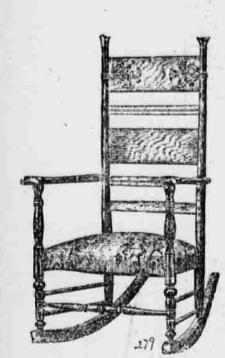
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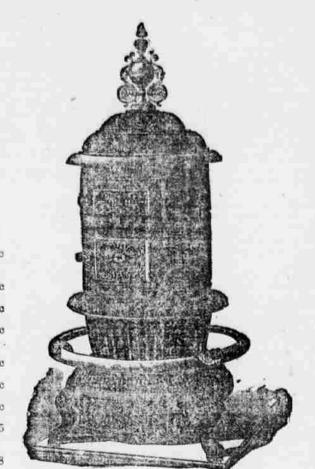


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The Young Tartar Monarch Little More Than a Royal Figurehead.

UNDER THE EMPRESS DOWAGER'S THUMB and as some of his tours to worship at the tombs of his ancestors extend many miles

The Old Lady Selects His Wives and Limits Their Number.

REPLENISHING THE ROYAL HAREM and during the time that I prowled around

How Palace Eunnehs Steal from His Gracions Majesty's Stores.

OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD

The Old Empress Dowager and Her Twenty-Million-Dollar Birthday Celebration-Pictures Behind the Scenes of the Most

(Copyrighted, 1894, by Frank G. Carpenter.) I will devote my letter this week to the emperor of China. He is the most secluded monarch on the face of the globe and no race horse is guarded more carefully than he. His officials have him corralled in the center of the big Tartar city at Peking and you have to go through three sets of walls before you approach the building in which he is kept, guarded by eunuchs. First, there are the immense walls of the great Tartar city, which are sixty feet thick and as tall as a fourstory flat. These inclose a large area filled up with the houses of Tartars and government buildings, which run around a space the center of which is known as the Imperial They were here submitted to the inspection City. This has a high wall of gray bricks of the old empress dowager, being brought about six miles in length, and it includes the outside palaces, the pleasure grounds and the upon them as fast as she could, and weeded temples of the Sacred City. The emperor is mained were taken out for the time and kept in the third pen inside this and his exclusive quarters are known as the Purple on until the thousands had dwindled to the Forbidden City. The walls of this last pen are rigidly guarded. They inclose the quarters of the emperor, his family, the ladies of the royal harem and the thousands of cunuchs who make up the servants. It has buildings in the center for court ceremonies and there are small buildings arranged around on the two sides of a ridge of palaces, which runs from the north to the south. The emperor himself lives in the chief concubines, and these two latter were northwestern part of the pen and the empress dowager has a palace near by. In another part of the inclosure is the hall of Harrison was inaugurated, and you may literary abyss, or the imperial library, and in this the cabinet officers hold their sessions, you that it cost \$10,000,000. In addition to his wives he has no end of concubines, and and it contains also a department of the royal treasury. No one outside of the foreign that I described must be made every three legations has ever gotten into the palaces of all the pretty Tartar girls in their toons, and that the most reject of the lot permitted to see him. Our minister has been granted an audience, but even the takes, and he picks out those he likes best. Chinese of Peking do not know how he He has a right to dismiss them at any time looks, and of the hundreds of millions who make up the suppire I venture to say that there are not 5,000 men outside of his cunuchs who have ever set eyes on him. there are not 5,000 men outside of his cunuchs who have ever set eyes on him. He knows absolutely nothing about the whole Chinese court is made up of insecting and the nobles are special condition of his people and capital. When he goes out into the city marting is made up of cloth are stretched across the alleys and side streets through which the imperial protects and they are set every night in the propers of the more way from New York to Havana the position of the minute protects in different parts of Cohange and the protects in different parts of the many observed that the fellow commended the protects in different parts o

for the occasion. All the booths and squatters are driven away and the roads are vered with bright yellow clay. Yellow is e imperial color, and I saw armies of half-naked coolies carrying such dirt into the city in wheelbarrows during my stay in Peking for one of the emperor's outings. It the same when he goes into the country, you will see that it costs something in the way of clay hauling to give him a good track

UNDER THE OLD LADY'S THUMB.

It is not easy to get reliable gossip about

the emperor of China, and the only view I had of his palace was from the city walls. the gate with my snap-shot camera and my Chinese photographer. Still, I met a numer of officials who were quite close to the throne, and I got good information from one or two equiuchs. I visited Peking six years ago, at the time the empress dowager picked out his first wives, and some of the stories I will tell further on were given me in a whisper, and if their authors were known they might lose their heads. The truth of the matter is that the young emperor is by no means an angel, and the eu-nuchs told me that he hops up and down in his rage when anything goes against him He is merely the tool of the old empress downger, and he has been under this old lady's thumb since he was a baby. She supervised his education. She picked out his wives for him, and she makes the ladies harem howl today if they don't walk in her presence. Of course, she took chalk in her presence. her own friends when she selected his with her officials and girls that if he had a will of his own he wouldn't know how to use it. The emperor was 17 years old at the time of his marriage six years ago, and the gave him three wives to start with. The she gave him three wives to start with. The selection was curious. All the pretty Tartar girls of the empire, numbering many thousands, were gathered together and sorted, and the best of them were sent on to Peking. The selection was first made by the governors of the provinces, and no girl was presented who was over 18 nor under 12 years of age. The choice lots were dressed in the finert of clothes, and were carted from all parts of the empire into Peking into her presence in lots of five. She passed

hundreds, the hundreds to scores, and the scores at last down to fifteen. PRETTY TARTAR GIRLS. These fifteen girls were put into training. Their paces were tested, and all sorts of experiments were made as to their and traits. After some months the old empress picked out the three girls she liked, and the eldest of these, who was 18 years sisters, one of whom was 13 and the other 15 years old.

a little matter like that of a war with Japan, buy and doing what his highest officials and the old empress dowager direct, amusing himself eunuchs. place that the mikado had in Japan under the Shoguns. He is a sort of holy figurehead, and his officials know the more sacred they make him the more power will be given to them, and the more license for

their squeezing and stealing. ROYAL LAW-MADE MENU. Everything connected with the emperor is regulated by law. He has imperial physiclans who watch over his health. The law provides just what he shall eat, and I am told that he squats on the floor at his meals and eats out of golden bowls with lvory chopsticks. According to the old Chinese books there must be placed daily before him thirty pounds of meat in a basin and seven pounds boiled in soup. He has a daily allowance of about a pound of hog's fat and butter, and he has the right to order two sheep, two fowls and two ducks, while his drink for the day is restricted to the milk of eighty cows and the steeping of seventy-five parcels of tea. It is probable that his real diet is different, and I doubt not he is now taking bits of roast leopard and tiger-bone soup to keep up his courage, for the Chinese think that these things really make a man brave. If he desires anything that is not on the menu the board having charge of the imperial table has to be consulted, so I am

told, before he is supplied.

The emperor is by no means a physical giant. He is lean and unhealthy, and his features are long and unlike those of the Chinaman. His eyes are almost traight and he bears the marks of his pure Tartar blood. His life is by no means con-ducive to health. He does all his business at night and he sleeps in the daytime. He begins his work about midnight, just after his breakfast, and he receives his cabinet ministers under the rays of the electric light. He has numerous audiences and the big officials have to cool their heels in the antechamber of the palace of Peking quite as often as they do in the white house at Washngton. When they are ushered into his bresence they get down on their knees and sump their heads again and again on the floor, and they have to remain on their knees while before him. Not long ago he took a notion to learn English and two students of the college at Peking were appointed as his teachers. He recited his lessons at 1 o'clock in the morning and for some time these boys knees while his majesty butchered the king's English before them. He kept up his studies for some time, but I was told in Peking that he had given up the attempt.

THE PEKING GAZETTE. The emperor of China is, to a certain ex-tent, the editor of the famous Peking Gazette. This is the oldest newspaper of the world and it has been published almost daily for 800 years. It was read by the Chinese centuries before America was discovered, and it was 600 years old when the first daily newspaper of our civilization began its pub-lication, in 1615. It is nothing like our newspapers, however. The copies, which are sent all over China, are more like the cheapest of patent medicine almanacs than anything else. They are bound in yellow overs and are printed from blocks hinnest of rice paper. A page of the Peking Gazette is about three inches wide and seven inches long, and there are sixteen pages and upward in each issue. None of the issues ontain one-hundredth the amount of the material in a Sunday Bee. The newspaper begins at the back instead of at the front. The lines run up and down instead of across the top, and you read from right to left across the page instead of from left to right, as with us. It has no advertisements, no editorials and no social gossip. The government allows no comments on its actions and

may pay perhaps que-twentieth of a cent for reading a copy of the Peking Gazette. I have a bound volume of this paper, which has been He has, in fact, much the same translated into English, and I get translations every week in the English newspapers which I receive from China. Practically nothing is as yet given about the Chinese-Japanese war, except that in the issue of August 28 it is stated that "the empress dowager has sent 4,000 boxes of cooling pills to the soldiers in Corea," and the couriers probably bring the news in on horseback and retail it to the people. There is no ore lying done in the dissemination of official reports than can possibly be committed by American re-porters, and I learn from Peking that the

copie are kept in entire ignorance of what s going on in the war with Japan. BLISSFUL IGNORANCE. It is doubtful whether the emperor himself understands the real situation. He has, I venture, gever reviewed his own army, and he knows nothing about military tactics. It is a common amusement with him to go ou and shoot with a bow and arrow, and his only experience as to traveling by railroad has been in a small train of cars which a French syndicate, who wanted to get rail-road concessions, presented to him. The train cost them, I am told, something like \$100,000. The emperor refused to accept it as a gift, and sent them back the sum of \$10,000 in order to relieve himself of any obligation. It is now six years since the present was made, and they have gotten no concessions. I saw these cars in Tien-Tsin some years ago, when they were on their

This is the man who is supposed to be at the head of the great Chinese empire, and who ought to be directing the war with Japan. He is, I am told, largely governed by his cunuchs. They have been his closest associates throughout his life, and different estimates state that he has all the way from four to ten thousand of these eunuchs in the palace. Our own minister, Colonel Denby, says that he has actual informinister. mation that there are at least four thousand, and when you remember that this immense larger than that of as farm, you will see that eunuchs are thicker than blackberries in August. They are graded in different departments, and each has his own duties. Those of ordinary rank receive from \$ to \$12 a month, but they make for tunes out of squeezing and stealing, and there is one cunuch in the palace who is said to be worth midlens. His name is Pi Tsiau Li, and he is the confidential servant of the old empress dowager. He is a great office broker, and I heard of instances of his getting a \$160,000 and up-ward for single offices, and I have no doubt he divides his profits with the old empress. deceived. All of the officials of Peking are afraid of him, and though he began life as the son of a shoemaker, he has more power than many of the princes. His father was a cobbler in the city of Tung Chow, about fifteen miles from Peking, but since his son has become so powerful the old man has been elevated to a fat office, and he has a feather in his hat. I saw a number of in-stances myself in Peking which gave me an

CHINA corner or has his eye fastened to a hole in the matting is liable to be blinded with a bullet or arrow. The streets are fixed up bullet or arrow b dragon upon them, which is the imperial coat-of-arms, for a song. Many a fine piece of porcelain is smuggled out of the palaces and sold, and the officials probably get a squeeze on all orders of goods that

they make for the emperor.

Just one word more about the eunuclis. The laws provide that none but those of royal blood shall have the right to employ them, and princesses can have thirty eu nuchs, while the nephews of the are restricted to twenty. Every fifth certain of the officials of China are Every fifth year quired to furnish for the use of the palace eight young eunuchs each, and these princes are paid \$300 apiece for them. priests who attend to the worship of the harem are eunuchs, and the emperor goes no place without them. There were several hundred guarding the roads when the for eign minister came into the audience, and the old empress dowager has quite a corps

RULED BY A WOMAN. The empress dowager will be 60 years old next month. She is said to be a most remarkable woman, and she has been practically the ruler of China for the past generation. really give the whole of it to the war, as she has promised to do. The empress dowager is even more secluded than the emperor, and when she receives her officials she sits behind a screen and the cabinet ministers get down on their knees and talk through it at her. She is said to look

woman with a crown on her head and with a gorgeous silk gown decorated with embroidery covering her person. She sits as straight as a poker, and looks as though she might be able to rule. The real photographs of the empress dowager, the emperor of China, and of the empress have never been taken, and if they were they would not be allowed to go outside of the palace. One of the biggest magazines of the country recently published pictures which it labeled as those of the emperor and empress. Any one who has even a slight acquaintance with China knows that taining of real photographs of this kind is absolutely impossible, and I am surprised that the editors should have been so easily

much like the ordinary Chinese woman, and

I have a picture which looks, I am told, much like her. It represents a tall Chinese

Frank G. Carpenter

Lieutenant James H. Minor of the police force, says the Florida Times, was presented with a gold ring yesterday by Captain Harry to the money lenders for a quarter of a cen-H. Haywood, who, at the time of coming tury, at least. Pawnbrokers' associations insight into the stealing of these cunuchs. H. Haywood, who, at the time of coming The finest of the silks and embroideries of into possession of the ring, was in China are made for the emperor. He has of the Nova Scotia bank Alice.

Remarkable Career of Diamond Pob. Who Preyed on Money Lenders.

M'ZING SUCCESS OF HIS SCHEMES

His Most Skillful and Artistic Swindles Recalled by a Sleuth Who Tracked Him -Bogus Watches and Stenciled Paintings.

From a brief dispatch dated San Francisco article. received in New York several days ago, the police and others learned of the suicide of a good diamond. Well, 'Diamond Bob' turned out hundreds of these bogus gems, and pawned them in all the pawnshops of famous character in criminal circles, known the eastern cities for sums ranging from 135 famous character in criminal circles, known as "Diamond Bob." His proper name was to \$250, before the swindle was detected. As Robert Ashmead, and he spent all but twenty it can be readily seen how great was his years of his life swindling pawnbrokers in the big cities of this country and Europe. So successful was he, strange as it may seem to She was the secondary wife or those who have had dealings with the other smart swindlers heard of it they christhe first concubine of the Emperor Hien wily money lenders, that at one time tened him Diamond Bob." Fung, who died along about the time of the he was reputed to be worth \$200,000. During beginning of our civil war, and she has been practically the boss of the harem and the empire since then. She was at the operations he was arrested but once, and operations he was arrested but once, and a few years ago on what the police know as then he was in custody only a few hours the 'watch swindle.' It was an exceedingly head of the empire during a greater part then he was in custody only a few hours the watch swindle. It was an exceedingly of the Kalping rebellion. She managed its in this city. The pawnbroker who had been ingenious scheme to beat the money lender. affairs during its war with France, and she had a little taste of Russian diplomacy in her fuss with the czar of some years ago.

| Swindled failed to prosecute "Diamond lit is pretty well known that a man can sehad a little taste of Russian diplomacy in her fuss with the czar of some years ago.

| Swindled failed to prosecute "Diamond lit is pretty well known that a man can sehad a little taste of Russian diplomacy in her fuss with the czar of some years ago. some years ago, when they were on their had a little taste or Russian diplomacy in her fuss with the czar of some years ago. Bob," for he believed it would injure him her fuss with the czar of some years ago. She is said to have a mind of her own, and track laid in the palace grounds, and they track laid in the palace grounds, and they had a little taste or Russian diplomacy in her fuss with the czar of some years ago. She is said to have a mind of her own, and track laid in the palace grounds, and they had a little taste or Russian diplomacy in her fuss with the czar of some years ago. She is said to have a mind of her own, and the watch watches. A pawnbroker will take the watch all of the Chinese respect and fear her. She is a stickler as to form, and she in-

the reason that there were very few men following a career of crime who would bother

the subject. "Well, of all the queer and peculiar criminals this land ever of though was worked by Diamond Bob' gave birth to that fellow Ashmead was the queerest and slickest. Peculiar Cuss he was too. Had a heart as big as an quarter an artist who had only recently What do you think? The man could landed from Paris. never get it through his head that he was committing crime by swindling pawnbrokers. sir. And he was honest in his belief, I don't believe he ever willfully wronged or stole from any one but a money lender. No, there was no sentiment connected with pawned in pretty much every city in his selecting and pursuing pawnbrokers. He country. He found an aristocratic old was a smart crook, and believed he was smarter than nine-tenths of the money lenders, and he proved it. There isn't a pawnbroker in this country, or in any of the big cities of Europe, who doesn't know 'Diamond Bob.' He has been a sort of Nemesis have been after him for years, but they never

tle difficulty encountered, I assure you. The diamond cutter had got so far down he was ready to commit almost any crime to get rum. So, when he was well paid for filling diamond shells with opal, in an artistic manner, he didn't ask any questions as to whether they were in he used in swindling. By taking the were to be used in swindling. By taking the shells of diamonds left by the cutters in the big jewelry establishments, and deftly placing opal in the middle of them and sealing the cavity with paste diamonds. Diamond Bob' had a gem, apparently of the first water, that shone with wonderful brilliancy. He newment this first water. brilliancy. He pawned this 'fake' diamond at night, when it was in its highest state of brilliancy. The money lender could apply all of the tests, as the shell was the genuine article. It would cut glass the same as

GOT \$80,000 ON A WATCH SWINDLE. "It was 'Diamond Bob' who took about \$80,000 from the pawnbrokers of this country one years ago, when they some years ago, when they were carried into say to the emperor. They were carried into say to the emperor. They were carried into say to the emperor as short time with steam. This, however, was too fast for his majesty, and I is sist that all business shall be done through the spong emperor, though she really directs what he is to do. She is very vain, and she had consented to the spending of right royally by the brakeman, as he rides through the grounds. The emperor knows nothing of modera civilization and modern of the does not even know his own being collected for the purpose when the war with Japan broke out. A large part of it with Japan broke out. A large part of it with Japan broke out. A large part of it with Japan broke out. A large part of the was never known to victimize any one but the works, only retaining on a large was being collected for the purpose when the war with Japan broke out. A large part of it with Japan broke out. A large part of the was never known to victimize any one but he was never known to victimize any one but he was never known to victimize any one but he was never known to victimize any one but he was never known to victimize any one but he was never known to victimize any one but he was here carried into the war. These can't be was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but he was here known to victimize any one but here. The was here known to victimize any one but here w of them to copy from. Next they bought a with the money lenders, as their chances of lot of ordinary watch works that cost them successfully swindling this class of business about \$25 a piece, which were fitted into successfully swindling this class of business about \$25 a piece, which were fitted into men were never good, so alert and well informed on values are they.

In searching about for some one who knew 'Dlamond Bob' well, the New York Herald found the very man who caused his arrest. for the only time at the Vanderbilt hotel. He was one of the central officers who keep look of these watches were pawned ala look out for incoming crooks at the Grand Central depot. He had known the man most hated by many pawnbrokers for years, most hated by many pawnbrokers for years, MENTIONED IN THEIR PRAYERS. MENTIONED IN THEIR PRAYERS.
"So 'Diamond Bob' is dead, you say," the detective said, when the reporter broached HOW THE 400 GOT HIS PAINTINGS.

"One of the slickest swindles I ever heard old masters and age them so that it was atmost impossible for the ordinary judge of paintings to sil them from the originals. This Frenchman turned out scores of these copies of old masters, which 'Diamond Bob' pawned in pretty much every city in this in the Howery whom he coached to do the pawning. The painting was an heir-loom, and the old fellow played his part to well that he would accdentally drop the painting and become almost crazed through fear of its being injured. By this time 'Diamond Bob' has become so well known to the pawnbrokers he couldn't do the pawning himself. If he were to take the finest diamond self. If he were to take the finest diamond over found to almost any pawnbroker in the country he would be politely requested to leave at once No pawnbroker would take any chances with the fellow, even though family every night in the year.

"And the poor fellow committed suicide, any chances with the fellow, even though they saw an opportunity of making money.

So Diamond Rob' did all his pawning of the "How did he get the name 'Diamond 'fake' paintings through this agent of his.
There are very few men who can judge paintfell overboard or went ago he put up one of the most artistic money lenders were taken in, so skillfully Captain Haywood has swindles imaginable, on all the money was the work done.

There are today many of 'Diamond Pob's'. the hardest kind of luck, though nobody's lections gathered in the mansions of wealth."