Jesus Christ he hath power to depose heretical kings, princes, states, commonwealths, governments, all being illegal without his sacred confirmation, and they may safely be destroyed. Therefore, to the utmost of my power, I will defend this doctrine and his holiness' rights and customs against all usurpers of the heretical or Protestant authority, especially against the now pretended authority and church in England and all adherents, in regard that they be usurped and heretical, opposing the sacred mother church of Rome.

I do renounce and disown any allegiance as due to any heretical king, prince or state, named Protestant, or obedience to any of their inferior magistrates or officers.

I do further declare the doctrine of the church of England, of the Calvinists, Huguenots and other Protestants, to be damnable, and those to be damned who will not forsake the same. I do further declare that I will help, assist and advise all or any of his holiness' agents, in any place wherever I shall be and to do my utmost to extirpate the heretical Protestant doctrine, and to destroy all their pretended power, regal or otherwise. I do further promise and declare, that notwithstanding I am dispensed with to assume any religion heretical for the propagation of the mother church's interest to keep secret and private all her agents counsels as they entrust me, and not to divulge, directly or indirectly, by word, writing or circumstance whatsoever, but to execute all which shall be proposed, given in charge or discovered unto me, by you my ghostly father.

All which I, —, do swear by the blessed trinity, and blessed sacrament which I am about to receive, to perform, on my part to keep inviolably; and do call on all the heavenly and glorious host of heaven to witness my real intentions to keep my oath. In testimony whereof, I take this most holy and blessed sacrament of the eucharist, and witness the same further with my hand and seal, in the face of this holy convent.

Now, what do you think of that? Is that not a nice thing for an American(?) citizen to wear around in this country? Swears to support the holy church (the pope) without a mental reservation, no difference in what country he may be. Swears to help destroy all heretic (Protestant) governments. Swears that he will not obey Protestant officers or magistrates. Swears that all governments are illegal unless confirmed by the church. Swears to aid in breaking down Protestantism. Swears to be solely and wholly a Roman—the obedient servant, to willing tool of the man in Rome.

A. P. A. OBLIGATION.

Grand Island Independent: The following is the obligation taken by persons joining the A. P. A. as shown by the working book as explained by cipher explanation of blank spaces found in said book:

WORKING BOOK OBLIGATION.

Deputy—You will repeat after me the following obligation, giving your name in full. (Persons affirming will raise the right hand.)

I, —, in the presence of Almighty God, and these witnesses, do solemnly promise, declare and swear, that I will support and defend the constitution of the United States, and the state where I reside; I will keep inviolate the secrets of this organization; I will obey its constitution and laws; I will use my best endeavors to promote civil and religious liberty; I will not knowingly vote for, recommend for, nor appoint, nor assist in electing, or appointing a Roman Catholic nor any person sympathizing with Roman Catholicism, to any political position whatever, and in all my public and political action will be governed by the principles of this order; I will oppose all attempts to use the public funds for any sectarian purpose whatever and will ever maintain the great principle of one general unsectarian free school organization; I will never reveal any of the signs, grips, words, passwords or other mysteries of this order, or the names of any of its members, or its numerical strength, to the uninitiated; I will hold these principles above my party affiliation; I will always give a brother of this order preference in all matters of business and also in my act of elective franchise, all things being equal. I will make prompt reports to the chief recording secretary of every initiation made by me. I will advocate the principles of this order. I will use my best endeavors to initiate all true men, and in this way help spread the order; all this I voluntarily promise, declare and swear (or affirm) without hesitation or mental reservation, or any self evasion of mind in me, whatever, so help me God." (Recently incorporated as the American League.)

How many of you who have taken the A. P. A. obligation would recognize the above as that used by the order? What outsider, after reading the Jesuit's oath in the preceding column, believes even that obligation wrong? Is it not the height of impudence for rascals, for traitors, to try to call a halt in the American movement? That oath shows what the Jesuits are here for. It shows they wear the livery of heaven to serve the devil in. While they fawn upon short-sighted Protestants they have their minions working to destroy the government which furnished them a haven when driven from nearly every nation upon the earth. For our part we would not hesitate to choose between the two oaths. We are purely and simply an American, who believes it the duty of every man who comes to live in this country and swears allegiance to the United States, to so swear allegiance as not to have a mental reservation in favor of the pope. We believe in the above obligation, and care little who knows it.