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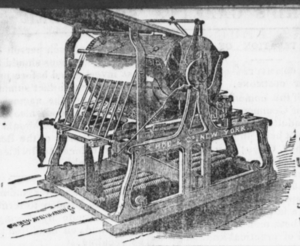

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MISCELLANEOUS.

Chinese Marriage Gifts.—Mr. Tong, the person named in the following account, is a native and is in the service of the Protestant Episcopal Foreign Missionary Society. Mr. Tong, according to the Chinese custom, must pay for his wife:

1st. On the day of the betrothal, he must make her presents to the value of twenty dollars; consisting of tea, dried fruits, golden ear-rings, golden hair-pin, and silver bracelets.

2d. About a month before marriage, he must send her present, (the amount of which is usually agreed upon beforehand,) called cho-le, "tea-present." In this case the present agreed upon was fifty dollars.

3d. A week or so before the marriage a third present is sent, (of about the same value as chole,) called choo-soong, "to make the accompaniments," that is, to purchase articles of furniture, bed clothes," &c.

Mr. Tong has only made one of these presents as yet, namely, the one given at the betrothal. When the appointed day arrived, he got two handsome lacquered trays and filled them with tea, nuts, and dried fruits; and the female ornaments above mentioned were put into handsome paper caskets, and tastefully disposed among these inferior presents. These trays were entrusted to two friends, who, dressed in full costome, and strutting like peacocks, acted as the mayniung, that is, "go-between" on the occasion. They were to be carried to Miss Jones's, as the young lady was living there, and Miss Jones was to play the part of mother, the parents not wishing to appear in the matter. They were taken over by Mr. Tong's servant, a little hunchback, who was as fine as a red tasseled cap could make him. The members of the Mission were in Miss Jones's parlour, and all the girls of the school came in to see and admire the beautiful presents; but neither Mr. Tong nor Seur Yun was visible. After the presents had been displayed for some time, they were taken into another room, where they were received on the part of the young lady; the family being careful to send back half the tea, nuts, &c., the ornaments being all retained. The tea plays so conspicuous a part in this ceremony, that it has become one of the ways of inqiring whether a young lady is betrothed or not, to ask, "Has she received tea?" The tea used on the occasion, I may also mention, is put into red (the festive colour with the Chinese) paper bags, and sent round to friends as a present, as wedding cake is with us.

The Bottom of the Sea.—Besides the countless varieties of the fucus, the bottom of the sea is overgrown with the curled, deep purple leaves of the sea lettuce, with a large forest of lichens, and many-branched, hollow algae, full of life and motion in their rosy little bladders, thickly set with ever-moving tiny arms.

These plants form submarine forests, growing one into another, in apparently lawless order: here interlacing their branches, there forming bowers and long avenues; at one time thriving abundantly, till the thicket seems impenetrable; then again leaving large openings between wold and wold, where smaller plants form a beautiful pink turf. There a thousand hues and colors shine and glitter in each changing light. In the indulgence of their luxurious growth, fuci especially seem to gratify every whim and freak. Creeping close to the ground, or sending long stretched arms, crowned with waving plumes, up to the blessed light of heaven, they form pale green sea groves, where there is neither moon or star; or rise up nearer to the surface, to be transcendently rich and gorgeous in brightest green, gold, and purple. And, through this dream-like scene, playing in all the the colours of the rainbow, and deep under the hollow, briny ocean there sail and chase each other merrily gaily-painted mollusces, and bright shiningfishes. Snails of every shape creep slowly along the stems, while huge, grey-haired seals hang with their enormous tusks on large, tall trees. There is the gigantic Dugong, the siren of the ancients, the side-long shark with his leaden eyes, the thick-haired sea leopard, and sluggish turtle.

Look how these strange, ill-shapen forms, which ever keep their dreamless sleep far down in the gloomy deep, stir themselves from time to time! See how they drive each other from their rich pastures, how they seem to awaken in storms rising like islands from beneath, and snorting through the angry spray! Perhaps they graze peacefully in the unbroken cool of the ocean's deep bed, when lo! a hungry shark comes slyly, silently around that grove; its glassy eyes shine ghost-like with a yellow sheen, and seek their paey. The sea-dog first becomes aware of his dreaded enemy, and seeks refuge in the thickest recesses of the fugus forest. In an instant, the whole scene changes. The oyster closes its shell with a clap, and throws itself into the deep below; the turtle conceals head and feet under her impenetrable armour, and sinks slowly downward; the playful little fish disappear in the branches of the marocystis; lobsters hide under the thick, clumsily-shapen roots, and the young walrus alone turus boldly round, and faces the intruder with his sharp-pointed teeth. The shark seeks to gain his unprotected side. The battle commences; both seek the forest; their fins become entangled in the closely interwoven branches at last the more agile shark succeeds in wounding his adversary's side. Despairing of life, the bleeding walrus tries to conceal his last agony in the woods, but, blinded by pain and blood, he fastens himself among the branches, and soon falls an easy préy to the shark, who greedily devours him.

Marriage in the Cars.—The Springfield (Mssaachusetts) *Argus* tells the following:—A couple too much in a hurry to have the hymeneal knot tied to wait for the end of their journey, were married in the cars on the Connecticut River Railroad on Wednesday. We did not learn the names of the parties. The gentleman was from Keene, New Hampshire, and the bride was from our neigbouring town of Chicopee, The ceremony was performed by a Methodist minister. This is starting on the journey of life at railroad speed.

Discovery in Physiology.—The Astley Cooper prize $1500, presented triennially through the College of Surgeons, has this year been awarded to Dr. B. W. Richardson. The subject of the essay was the Coagulation of the Blood. This prize essay contains the announcement of a very important discovery. The cause of the coagulation of the blood has hitherto been a mystery to physiologists. Dr. Richardson has demonstrated that the cause of the fluidity of the blood is the presence in the blood of the volatile alkali ammonia. This fact he has arrived at by a series of well-conducted experiments. *Lodon Athenaeum.*

We learn from Simpheropol, by a letter written towards the close of last mouth, that the Russisn troops hitherto in the Crimea had completely evacuated the peninsula. Only a very weak garrison has been left behind at Sebastopol, whilst on the spots formerly occupied by the Allies a few gensdarmes and a handful of Cossacks are amply sufficient to maintain order.

Wholesale Illumination.—The Russian commercial community has volunteered to illuminate the Moscow railway 400 miles, from end to end, for the Czar's journey to and fro. The quantity of fireworks in course of preparation is said to be almost incredible.

The Bavarian government has followed the example of Prussia, by issuing an order to all editors of journals to abstain from publishing advertisements of medicine and quackeries of all kinds, unless the same shall be duly authorised by the police, after chemical analysis by authorised versions. The most stringent rules are in force in Berlin, in regard to the sale of poisonous and pernicious substances.