

WHY THEY ARE COMING.

Explanation of the Recent Influx of Chinese.

The recent arrival of 1000 Chinese upon the steamer *City of Tokio* has caused considerable comment in various places east and west of the Rocky Mountains. Those who know comparatively nothing in regard to the true features of the matter have concocted various stories in reference to it. The arrival was a remarkable one, as no steamer for many years past has brought to California such a large number of Chinese at this season of the year. The usual number of arrivals during this season for years past has rarely exceeded 100, the *City of Tokio* bringing the largest number—125—in June or July, 1878. A CHRONICLE reporter called upon Colonel F. A. Bee, the Consul of the Chinese Empire at this port, and from him obtained an explanation of the recent arrivals. Consul Bee stated that in Hongkong and the districts in China from which the Celestials in this country have principally come, the progress of the recent bill in relation to the Chinese before the national legislature was carefully watched. They knew the provisions in reference to restricting any one vessel from bringing more than fifteen; and, as there are hundreds there who have been in and intend to return to this country, they waited for the news of its rejection or passage with great interest. When the bill passed both Houses, Reuter's agents telegraphed the fact around the world and the Chinese believed the bill had become a law. They knew nothing in regard to the President's veto, but thought that the matter had been finally settled by the passage of the bill through both Houses. Convinced that

ONLY FIFTEEN COULD COME

At one time after the 4th of July, the large number who wanted to return to this country made up their minds to come at once, thereby running no risk of paying increased rates of passage or of struggling for an indefinite time to be one of the fortunate fifteen that should secure a passage on boats arriving here after July 4th. Consul Bee stated that he visited the *Tokio* on her arrival here and recognized many of those who came as men who had been for years in California and who had gone on a visit to China. From inquiries made by him, he ascertained that fully seventy per cent of the 1000 had been in this country before. Many of them brought their families with them, they having gone home for that purpose. Of those who did come there were a number who did not intend to return until next winter. Of the remainder, the largest number are destined for Honolulu, to which place many of them held through tickets. The sugar planters of the Sandwich Islands are very anxious to obtain Chinese field hands. They find some difficulty in getting them from California because the wages they are willing to pay are lower than are paid here. They, therefore, have to resort to Hongkong; but there they meet with another difficulty. Hongkong is a Crown colony of England, and English dependencies in Australia desiring to obtain Chinese laborers, it is said that Pope Hennessy, Governor of Hongkong, discourages immigration to Honolulu and California, in order to turn the stream toward English colonies.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA WANTS THE CHINESE

To settle in its northern territory, while the sugar planters of the Fiji Islands want them for the same work that the planters of the Sandwich Islands do. These facts render it difficult for the Chinese to leave direct from Hongkong to Honolulu. A German bark was recently laid on at Hongkong, and a large number of Chinese had taken passage by her, but her departure was in some way prevented. This state of affairs renders it necessary for Chinese who desire to reach Honolulu to come to this city first. The *City of Peking* on her last trip brought 90 of them who had through tickets to Honolulu, and among the 1000 that came by the *Tokio* there were many destined to the same port. Those who paid their transportation were also under the impression that not more than 15 could come on any steamer after July 4th, hence the large number of arrivals. Consul Bee was of the opinion that there will be no further arrivals of this character for some time. Some of those arrived had gone after their families and were afraid to delay their return until next winter, as they at first proposed, because they thought they could not secure transportation on the steamers, there being so many who wanted to return. There is at present an unusual demand for Chinese labor on the plantations of the Sandwich Islands, but a very small one on this coast. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining shipping from Hongkong direct to Honolulu, it is probable that the Chinese who will be brought to supply this demand will be taken by way of this city, but their numbers will be comparatively small.