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# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## THE DARK SIDE OF CHINA-TOWN.

### ITS VICIS AND PERILS.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

New York, July 26.

Since the murder of Miss Sigel, public attention has been intently fixed, not only on the moral risks that beset American women engaged in active Christian mission work among the Chinese, but also on the immense moral and social danger involved in the state of things existing in the Chinese quarters of all the large cities of the Union. The tragic fate of Miss Elsie Sigel, and the almost incredible conditions revealed by the subsequent enquiry, surely presage the end of these female missions, and the gradual extermination of the vices of "Chinatown," New York. American newspapers picture in glaring colours the depravity and criminal doings in that ill-famed quarter. The facts disclosed in the course of the enquiry were shocking, especially with regard to the undreamt-of demoralisation of white women. Many women and girls, members, it is alleged, of families in the better classes, were leading a life of shame in the Chinese quarter, and gradually pining away from continual opium smoking in the dark, foul "dens." They seldom see the daylight; their relatives have long since given them up for lost.

The "slumming parties," that were common but a short time ago in New York, contributed not a little to this most deplorable situation. The object of those parties—an object that will strike many as both questionable and quixotic—was to get to know New York by night, in all its holes and corners. Men, women, and girls under expert guidance visited the Chinese quarter; inspected the opium dens, and the filthy rooms on the floors of which lay the forms of Chinese victims of excessive opium smoking—nerveless, stupefied, staring fixedly, pale as death. But the "slumming parties" were not allowed to penetrate into the secret places of Chinatown. They saw only the rooms and conditions that are prepared and arranged for "foreigners." "Slumming parties" are, or were, a rich source of gain to Chinatown, inasmuch as the "foreigners" bought all manner of Chinese souvenirs. Slumming had in fact become a sport, and therein lay its danger. A Chinaman, for instance, would offer a lady his opium pipe and invite her to try a whiff. One whiff, just one, for fun, what harm in that? The one whiff is taken and the pipe returned; and when the party leaves the "den," the proprietor smilingly invites the lady who took the whiff to come again soon and try another. Sad to say, not a few have done so. In numerous cases women and girls have gone again alone to Chinatown, from curiosity; and have, of course, met with a friendly reception. The opium pipe is again tried, this time with more than one whiff. And so the charm works and the habit grows, gradually but surely, until the innocent victim of curiosity becomes a prey to vice, and is ashamed to turn back while she can. To still the voice of conscience she smokes herself into the stupor of indifference to good and bad alike. These victims are generally well treated by the Chinese.

The ground plan of Chinatown—a triangle bounded by Pell Street, Mott Street, and Doyers Street—has hitherto prevented publicity from penetrating its "secrets." The buildings are all old-fashioned, and contain about 8,000 Chinese. Any white who wants a hiding place can find one in Chinatown, and any vice may be indulged there without risk of discovery. The whole ground is undermined with secret

passages which the Chinese have dug out in the course of years; it is said, indeed, that all the houses are connected by such ways, and that when the police make a raid, the bulk of the people they want disappear underground, leaving only a few scapegoats to be arrested. It is said further that, besides passages, there are caves which could, if their walls could speak, tell many a tale of crime, committed against Chinese as well as whites who have been enticed into them. But the days of vice and crime in Chinatown are numbered; the police are setting the whole district in order.— W. B.

## TURKEY, GREECE, AND CRETE.

### WAR DANGER INCREASED.

As reported in our special telegrams yesterday, Turkey is maintaining a determined front towards the Cretan problem. A demand, partaking of the nature of an ultimatum, was sent to the Grecian Government on Wednesday, but so far the Greeks have refused to withdraw their officers from the island. Many well-informed circles in Constantinople and elsewhere regard war as inevitable. Active preparations for a campaign are now going on in Turkey, and, according to a telegram published in the *Kölnische Zeitung*, 40,000 reservists have been called to the colours at Smyrna. The Porte is negotiating with three steamship companies for the transportation of troops and munitions of war to Cretan waters. In Constantinople and Salonika the greatest excitement prevails.

The Turkish Chamber of Deputies in a privy sitting on Wednesday discussed the problem to the exclusion of all other business. Nothing is known as to the decisions arrived at, but the war temper is everywhere on the increase, and it is confidently expected that a crisis will be reached one way or another in the next few days.

The Italian Ambassador at Constantinople has drawn the attention of the Porte to the perilous situation of Christians in the Yemen, where they are threatened by the Arabs. The Porte has promised to send assistance.

## THE CRETAN GOVERNMENT EMBARRASSED.

London, August 5.

According to reports received here from Crete, the local administration met with great opposition in connection with the hauling down of the Grecian flag on the island, this act not being in harmony with the published programme of Tuesday's festivities. In spite of the bad blood and excitement caused thereby, there is general quiet throughout the island.

## SOUTH AFRICAN UNION A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

London, August 5.

The House of Lords unanimously passed the South African Union Bill in its third reading during yesterday's sitting.

## GERMANY AND THE AMERICAN TARIFF.

Washington, August 4.

A translation of the German report in regard to wages paid in the German Empire was laid before the Senate at today's sitting.

## THE WORLD'S LARGEST SUBMARINE.

The largest submarine in the world, the "Archimedes," of 800 tons gross displacement, was launched at the French naval dockyard of Cherbourg on Wednesday.

## THE TSAR'S VISIT TO KING EDWARD.

Cowes, August 5.

The Tsar of Russia landed here yesterday and proceeded, in company with King Edward, in an automobile to a lonely part of the island. In the afternoon the two monarchs made an automobile trip to Osborne, the Royal residence.

Last night the Royal Yacht Club gave a banquet on board the "Victoria and Albert," the Tsar sitting at the right hand of King Edward. Toasts were not exchanged. Lively conversation was the order of the evening. The Tsaritsa also gave a banquet on board the "Standart," the guests including Queen Alexandra, Count Benckendorff, Sir A. Nicolson, and M. Isvolski. At the conclusion of the banquet a ball took place on the deck of the yacht, the scene being most brilliant.

The Tsaritsa, accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales, visited Osborne today, returning to the yachts towards evening. The Tsar donated a special cup for today's yacht racing.

## ANGLO-RUSSIAN ENTENTE'S PEACEFUL AIM.

London, August 5.

The Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Isvolsky, has granted an interview to a representative of Reuter's Agency, in the course of which he declared that the excellent relations now existing between England and Russia are no menace to any other State. The series of visits paid by the Tsar were proof that the Anglo-Russian understanding was in no way incompatible with the best relations with Germany and other Powers. Russian policy will be guided along a straight path of mutual understanding which leaves no ground for differences of opinion. The satisfactory agreement in regard to Persia will now be extended to other political questions. Russia's nearest wish is the consolidation of the new régime in Turkey to which she will contribute as far as lies in her power; and the alleviation of the Near Eastern situation. So far as regards Crete, the four protecting Powers are unanimously agreed to maintain the status quo and to support the suzerain rights of the Ottoman Porte.

## THE RUSSIANS IN PERSIA.

Teheran, August 4.

Colonel Liachoff, one of the officers in command of the Russian expeditionary force, left Teheran on Wednesday for Russia.

London, August 5.

Reuter reports from Teheran that the situation at Shiraz has become more disquieting. Sauledd-Dauleh has now taken up his position twelve miles from the town, but has promised to postpone operations for three days in the hope that his demand for the instalment of a new governor will be fulfilled. The British Consulate guard has been reinforced by fifty Sepoys and a number of Royal Marines, with a machine gun.

## MARK TWAIN SUFFERING FROM "TOBACCO HEART."

A New York cablegram to the *Globe* says:—According to this morning's papers, Mark Twain has been informed by his medical adviser, that he is suffering from "tobacco heart," and that in future he must limit himself to four cigars per day. What the humourist remarked on hearing the nature of his illness is not as yet chronicled; but there is little doubt that New York—and with it the world at large—will not have to wait long to learn what Mark thinks of his smoke limit.