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YARNS PROUT THIBET

STORIES ABOUT LIFE IN AN AL MOST UNKNOWN GOONTHY.

A Section of Middle Asia That His A tracted Many Able Chloric Story Ty ers - Some Remarkable Account Strange Dolngs in Chinese Writings.

A curious collection of facts respect-ing Thibet, a represented by various Chinese authors and travelers, has been made by Mr. Woodville Rockhill, who has himself explored that mysterious country of middle Asia.
On New Year's day at the capital city,

Lh'asa, there begins a season of festivity. One of the entertainments is called the "Spectacle of the Flying Spirits." The performers stretch an enormously large rounnade of hide all the way from the tor to the bottom of Mount Potaia; then the fasten grooved blocks of wood to their chests and sail down the line like so many swallows. On top of this same mountain dwells the pope of the Budd-hist religion, who is called the tale lama. He is also the incarnation of the god which chiefly protects mankind.

On the 30th of the month there is another great sport when the king of the devils is driven away. A priest is chosen to play the part of the tale lama, and a layman, selected for his wit and activity. takes the role of the demon. The latter smears his face with black and white paint, and goes before the pretended tale ama for the purpose of mocking him. The two have an argument on religion, the locue of which is finally referred by mutuid agreement to a cast of dice.

These dice are very bigganes, about the size of apples, but the par fiend has no show at all in the gamble, for his die is blank on every side, while the lama's has the highest number on each of its faces. In Thibet, as in Christian countries, it is always landable to defraud the devil.

Being beaten, the king of the devils is frightened and runs away, with all the people after him, firing guns and cannon, so that he is obliged to hide at length in a hole in the mountain, where provisions have previously been placed to feed him for a few days while he remains in concealment. There are nearly as many demons in Thibet as there are human inhabitants, and the priests or "lamas" are kept very busy exorcising them, because otherwise they would swarm everywhere and do no end of mischief.

POWER OF THE PRIESTS. If any one is sick or annoyed in any way the devils are responsible, and the only sensible thing is to go and hire a priest to frighten them off. For this purpose the lama reads aloud from the sacred writings, blows a horn made from a human thigh bone, beats a drum manufactured out of two human skulls,

disk shaped beads cut out of human skulls. The lamas also do a large business in fortune telling. Sometimes they ascertain the fates with barleycorns; at others they burn sheep bones for the same purpose or gaze into bowls of

rings a bell and tells over a resary of

water. According to one author there is a very astomshing curiosity in Thibet in the shape of a plant that flies. It resembles a dog in shape, is the color of a tortoise shell and is very tame. If lions or elephants see it they are frightened, "hence it is the king of beasts." There is a kind of black donkey which can cope in fight with the tiger. On the icy peaks of the Himalayas, says this imaginative writer, there is a "snow maggot," resembling the silkworm in appearance and weighing nearly a pound. It is excellent to eat, but too much of it will make one bleed at the nose.

Seventy li from Lh'asa is a convent on top of a hill, and a great hole full of white clay that is good to eat. As fast as the clay is eaten more takes its place. Behind the convent is a large lake, and evildoers who go near always tumble into it. The Thibetans used to cast Buddhas in copper, and the smaller they were the more they were worth.

POLITENESS IN THIRET. Chinese philosophers say that manners differ every bundred li of distance, and customs are no longer the same every thousand li. Thus the ways of the Thibetans vary, but in most parts it is usual for a woman going to see a priest to smear her face with molasses. . If this is not done it is said that she is trying to captivate the lama by her comeliness-an unpardonable crime. A sign of politeness on meeting a person is to hold up the clasped hands and stick out the tongue. When a man dies one-half of his property goes to charity and the other half to the lamas. His family

One of the writers quoted observes that in case of death the corpse is tied up with the head between the kness, and suspended in a rawhide bag from the rafters. A few days later it is taken to the corpse cutter's place, where it is tied to a post. The flesh is then cut off and given to dogs and the bones crushed in a stone mortar and made up with grain into balls, which are also thrown to dogs and vultures. Both these methods of burial are considered highly desirable.

For small misdemeanors men and women are stripped and beaten in the market place. Great criminals are bound with ropes and whipped with rawhide lashes. If this does not persuade them to avow their guilt boiling butter is poured on their chests. Supposing that they still protest their innocence, they are suffocated with water or splinters are driven under their nails,-Washington Star.

Machinery Has Affected the Shoemaker A man called a shoemaker thirty years ago made shoes; today, except in rare cases, he makes only a part of a shoe as he labors in some factory guiding one or the other of the numerous labor saving machines, and is known as a beater. binder, eyeleter, heeler, laster, pegger, stitcher, trimmer, filler, cutter or dresser, What is true of the shoemaking trade is true of other trades. -St. Louis Repul- L. Popoff in Popular Science Monthly.

A daring attenue to steal a whole field of Barley has been thereaded has been made at the farin or 2. M. Mumbers took the Barley had been bagged, and the bage took piled my in a field arms. stood piled up in a field some distance from Mumford's house. Just at dusk a foung fellow who was taking a short dut-across the fields saw four men at work loading the sacks of barley into two wagons that stood outside the field. Two of the men were carrying the sacks to the fence and throwing them over and the other two were loading the wagsus. He soon saw that they were not Rumford's farm hands. Mumford's men would have driven the wagons into the fields, and besides, they would be very strange farm hands indeed that would work with the desperate haste

with which these men were working. The young fellow went at first to Mumford's house and told him of what was going on. J. S. Foster, a neighboring farmer, was called in, and soon six men were got together, all armed, and they started out on horseback to catch the burley thieves.

The night was dark and cloudy, and # was impossible to see any distance, but they rode in the direction of the place where the barley was stacked, and soon they could hear the voices of the men at work. It was impossible to see anything, and a consultation was held to try to decide the best way to go about the sapture. While the six horsemen were gathered in a group, talking in low tones together, a flash of lightning fromthe cloudy sky lit up the field. It disslosed a man with a barley sack upon his shoulder not fifteen feet away, and slose at hand the two wagons, with the ather three men at work. One of the horsemen, almost as quick as the flashing lightning, pulled his weapon and took alm, and before darkness once more aid the scene a shot from his pistol rang sut upon the air. This was the signal for a general fusiliade that filled the dark night with flashing pistol shots.

The thieves returned the horsemen's fire, and the horsemen kept it up until their ammunition was exhausted. The only aim for either side was the flashing pistol shots of the others, so that not much damage was done. None of the horsemen were hurt. While the firing was going on the wagons were heard driving off, the drivers whipping up their horses in a furious way. It was avident that the two men outside the sence had fled and left their companions to take the consequences of their acts. When the firing ceased, the six horsemen made a search for the remaining asen, but they could not be found. They and fled in the darkness. An examina-Men of the barley bags showed that a great many of them had been taken, and the horsemen at once went in pursuit of the wagons.

About half a mile away they found the wagons, but the horses and men were The wagons were half filled with macks of bariey, and a number of empty. bags were found with the marks of a Denver firm upon them, so that it seems probable that the thieves came from this city. The wagons are now at Mr. Mumford's place waiting for an owner.

In the morning an examination was made of the field where the shooting took place. A trail of blood was found leading to the fence, but there it was lost. The attempted robbery alarmed the neighboring farmers, and an examination was made, which resulted in the discovery that seventy-two sacks of wheat which one of the farmers had stored in a distant field had disappeared. It is supposed that the thieves were the same enes who tried to steal Mumford's barley.- Denver Republican.

Bishop Brooks' Way with Children. No one who has seen Dr. Brooks with children is likely to forget his "way with them." Sterner persons say that he makes them behave very badly, and possibly in jealousy, others have called him fonder of youngsters than of grown people. No objection is heard from the children. They look midgets, indeed, on those knees, high and broad, in which two schools of churchmanship figuratively meet. Is it foolish to imagine that the new bishop's visitations will gain some of their power-over mothers at least-through his extremely happy intercourse with the children? However literally true it may be, surely the story of Dr. Brooks going to a poor woman's rooms and keeping the children out of mischief while she went to church tells something of his spirit. And the story loses none of its point when one reflects that the woman could not hear one of her visitor's sermons.-Harper's Weekly.

Patent Leather and Patent Calf. While many may apply the term, patent leather" to all kinds of enamel leather, still, strictly speaking, it is only used in the harness trade and in the cheapest grade of shoes, while patent calf is the material from which fine shoes are made. Only the very finest calfskins are used, the esamel being applied after the skin has been through a long course of treatment and all the stretch taken therefrom, and is, therefore much more durable than patent leather, which is made usually from cowhides.-Shoe and Leather Facts

The Atlanthus Tree

The first allanthus trees grown in America were brought from the far east and planted in the garden of Burns' coffee house on lower Broadway, opposite Bowling green, New York. They were much admired by the New York beaux and belies of seventy-five years ago, from which the conclusion is drawn that fashions in odors also change.-Exchange,

One Way of Putting a Spell on Enemies. It was a custom in the time of Catharine de Medici to make figures of wax and melt them slowly before the fire or stab them with needles, in order to bring suffering to enemies. This operation was called putting a spell upon them .-

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