



BROWNING, KING & CO.'S HOLIDAY WINDOWS.

In common with hundreds of others The Bee artist was struck with the exceptionally tasteful and beautiful display of clothing and haberdashery shown in Browning, King & Company's windows for the Christmas holidays. In the above picture we show an ensemble view of some of them, but plain black and white cannot do justice to these gems of the window dresser's art, and we would advise our readers to view them before they are disarranged. These window decorations were executed and designed by Mr. Nate Horton, who has been with this firm for the past eight years in the capacity of window trimmer, and they are conceded by many to be superior to any previous effort.

Millions of Chinese Female Slaves

(Copyrighted, 1900, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
CANTON, Nov. 14, 1900.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—If the powers are to modernize China they must in some way bring about the abolition of slavery. China is now the great slave country of the world. It has perhaps more slaves than all the rest of the world put together. There are, I should say, at a low estimate, 10,000,000 human beings who are in servitude here. China has 400,000,000 inhabitants. It has 80,000,000 families, and this makes one slave to every eight families. The average is greater in South China. Here nearly every one owns slaves. There is scarcely a Chinese family of means in Hong Kong, Canton, Macao or Amoy but what possesses one or more slave girls. Slave boys are less common, but the girls are found in every block and in almost every house.

I was offered a beautiful Chinese girl in Shanghai for \$30. I did not see the girl herself, but her photograph was among some I was looking over at Yuen Ming's shop, and I admired her. Yuen Ming said: "Yes, she is pretty and she is for sale. She is a slave girl, but her master will part with her, and his price is \$60 silver in cash."

Girls bring from \$10 to \$100 and upward in this part of China. They are sold at any age from 3 to 15, and most commonly at 7 or 8. The prices range from \$10 upward, according to age and beauty. The prettiest girls are the most desirable, as in case of marriage or sale they will bring more to the family which buys them. The most of the girls are bought to work about the house. It is cheaper to buy a servant than to hire one, for if you take a girl of 8 you can have her services until she is 15, getting eight years of work for nothing but her board and clothes, and then sell her for perhaps ten times your original price. In such sales a clause is often put in the agreement that the girls are not to be resold for improper purposes. If not, their masters can do as they please.

Theoretically there are no slaves in Hong Kong, as it is British territory, but in real-

ity the city is full of them. They are the maid servants and nurses of the Chinese. Every small-footed lady needs slaves to help her about and in the houses of the rich, where there are many daughters, it is not uncommon to find from twenty to thirty slaves in a single family. When I called upon How Qua, the millionaire, two slave



THE INFANT ASYLUMS PAY TWENTY CENTS APIECE FOR GIRL BABIES.

girls brought his mother in to see me. The old woman weighed about 200 pounds, but she had feet not bigger than the end of a baseball club. In going through the streets here you often see a gaily-dressed woman riding out to call on the back of a slave girl. The woman's arms are thrown about the neck of the slave and her bound legs and little feet peep out of her petticoats behind as she is thus toted to the house of her neighbor.

Female slaves are often presents from one man to another and not infrequently they form a part of the bridal outfit. They are commonly bought as secondary wives and often as teachers.

I heard the other day of a mandarin who is looking out for an English-speaking

slave. He wants her as one of his secondary wives, in which case he can sell her again if he chooses. This man is connected with the viceroy of Canton and his income is nominally \$50 a month, although it is probably ten times that in reality. He has four wives, sixteen children and twenty-one slaves. He keeps his family in another province and recently wrote his mother to send down two of his wives to him, as he was lonesome. The old woman replied that she needed the wives to take care of his sixteen children and that he had better buy two more where he was. The mandarin has decided to do this and inas-

much as he is anxious that his boys should learn English he is now looking after an English or American girl to act as his companion and at the same time prepare his little ones for the new Chinese era. How much he will pay I do not know, but I suppose he would consider \$300 a high price.

There is as much choice in girls here as anywhere in the world. There are localities in China where the girls are noted for their beauty. The cities of Yang Chow and Suchau are as famous for rearing handsome young girls as is Georgia in the Caucasus, from where the sultan's harem is replenished. There are persons in these cities who make a business of raising slave girls. They drum the country about for promising

young females and put them through a regular course of training. They have farms where the slaves are taught to sing, play upon musical instruments and to acquire the other accomplishments, which, added to beauty, will cause them to sell for high prices to the rich mandarins. These girls are chiefly the daughters of poor people or the daughters of slaves. The slave girls of Shanghai are good looking and there are thousands of right pretty slaves on the lower boats of Canton.

It is common here for a man to purchase his wife. Indeed, there are more wives acquired in this way than in any other. Every man in China has a right to as many wives as he can maintain, and as I have already said, a secondary wife is cheaper than a hired girl. The first wife is the legal one, but the others have their rights, although they are practically slaves. Indeed, the largest class of slaves here are these secondary wives or concubines. I have seen it estimated that there are millions of such slaves in the empire. All men of all classes have one or more of them and men with means a number. Such women are usually well treated, and if their masters are rich they may have slaves of their own. The standing of the secondary wife in the household is largely at the caprice of the master, although she is supposed to have no voice in the management of affairs and cannot even control her own children. Sometimes her lot is a sad one. Persecuted by her husband's mother and his other wives she eats her heart out in discontent, for although well dressed she is still a slave.

Their Husbands Sell Them.

It is not a common thing for a Chinese husband to sell his wife or his concubine, especially when they have given him children. There are cases, however, in which wives are sold, but the act is disgraceful and is usually confined to opium fiends, gamblers and the poorest classes.

The man who is addicted to the opium habit will sell his children and not infrequently his wife to supply his appetite. Wives are sometimes sold by gambling husbands, being put on the turn of a card or the rakeout of the cash at fantan. A case of this kind recently happened at Peking. An inveterate gambler there, having squandered all his ancestral property at

fantan, arranged to cover his losses and get a new capital by deeding away his better half. He made all arrangements, but before the sale was consummated the wife forestalled his brutal design by taking her own life. She swallowed opium and when the gambler came home to tell her that he



SLAVE GIRL—FOR SALE FOR SIXTY DOLLARS IN SILVER.

had sold her she was dying. He called in a doctor, but it was too late.

Dr. Colman, one of the professors of the university at Peking, tells the story of a Judge Yuan of the district of Chinan Fu which gives some idea of the standing of women in China. This judge was something of a Dr. Parkhurst in character and he attempted the reformation of his district. He ordered all the gambling houses and other improper places to be closed and demanded that all the questionable women of the town should be brought to his palace.

(Continued on Seventh Page.)