

THE CHINAMAN'S CUE.

Originated with the Tartar Conquest as Sign of Loyalty.

It would be impossible to dissociate a Chinaman from his cue. We might as well picture him without his head. It is his most precious possession, even more than his life, and the only time he willingly parts with it is when he renounces the religion of his forefathers. Even then he does not always part with his cue, a great many Christianized Chinamen still clinging to their heathen appendage, says an exchange.

The ordinary Chinaman does not know why he wears his cue, except that he has been taught to believe that he should wear it. He probably bothers his head very little about the origin of the custom, although the cue sometimes bothers him a great deal, as it requires oiling and braiding almost daily. But the cue must have had an origin somewhere and somehow, and Dr. Bedloe, United States consul at Amoy, took some pains to discover it.

More than 12 centuries ago—or, to be exact, in 604 A. D.—a Chinese priest of great learning wrote:

"In Diambuqwipa the clothing of the inhabitants varies to a large extent, and the custom of shaving off the hair and beard exists in some nations, while elsewhere hair is worn divided into two pendent tails. There are also countries where all the hair is shaved off except that at the crown, which is tied into one cue."

This author also mentions that some nations pluck out the hair entirely, while others cut it short. Some people, he says, let the hair flow loose down on the shoulders, while others prefer to plait it. In some instances the front hair is plaited and the back hair left loose.

It is difficult to locate with exactness the places he names; for, 12 centuries ago, the Asiatic peoples were more migratory than at present, and named the lands they lived in from themselves, no matter how often they changed their residence.

It is easy to determine that the people who shaved their head and beard were the Buddhist monks and nuns in India, Ceylon, Siam and China; that the people "with two tails" were the Japanese, Koreans, and some of the tribes we now call the "Independent Tartars," and that the race which shaved all but the crown, and tied the hair at that spot into one cue, were the Manchu-Tartars, or nomad dwellers of Manchuria.

At that time the Chinese wore their hair as it pleased them, and the custom of shaving the head was inaugurated by military compulsion.

All China was conquered by the Tartars, and, of course, they must show their authority.

"If you refuse to shave according to our Tartar custom," they said, "you must die; for refusal will constitute you a rebel."

Wisely enough, the conquered

Chinamen shaved as directed, and they have kept it up ever since.

But now the Chinaman wears the cue from choice, partly from religious motives, partly from cleanliness, but more particularly because it is a time-honored custom.

The first shaving of the head of a Chinese boy for a cue is an important event in a Celestial household.

The child, washed, perfumed and beautifully dressed, is presented by the father to all present, who, in return, make some present in money to the youthful heir. The father, grandfather or a priest then employs the razor, and the youngster is well started for both this world and the next. In most cases the shaving is preceded by prayer.

Quartz Mining in Alaska.

In the last ten years the value of product from quartz mines in Alaska has nearly doubled, while the gold placers have increased their products from about \$200,000 to over \$6,000,000. Mining and prospecting is being actively pushed in nearly all parts of the territory.

The Reason.

If one-half the world doesn't know how the other half lives it's probably because it hasn't any next-door neighbors. — *Chicago Daily News.*

WHO DOESN'T VOTE.

Having the Choice of Two Evils Usually Takes Both.

As anybody knows, the "better element" can't be depended on, says Booth Tarkington, in Everybody's. There's too many of 'em forget to vote, and if the weather isn't just right they won't go to the polls. Some of 'em won't go anyway—act as if they looked down on politics; say it's only helping one boodler against another. So your true aristocrat won't vote for either. The real truth is, he don't care. Don't care as much about the management of the city, state and country as about the way his club is run. Or he's ignorant about the whole business, and what between ignorance and indifference the worse and smarter of the two rings gets in again and old Mr. Aristocrat gets soaked some more on his sewer assessments. Then he'll holler like a stabbed hand organ; but he'll keep on talking about politics being too low a business for a gentleman to mix in, just the same! Somebody said a pessimist is a man who has a choice of two evils and takes both. There's your man that don't vote.

Tomb of Mahommed.

The tomb of Mahommed is covered with diamonds, sapphires and rubies, valued at over \$12,500,000.

As a Man Grows Older.

The older a man gets the less time he has to learn the things he thought he knew when he was a boy.

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MAN AND THE GORILLA.

Scientist Contends That They Are Not of Same Family.

Prof Darwin's theory that man originally descended from the ape was contradicted recently by Prof. Chapman in a lecture given in the Academy of Natural Sciences, says the Philadelphia Ledger. One of the rarest and perhaps the finest collection of anthropoid apes in the world, five in number, presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, by Dr. Thomas Biddle, who secured the collection from the Hamburg museum, was on exhibition.

Prof. Chapman made a minute comparison of the anthropoid ape's anatomy with that of the human being and said that the gorilla more closely resembled man in its physical make-up than the others. The bones of the gorilla's paws or hands, he said, were similar in a great many respects to those of man, while the animal was also equipped with a score or more of muscles found in the human body. At the same time there were many important discrepancies between the two. He disputed the opinion of many scientists who asserted that the gorilla had four hands, by saying that it had really only two hands and two feet, although all four, he said, were frequently put to the same use. In all, he said, there was to some extent less difference between man and the gorilla than there was between the Hottentot and others of that class and the perfectly developed man of today.

One of the salient features which showed the important differences between man and the gorilla, Prof. Chapman continued, existed in the fact that, while man possessed the long flexor in his thumb, the gorilla was minus such an accessory. There were 30 or more points of great difference between the two, proving undoubtedly that man had come by the same from the rudimentary period.

In referring to the inability of the gorilla to talk, Prof. Chapman accounted for it by saying that a hollow in the front of the ape's brain, together with the animal's inability to control its nerve centers, probably accounted for its being incapable of exercising its vocal organs. In conclusion the professor said:

"If we could concentrate into one animal all of the monkey's peculiarities or traits in which he resembles man we could find no basis for comparing him with man."

Quadricycle Fire Engine.

A quadricycle composed of two tandem bicycles arranged side by side has been invented in Paris to serve as a fire engine in case of emergency. It is worked by four men, and is fitted up with the necessary hose pipe and fittings, which occupy the space between the riders. On reaching the scene of action it will be the work of a minute to bring the hose pipes into play on the fire.

Tinted Lace Curtains.

To tint lace curtains cream color add an ounce of yellow ochre to two ounces of starch and mix in the usual way with boiling water. Strain the starch to clear it of lumps. It is best to soak a pair of curtains at the same time, for thus one can insure both being of the same shade of color.

Rev. H. E. Ryder of Tekamah, Neb., will begin a series of meetings at the Baptist church on February 14th. All are invited.

It is semi-officially reported that the Burlington will build a line from Table Rock to Topeka, Kan., and also that the shops are to be removed from Wymore to Table Rock.

Crookston Times:—McNamara Bros., a comedy company, will present the fascinating farce comedy entitled "Mr. Plasters of Paris" at the opera house. The play abounds with witty dialogue and amusing cases of mistaken identity. The fun is pure and wholesome and the play leaves pleasant memories. P. J. McNamara as Nels Nelson, a Puir Swedish Faller, is without doubt one of the funniest character on the stage today. If your want to laugh yourself half to death don't miss Plaster.

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