

SLAVES OF THE PIPE

A GLIMPSE OF ONE OF THE SECRET OPIUM DENS OF TOULON.

The Eastern Madness and Its Victims in the French Navy—Varying Effects of the First, Second and Third Pipes of the Drug.

"You are going to Toulon?" said an attaché of one of the ministries to me some months ago. "Then you will see the curse of the French navy, the eastern madness, which our colleagues at the colonial office and at the ministry of marine are trying hard to suppress."

"The eastern madness?" I asked. "What is that?"

"Opium smoking," said my friend facetiously. "Ask some of the Toulon newspaper men to take you round."

It was one of the first things I asked about when I got down to Toulon, and the following is an account of what I saw:

We were in a cafe near the harbor. A tall and very handsome woman sat at the table opposite to us and nodded kindly to my companion. This did not surprise me at all, because all Toulon, from the prefect maritime to the scavengers in the streets, knew him and called him by his name. There was a long familiarity of the woman's eyes which was curiously noticeable.

"Are you going to smoke a pipe?" she said.

He looked at me inquiringly.

"Oh, bring your friend with you. He doesn't belong to the government, does he?"

And so we all three got up and went out. I do not know exactly where we went, for the back streets of Toulon are a very Aisla for intricacy. We unlocked a door with a key which Madame carried in her pocket. We climbed three flights of dark stairs and knocked at another door.

It was opened at last, after about a quarter of an hour, by a young woman in a kimono and curl papers. She looked even sicker than our companion and did not trouble to invite us in. She merely left the door open, lounged on in front, and we followed.

Inaugurate a room in which all you can see at first is the dirty yellow of some cocoanut matting on the floor, a few cushions covered in bright colors and several pairs of feet. It is a little puzzling at first, but you realize after a moment that the only lamp is on the floor and that it has a heavy shade, so that the light does not light up the room.

I became used to the semi-darkness soon and saw that I was in a small square room, in which there were six or eight people, three women, including our companion, and several men. I noticed that the trousers which the men wore were those of navy officers. I looked at my friend, the journalist, inquisitively.

"Oh, yes," he said, "and they don't care. Once an opium smoker always an opium smoker."

We had spoken in a whisper, but one of the men, a good looking fellow, who must have been a smart officer not long before, raised himself on one elbow and glowered at us. "Curse you!" he said. "Be quiet. Curse you!" And he dropped back on to the mat again. "The second sleep after the first pipe," said my friend.

"How do you know?"

"Because they are always irritable after the second pipe," said my friend. "After the second pipe they are not inclined to disturb them, but they are irritable and could not get on with them if they were before they had smoked. They would murder you if you did not bring the pipe."

"What is the pipe?" I asked. "I must get a pipe," said my friend. "The pipe is a small, round, black, pipe, with a long, thin, black, stem. It is a pipe, and it is a pipe. But the pipe is a pipe, and it is a pipe. In the night, when the light was a blue, which looked a little like a Turkish lamp, a pipe of glass, in which I thought spirit was burned, making a small flame."

Next to it, a little white pot with a dark brown paste in it that looked like varnish, and on a small rack, like a pen rack, several knitting needles. When the man sat up the woman in the kimono and curl papers crawled over to him, took one of the knitting needles, put her finger and thumb into the paste and worked a ball of it on the point of a knitting needle over the flame of the lamp.

And I noticed then, as the smell became more acute, that the whole room had a treacherous softness about it. That, of course, was the opium. Next to the man, where I suppose he had dropped it, was a long cherry wood stem with a bulb of amber at one end and a tiny cup at the other. I think the cup had a pin in it, but I am not sure. The woman put the little ball of opium, which had frizzled and sizzled in the flame, into the cup and held the amber bulb to the man's mouth.

He drew at the pipe, inhaling the smoke, but he was too far gone to hold the pipe for himself. The woman had to do that for him. He stopped inhaling after a moment or two, and she tore the neck of his shirt open.

"Narrow squeak that," said my friend. "I know that chap. He smokes eighteen or twenty pipes sometimes, and then anything might happen to him. He would rather die of suffocation than take the trouble to undo a button."

"But what is the hellish charm of opium?" I asked.

"That I can't tell you," said my friend, "because a first pipe or two won't teach it to you, and unless you are a fool, you will never smoke a third."

The woman who had brought us in and in whose room we were had just prepared a pipe for herself. "Smoking," she said, and put her pipe to her lips. I took two of three whiffs and then got out of the room and the ladies as quickly as possible.

I learned from my friend, who came after me, that all the men in the room were navy officers. I learned, too, the next day, when I left to go to the opium, which is spite of the orders made by the government, to which compliance in the street, is constantly sold in all the ports and particularly at those of the south, is making terrible ravages among the officers of the French navy.

Your opium smoker is a dangerous man on board a ship, for he is like a sleepwalker. He acts mechanically, but with apparent consciousness, and when under the influence of the drug, anything might happen other than to lean or to the ship under his orders with his corning. The master of a man-of-war doing his utmost to repress the crime, and all thinking France hopes that he may succeed.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Rescue of a Merchant.

A prominent merchant of Shouby, N. Y., J. A. Johnson, says: "Several years ago I contracted a cough which grew worse and worse, until I was hardly able to move around. I coughed constantly and nothing relieved my terrible suffering until I tried Dr. King's New Discovery. Before I had taken half a bottle my cough was much better, and in a short time I was entirely cured. I surely believe it saved my life. It will always be my family remedy for colds." Fully guaranteed; 50c and \$1.00 at Fort Pierce druggist. Trial bottle free.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ELECTION

To the Sheriff of St. Lucie County, of the State of Florida: Be it Known, That I, H. Clay Crawford, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that a GENERAL ELECTION will be held in St. Lucie County, State of Florida, on Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, A. D. 1906, the said Tuesday being the

SIXTH DAY OF NOVEMBER

For One Representative of the 2nd Congressional District of Florida in the Sixtieth Congress of the United States. For Two Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of Florida. For Two Railroad Commissioners for the State of Florida. For One Member of the House of Representatives of the State of Florida. For County Judge. For Sheriff. For Clerk of the Circuit Court. For County Assessor of Taxes. For Tax Collector. For County Treasurer. For County Superintendent of Public Instruction. For County Surveyor. For Five County Commissioners. For Three Members of the County Board of Public Instruction. For Justice of the Peace in and for the following Justice Districts, viz: No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8, No. 9, No. 10, No. 11, No. 12.

For Trustee in and for the following Justice Districts, viz: No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8, No. 9, No. 10, No. 11, No. 12. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the great Seal of the State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the first day of September, A. D. 1906.

[L. S.] H. CLAY CRAWFORD, Secretary of State.

To, R. W. Leonard, Sheriff St. Lucie County.

Notice.

The following deputy registration officers are appointed: Sebastian, No. 1—E. B. Sembler, Fort Pierce No. 2—F. M. Tyler, Ankonka No. 3—W. H. Robinson, Jensen No. 4—W. D. Edwards, Fort Drum No. 5—Harley Holmes, Tantie No. 6—H. H. Hancock, Wabasso No. 7—J. E. Dodge, Quay No. 8—M. S. Jones, Narrows No. 9—K. M. Toddler, White City No. 10—T. B. Howard, Vero No. 11—F. C. Gifford, Viking No. 12—Jens Helsoth, Ed Edge, Supervisor.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATOR

All persons concerned will take notice that six months after date I will present my final accounts as Administrator of the Estate of Julius Tyler, late of St. Lucie County, deceased, to the County Judge of St. Lucie County, Fla., Hon. J. E. Andrews, and pray for my final discharge as Administrator of said estate. (Signed) F. M. TYLER, Administrator of the Estate of Julius Tyler, deceased. Dated, Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, Fla., May 31, 1906.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SCHOOL BOARD

Table with columns for RECEIPTS and FINANCIAL CONDITION OF BOARD. Includes items like Cash from last year, County School Levy, and Total Receipts.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF BOARD: Receipts of 1906-07 \$100,000; Disbursements \$95,000; Balance Forward \$5,000; Total \$105,000.

STATISTICS: Number white school children 19; Number colored 22; Total 41.

STATISTICS (continued): Number white teachers 25; Number colored teachers 20; Total 45.

STATISTICS (continued): Total white pupils 250; Total colored pupils 200; Total 450.

STATISTICS (continued): Average daily attendance white 214; Average daily attendance colored 172; Total 386.

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