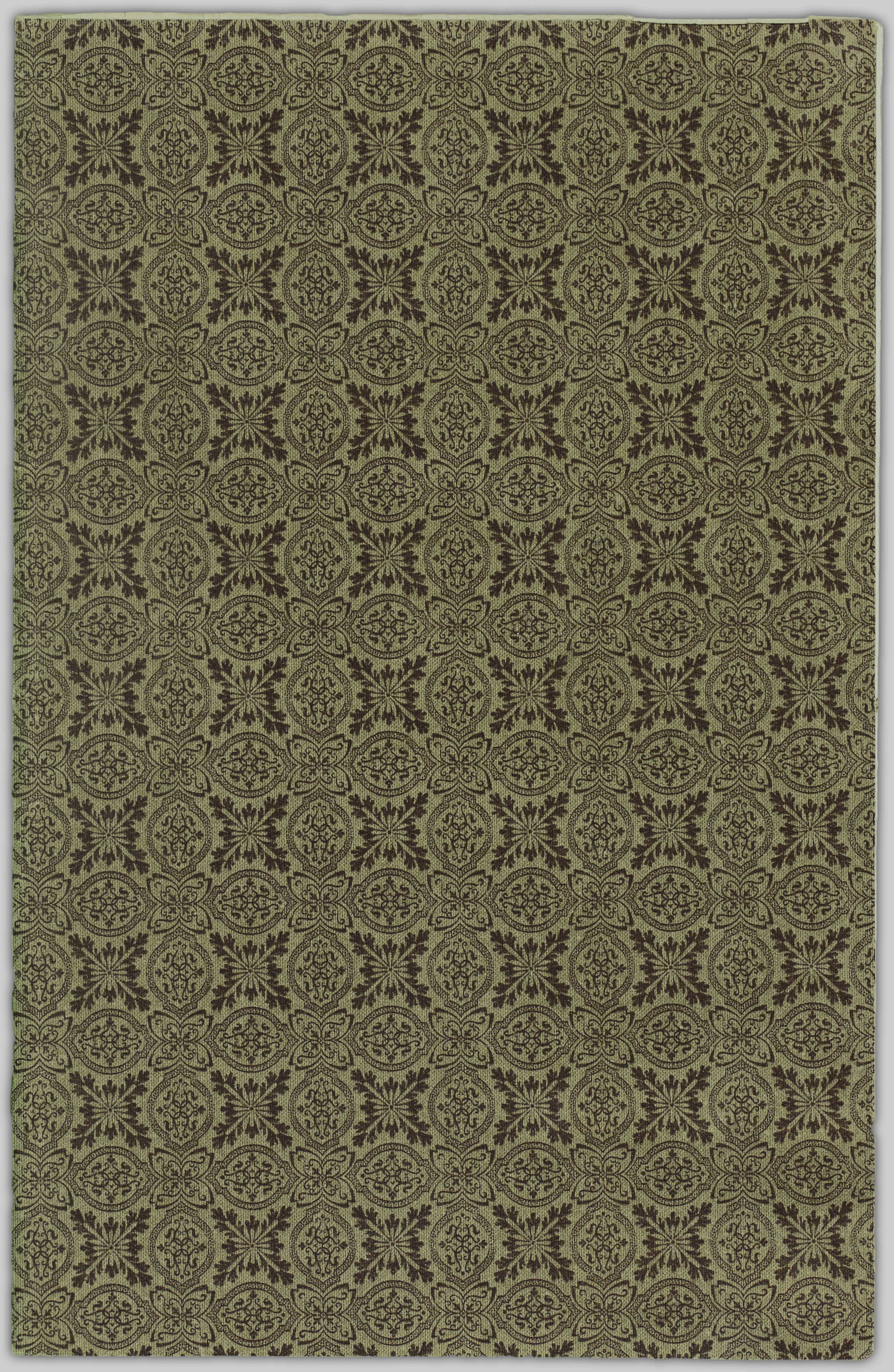

HOW OUR CHINAMEN ARE EMPLOYED.

THE Chinese in their own country are a remarkably industrious people, working from early dawn until dark, and without the rest of the seventh day. The effects of this continuous application, however, are plainly visible; they lack the elasticity of motion which those exhibit who, being temperate and regular in their habits, enjoy also a weekly rest.

Most of the Chinamen, after landing on our shores, start off immediately in search of employment, and they travel till they find it, though it be to Kern River, Montana, or to "The End of the Line" of the Pacific Railroad. Nor are they fastidious about the kind of business to which they may be set at work. What they want is employment and such pay as will support them and leave something over to send back to the father and mother, or to the wife and children, left at home. So accustomed have they always been to give a full and honest day's labor to those who have hired them, that they expect to give their employer the service of their muscle and their skill during all the hours of the day, only asking a reasonable time for meals, together with the stipulated wages when their work is done.

The Chinaman's reputation for industry, however, is liable to suffer from what we may see of this people in the cities. Whatever idlers there are will be sure to hang about the towns. The sick and the disabled get back to the towns, for here they can be better accommodated and provided for than in the mines, and where there are but few of their countrymen. When a company of men has accomplished any job of work, unless some other employment offers, they come back to the city to wait near the intelligence offices until there is another call for laborers. Also, where men are lying idle, and with the money received for wages in their pockets, the gamblers and others who live by dishonorable means will be sure to congregate. A large number of the Chinamen who lounge in the shops and upon the streets of San Francisco are men returned from the mines to rest awhile, or to wait for a ship to take them home; or men who, having finished one contract, are waiting to be hired again. San Francisco being the only port on the coast at which they enter the country, and at which they embark again for their native land, we may always expect to see here many of them who appear to have nothing to do.

But, if we meet with idle Chinamen during the day and evening, there are other hours of the day when the industrious portion of them may be seen. They who have occasion to visit the lower part of the city early in the morning will encounter multitudes of these people; some hurrying to the families, or offices, where they work; others, with their dinner pails, on their way to the various establishments in all parts of the city where they are steadily employed.

That they are people possessing ability and inclination to labor, and that their services may be secured, are facts of great importance to all who desire the full and speedy development of such a country as this which has fallen to the inheritance of the dwellers on the Pacific Coast.

There were once men who came to San Francisco with capital, energy and enterprise, and with experience in manufacturing. They found California producing wool in great abundance, and of

a quality equal to any in the world; but the high price of labor, and the difficulty of obtaining operatives in sufficient numbers, even at any price, seemed an impassable barrier in the way of the enterprise which they contemplated. But the plan of experimenting with Chinese labor suggested itself. It was tried, and it proved satisfactory. The foremen in those establishments have declared that with no other operatives have they ever been so well pleased as with those at present employed. These are promptly at their stations at the proper time; they work without lagging; they have no gossip so common with "factory girls," and which involves the breaking of threads.

Four or five hundred Chinamen are now employed in the woolen factories of San Francisco, and scarce anything would induce the proprietors to exchange them for other labor. The Knitting mills also employ Chinamen.

There was a gigantic scheme for laying the track for the locomotive across the continent, and if accomplished, California must undertake its share of the work. California had the gold, together with the ambition and the faith for the undertaking—indeed, so bold a scheme as that of throwing a railroad over across the Sierras was just the thing for California enterprise and daring. But where was she to get the men to do the work; especially, how could she find labor at rates reasonable enough to enable her to compete with those who were to build the eastern portion of the road?

They bethought them of the Chinamen, and forthwith Chinamen were put to work, digging, drilling, and shovelling, to the number of from eight to ten thousand during the two previous seasons; and during the past season the Company has been unable to procure as many men as they would have been glad to have employed. They have had, as we understand, parties in China employed in securing laborers for them, and these have been sent through, without detention, from Hongkong to the point on the works the other side of the Sierras, where their services are needed. These people resigned the mattock and harrow to other hands on their own little farms in the green valleys of their native provinces, and in the space of thirty-five or forty days were wielding the shovel and drill amongst the sage-brush, rapidly digging their way towards the New Jerusalem of the Mormon prophet. Foremen and officers on the road speak in the highest terms of their Asiatic laborers. They are reported as promptly on the ground, ready to begin work the moment they hear the signal, and laboring steadily and honestly on till admonished that the working hours are ended. They have no story-telling; they have no sentinel set to watch while his companions enjoy their pipes, and to pass the word when the "boss" comes in sight. Not having acquired a taste for whisky, they have few fights, and no "blue Mondays." Overseers declare that they can drill more rock and move more dirt with Chinamen than with an equal number of the men who claim this kind of occupation as their specialty.

With an air of alarm—whether sincere or assumed—men have asked: What is to be done with these thousands of Chinamen when this great transcontinental road shall be completed? It may be replied, that railroad-building on this side of the continent is only just commenced. The southern road is to be made, from here to Los Angeles and from thence to the East; and then all the branch roads which the main trunks willl assuredly call into being. How many Chinese laborers have already been employed on railroads not far from San Francisco! They worked on the road to Haywards, on the Napa Valley road, and on the road which is to be completed between Sacramento and Stockton. They graded

the San José and Gilroy road, and on the Vallejo and Sacramento road the call for laborers has been far in advance of the supply. The road in process of construction from Portland, Oregon, towards the south, is employing this kind of labor, and cannot obtain as much as it needs.

Chinamen have made many of our wagon-roads across the mountains, and thrown up some highways across the low grounds; and there remains much more of the same kind of work to be done.

Chinamen helped to cut away the hill and fill in the bay where now the Pacific Mail Steamship Company have their extensive wharves and commodious depots. That new reservoir, sixteen miles southeast of San Francisco, at the head of Pilarcitos Creek, and covering ninety-two acres of ground, is—about two-thirds of it—the work of Chinamen.

Our readers have heard of the "Eureka hair;" a California invention, and the material the fibre of a California plant. It has already proved a source of profit; and, in the future, may be much more so; but without the patient Chinamen, willing to work for moderate wages, who would gather and prepare the soap roots growing everywhere on the mountain sides?

Seventy or eighty of these men are steadily employed in working the borax beds at Clear Lake.

Visit the rural districts in harvest time, and when you perceive how large a portion of the binders who follow the reaping machines are Chinamen, instinctively you will exclaim: Well, if white labor is as difficult to be obtained as is reported, and as indeed it must be, since wages are so high, what would these farmers do but for the Chinamen? But for them a large portion of the grain must be wasted in the field, our farmers would have to reckon up their losses rather than their profits, and our State would be materially deficient in that which she is beginning to count upon as a prominent branch of trade and revenue.

On many ranches all the laborers are people whose muscles were hardened on their little farms in China, and who there learned those lessons of industry, patience, and economy which render them of incalculable service to those who, in this country, see fit to employ them. With but little instruction they learn to manage the teams, to run the machinery, and to perform all the labor needed upon a farm.

If we travel through the grazing counties we shall find that the dairymen also are largely employing this class of help. Indeed, let us go where we will to any part of the country in this western portion of our Union and we still find Chinamen in many kitchens—Chinamen doing the work both of indoor and of out-door servants; they cook, wash and iron, prepare wood, work in the garden, and tend the stock. With such help, housekeeping in the country is made easy.

California has its paper mills; but were it not for the help which Chinamen afford at reasonable rates, more of this commodity would still have to be brought from the East. Powder mills also employ Chinamen, and so do tanneries and rope-walks.

Visit a hop plantation in the picking season, and count its fifty, sixty, or seventy pickers in the garb of the eastern Asiatics, working steadily and noiselessly on from morning till night, gathering, curing, and sacking the crop; and ask yourselves how would the proprietors have succeeded had they depended upon such help as the hop raisers in our Eastern States generally employ?

Go through the fields of strawberries, and other small fruit; make occasional tours to the vineyards and orchards; and you will learn that most of these fruits

are gathered and boxed for market by this same people of whom we have been speaking.

On a fruit plantation through which we strolled not long ago, though it was far past the busy season, twenty Chinamen were still employed. One man was tending the cider mill, one was busy with machinery turning out the little strawberry baskets, two were assorting and boxing apples, six were picking strawberries to be sold, they said, for a dollar per pound; some were picking apples, while more were in the vineyard gathering grapes.

When the dinner bell sounded, as orderly and cleanly a company of laborers as one generally meets with in the country sat down to well supplied tables, provided for them in their own quarters; and after dinner each man returned again to his work, apparently as much interested in the business before him as he could have been had the crops he was gathering been all his own.

On another plantation, which we visited, we found the broad fields apportioned off and rented to separate companies of Chinamen who were working them upon shares—each little company having its own cabin. Teams being furnished them, they do all the work, preparing the ground, seeding, tending the crop, and gathering the fruit, leaving nothing for the proprietor to do but to attend to the marketing, and to put into his own pocket half of the proceeds.

In other cases we learned that Chinamen had leased the ground outright, thus securing to the owner of the land his desired rent, in money, and relieving him from all anxiety respecting unfruitful seasons, uncertain crops, and fluctuating prices.

All these are easy modes of farming, and for which the farmer may thank that Providence which has attracted some of the surplus bone and sinew of Asia to the wide and unbroken fields of America's western shores.

The planting of mulberry trees, and the manufacture of silk, have been commenced; and within call are the people, who, all their days, have been familiar with the care of the worms, and have been accustomed to that delicate and patient labor needed in the reeling and weaving. Therefore, this branch of industry need not be given up from want of men, who may be employed at rates which may make the business remunerative.

In various parts of the country we meet with Chinamen who have taken jobs at cutting cord-wood; others have taken jobs in clearing fields and hillsides of the chapparal, and preparing them for the plough; and in this process of clearing, all the wood, and the roots also, are cut and piled, to be hauled to market, and sold for fuel. Chinamen, also, have engaged in charcoal burning. In the season of potato digging, large companies of these people are attracted to all the regions around about our city, to assist in gathering this important crop.

Nobody need be told that salt is a good thing, and that we cannot well do without it. The importance of an abundant supply near at hand is what we all appreciate. Though California may not as yet have its Salina, or its Cracow, or Turks Island, yet it has its Carmen Island in the Gulf of California; but nearer home it has an inexhaustible supply of that which saves and seasons. We have an ocean of good brine which will not soon go dry; and each spring tide pours out abundant supplies of this liquid into basins prepared to receive it: the sun benevolently performs the work of evaporation and crystallization free of charge—while the Chinaman gathers and cleanses it, so that it can be furnished to cure the poor man's fish and meat, and to season his potatoes, at less prices than would have to be paid were the laborers, who are employed in the business, of that class which demands

two and three dollars for eight hours' work. *Cheap salt* is a question of graver import than any person is likely to imagine, who has not lived in a country where this article is held as a government monopoly.

Sacks and bags are of essential importance to all who have farmers' products to handle and to ship: yet this is an article which would be more scarce and more expensive, but for the nimble fingers of the hundreds of Chinese engaged in the work of making and repairing them. The paper bags, used by grocers, fruit-dealers, and others, are made by Chinamen; but we cannot say what proportion of this trade they have.

The liquor dealers of San Francisco evidently do not all sympathize in the somewhat popular prejudice against the race, for, early every morning, we meet large numbers of them who are going to their daily toil in some of those many cellars over the entrances of which are written: "Positively No Admittance," and from which all kinds of liquors of the best foreign brands come out; but, as to what goes in, the public is not so well informed. Therefore, lovers of good liquor ought not to be anti-Coolie men.

Our native pickles and preserves come to us at prices lower than those from the East and from foreign countries, not only because of the abundance of these fruits raised upon our soil, but especially, because the kind of work required in preparing the fruit for use, and in putting it up, can be obtained in abundance, and at a reasonable rate.

Cigar smokers, at every "whiff" from the delicious weed, ought to bless Tung Chí for sparing us so many of his subjects—for with two thousand (more or less) of Chinese cigarmakers in this city, the chances are rather slender that the smoker has not between his lips the leaves which were rolled by some person with a cue hanging to the back of his head, in some cellar or loft in the Chinese quarter. Nor will smokers evade the difficulty should they take to cigarettes, for there are Chinamen employed in manufacturing these also; nor can he even light his pipe without their aid, for many of our friction matches are made by Chinamen, who are in the employment of the match manufactories.

San Francisco has some scores of slipper manufacturers, who dispose of their work to our wholesale and retail shoe-dealers. Pantaloons, vests, shirts, drawers, and overalls, are made extensively by Chinamen. In the shoe and tailoring business, the sewing machine is used; while in the trimming and finishing, occupation is afforded to many of the Chinese women. Women are also, to some extent, employed in certain branches of the tobacco business. We have Chinese tin shops, and Chinese shoe-blacking manufacturers.

A large number of this people are engaged in fishing. They pursue their occupation on the bays and rivers, and all along the coast; and almost everything is fish which comes to their net. Great quantities of fish are dried and sent to the Chinamen in every direction throughout the country. Fish-oil is also manufactured at the fishing settlements.

Wherever there are Chinese settlements, some of the people will be found engaged in gardening. These gardeners have introduced many of the vegetables which they cultivate at home. Peanuts are raised by them in considerable quantities. As regards domestic animals, they are reported as being particularly partial to chickens, ducks, and pigs. The time was, when they had in the suburbs of San Francisco extensive arrangements for hatching eggs by artificial heat. They are large dealers in pork; buying from the wholesale butchers, cutting up the hogs, then selling to the market-men what is required for the supply of their customers.

We have Chinese vegetable peddlers, who, braving the vicious boys, wicked men, and ugly dogs, visit every part of the city, and travel far out over the sand-hills to supply their regular customers. These men rise long before daylight and go to the great markets and to the market-wagons, fill their panniers and then return home to breakfast; after which they sally out, each man on his regular route, to return to their lodging-houses about noon with a few more dimes in their pockets than they spent at the market in the morning. It would astonish some persons should they look into a pair of these panniers, to see what a variety of articles they may contain—cabbage, beans, peas, and celery; potatoes, turnips, carrots, and parsnips; apples, pears, and the small fruits; with fish, and *bouquets*.

We find Chinamen making settees and spring beds. Some are employed by the cabinet makers in carving wood work for the extra fine furniture which is made in San Francisco. They work in the tub and pail factories, performing every branch of the business, and some of them are pointed out by their employers as the "neatest and quickest workmen they have ever known." They assist in the making of curled hair, and in the manufacturing of coir (or *Kai ah*, as the Asiatics call it), which is the fibre of cocoa-nut husks prepared for upholstery purposes. In the East the same material is used by the natives for making ropes.

As we sit by our warm fires we may remember the Chinamen; for, in many cases, they are employed to sack the coal, and they help to saw and split the wood which many use; for they tend the machinery and handle the wood where steam power runs the saw and lifts the knife with which the blocks are riven. At the lead works we meet them; also in several photographic galleries. At the corner of Clay and Kearny Streets, up stairs, is a portrait painter from Canton; and his skill must be appreciated, for he is kept busily employed.

The horse fancier ought not to speak lightly of the merits of the Chinamen, for the very whip which he flourishes, and the collar which his favorite wears, may have been made by them.

Seven hundred and fifty professional washermen do their best towards keeping our citizens in a presentable condition, and their houses supplied with clean linen; and there are others to whom, in this dusty city, we ought to be under many obligations, for keeping the offices in order, the windows of dwellings transparent, and the parlors "tidied up." They are the house servants everywhere, in town and country, and are coming into favor as stable boys, gardeners and men-of-all-work.

They have been employed as coal heavers at Acapulco; as servants on the Panama steamers, and as sailors, deck hands, and cabin servants on the China steamers.

In some places brick makers have employed them; and they have taken contracts to go far away into the desert to cut and pile up sage brush, to supply quartz mills with fuel for their engines. Many hundreds find employment on the strawberry farms, and in the orchards and vineyards; while the proprietors of these farms and vineyards have fruit to sell and money to invest, which, but for these Chinese laborers they would not have; nor without them would our markets and tables be supplied with fruits in variety and abundance such as is enjoyed in no other country in the world.

Of the sixty thousand Chinamen or more on the Pacific Coast, a very large proportion are engaged in mining. They work the surface diggings and abandoned claims, and buy from other miners ground which they themselves cannot work with profit; they wander away into distant and secluded places, and

toil patiently on, though rewarded with no more than a quarter of the amount of dust that would satisfy any other miner. Thus, much gold is added to the general circulating medium which forms the basis of wealth, which otherwise would have remained mixed with other dust in its native bed.

That California has been damaged by having had so much of its soil dug up, washed into the rivers, and carried down to be thrown out again over cultivated fields, none will deny; but that she has been harmed, especially by the *foreign miners*, just because they have extracted the gold from her bosom, political economists will not allow. The gold which Chinamen dig from the ground is not buried in the ground again; it all goes into circulation, or is used in the arts, and helps to swell the amount of capital by means of which the commerce of the world is carried on. Those through whose hands it passes, and those into whose possession it successively falls, all become larger consumers, and, of course, larger purchasers of what they need, or what they think they need; and thus, whoever has the needed article to dispose of, may be glad that his new customer has the means to pay, as well as the inclination to purchase.

By their extended travels our Chinese immigrants have their ideas greatly enlarged as to what may constitute the comforts of life; while, by increased wealth and other facilities, their countrymen at home are both assisted and stimulated in increasing the variety and amount of products for the foreign market, and thus the traffic between neighboring nations is increased, individuals are enriched, and there is a mutual interchange of the luxuries of different countries.

Every new dollar put in circulation, every rood of new land brought under cultivation, every new art, every improvement in machinery, or device for cheapening labor, as well as every fresh hand added to the working force, is so much added to the wealth of nations—so much accomplished towards elevating all classes of society—so much advance in the great work of carrying the comforts of civilization to the ends of the earth.

In this connection the reader will be reminded of the thousands of square miles of tule lands in Califorina now useless, but which are not always to be so. The ditches and dykes which at present protect only a few little patches here and there of the most fruitful soil that the sun shines on, may be made to perform a like service all over the Tulare swamps; and the descendants of the people who drained those almost limitless marshes on either side their own swiftly-flowing Yellow River, and turned them into luxuriant fields, are able to do the same thing along the banks of the Sacramento and the San Joaquin. Capital invested in such enterprises may not bring returns so speedily as will be experienced by a *few* fortunate speculators in the claims of the White Pine region; but here the profits will continue, and with a still increasing flow, long after the fortunes made in mining stocks have been spent and the mines themselves have ceased to be productive. And who dare say that the San Joaquin valley is not to have its sugar plantations before many years have passed.

Whether coffee and cotton, or whatever other foreign products are to be cultivated in California, we do not, at the present time, undertake to predict; all that we proposed to say was this: that whenever our agriculturists and capitalists choose to experiment in these directions, they need not fail on account of lack of experienced, competent, and docile laborers.

Chinamen once attempted the raising of rice in this country, but without success, owing to our cool nights. The stalk grew well enough, but the grain did not form and ripen satisfactorily.

Possibly they might succeed better should they experiment in a portion of the State farther south.

In the above enumeration of employments, we have said nothing of the large and respectable class of Chinese merchants, and of the numbers every day in attendance at the auction stores, and of the large class of merchandise brokers who are so favorably known in many of our wholesale houses. The business done by Chinese importing merchants does not appear in their own stores; these are usually only offices and sample rooms, while the cargoes they import are stored in the large warehouses near the docks, and removed only when delivered to retail dealers, or to buyers from the country.

We have not mentioned the trades and occupations of those who are engaged in ministering to the particular wants of their own countrymen in this city and State, but only those in which Californians are more or less interested, and which have a near or more remote bearing upon the development of our country's resources. Neither do we profess to have given an exhaustive list of such occupations. Almost every month finds this people engaged in some new employment—the inventive genius of Americans is constantly finding out new ways by which to accumulate wealth by means of Asiatic skill and muscle; we are also occasionally stumbling upon some of these people who have long been engaged in certain branches of business; which facts were familiar to many, but had hitherto been unknown to us.

As previously intimated, in a country such as this especially, which here on the Pacific Coast has been entrusted to Americans to develop, it must be a matter of thankfulness that the means for performing the task assigned them have also been placed within their reach.

Even the announcement of any new invention, and the construction of any new machinery, by which results may be reached which could not otherwise be attained, or by which a given amount of labor may be accomplished in a shorter time, and at less expense, than by former methods, is hailed with gladness, not only by the parties who are immediately concerned, but by every true political economist, and by every friend of progress. The nearer machinery approximates intelligence, and the nearer it comes towards supplying man's place and performing his labor, the more welcome is its appearance, and the more truly valuable it is. There are always, however, ignorant and prejudiced people who complain of such inventions, charging that they are a damage to the poor and to the laboring classes, because they take away their work and thus rob their wives and children of their bread.

All such complaints are groundless. Every useful invention has benefited the laborer and his family as well as the capitalist and the master workman. By the introduction of machinery, operatives are in no less demand, while the kind of labor they are called to perform is of a higher grade, and commanding better wages than could be given them before; moreover, the introduction of machinery has lightened the severity of corporeal labor, and shortened the time required for the performance of the work which is required to be done in the world. Man is released from the drudgery which machinery is made to perform, and is free to employ his manly powers in a grade of employment higher than that in which he was formerly occupied.

Nevertheless, there are still descriptions of labor which cannot be performed by any machinery which has yet been invented, therefore human muscle and human intelligence must be found to do it; and we should be glad to avail ourselves of such skill and muscle. Without a sufficiency of laborers

we would fail to reap all the benefits of our inventions, and people capable of serving their race in the higher departments of the arts and sciences would not be at liberty to do so were they not relieved from care and toil. The scholar qualified to be a college professor, and whose services are needed in this capacity, ought not to be kept at teaching the simple rudiments in a primary school, if other teachers can be found. The assistants, however, need not always remain assistants; by diligence and study they, too, may attain advanced positions. The master builder may be more profitably employed than digging the trenches for the foundations of his walls, or in mixing mortar and carrying brick; while in due time, some of those who have served under him may be advanced to fill his place.

But, furthermore, were there not plenty of laborers, the architect might draw his plans in vain, and builders would look with pride upon fewer monuments of their skill; indeed, but for the wise division of labor and for sufficient hands to perform it, the people would still be living in such habitations as their own hands might construct; while for garments, they would be compelled to content themselves with such fabrics as their own wives and daughters might be able to provide; whereas, with the aid of other labor, their own comfort is enhanced, while the condition of the laborer is also proportionately improved. These facts have their illustrations everywhere, and in every department of life.

Within the memory of the present generation, a party of laborers, who, it would seem, were impressed with the belief that nature had endowed them with faculties, mental and physical, barely sufficient to wield the spade and the pick, and that all the spading and the picking to be done on this continent was ordained for them, and must be reserved for them—came furiously upon a gang of Chinamen, beat and wounded them and destroyed their lodging-places, the only crime of those Chinamen being that they too were using the spade and the pick.

But subsequently, in a country town, the writer has seen a man of the same nation as those who mobbed the Chinese laborers, himself overseeing a company of Chinamen, who were employed in making roads. This person had advanced many steps beyond the jealousies and prejudices of the people just mentioned. The truth had dawned upon his mind, and he had been brought to understand that where there is more work to be done than two hands are able to accomplish, and other hands can be found to do it, then, of course, those hands should be set to work; and he had also learned that if by intelligence and other qualifications, he himself might rise above the position of a mere day laborer, it was wisdom for him to improve his opportunities.

There is another consideration in connection with the question of plenty or scarcity of laborers.

In a country where there are millions of acres of arable land yet unimproved, the desideratum is of hands to till the soil, and thus to put this land under contribution to furnish food and clothing for those who need it, and as far as possible to make every acre do its part towards supporting the government, and building up public institutions. Where there are facilities for erecting mills, with material to be manufactured, and capital waiting to be employed, the next necessity is, the operatives; and just so long as the operatives are wanting, so long will the manufacturing facilities remain unimproved, the material will be left to waste, the capital will lie idle, and the talent and skill which was waiting for employment in conducting and overseeing such enterprises is deprived of opportunity to exert itself for the benefit of the world.

Where railroads are to be constructed, roads to be cut over mountains, and highways to be thrown up through the marshes in order to give distant portions of the country outlets to market, and to increase the facilities for travel, the timely arrival of laborers who can perform these things for us is undoubtedly to be hailed as a blessing.

There yet remain in the world (outside of California) immense tracts of uncultivated ground. Many tens of thousands of miles of railroad remain to be built over the surface of this globe, and vast improvements of other kinds must be made in various parts of the earth, ere the people inhabiting them will be brought up to the level of the inhabitants of this and of our mother countries. Nor does any reflecting person suppose that we, and the leading nations of Europe, have yet attained unto perfection. Therefore, let us avail ourselves of every instrumentality within our reach by which our fields may be better cultivated, our mines more thoroughly developed, our roads built, and every other improvement of a physical or moral nature pressed forward; while, at the same time, we are indirectly preparing the way for sending these and similar blessings abroad to other lands. In particular, let all of those people who visit our country, or come to tarry awhile amongst us, be benefited in every way; let some knowledge be imparted to them in return for the many and material services which they render us; let them be acquiring a knowledge of our inventions, and familiarity with the working of machinery, so that when they return to their homes, every man shall there be the centre of some reforming influence. Nor need we grudge them the little money they may have accumulated by years of honest toil, and of absence from the land they love, and from friends who are as dear to them as are ours to us.

If by contact with those who profess to love the morals which are taught in the Sermon on the Mount, and to believe the doctrines specified in the Apostles' Creed, their superstitions shall be weakened, and their reverence for idols lessened, in this also will we have cause for rejoicing. And this thought in turn reminds us that, after all, the "chief end of man" is not to live for merely selfish ends; but that he who does most to benefit his race, to relieve distress, to advance the arts, to disseminate true doctrine, and to make his neighbor happy, will most deserve the thanks of mankind, and will reap a harvest of very pleasant fruits.

TRADE WITH THE CANNIBALS.

BUT little has been told of those whose enterprise and daring first opened Commerce in the Pacific, and prepared the way for the occupation of California by a commercial people. The efforts of the early traders were confined to hide-droghing, whaling, and *bêche de mer* gathering. Although the latter occupation became one of the lost arts with the discovery of gold, and the consequent opening of larger and more profitable fields for commercial enterprise, some reminiscences in connection therewith may not prove uninteresting, as faintly outlining the nature of the hazards taken by the pioneers of commerce in the Pacific.

It was several years ago. No matter how many. I was just entering upon the world, and revolving in my mind what should be my future course, and