

THE CHINESE HOURIS.

Efforts of Their Chaperon to Land Her Charges.

A SEARCH FOR A TITULAR HUSBAND.

Scenes in Judge Hunt's Court—A Languishing Adonia—Law Points and Discriminating Fares.

The writ of *habeas corpus* tried on behalf of the four Chinese women detained on board the British steamship *Anjer Head*, was returned before Judge Hunt of the Superior Court yesterday. The proceedings attracted a large number of spectators, the Chinese, as is usual in such cases, being the most numerous. Apart from the general interest that marked the developments of the case, including the shipment of Chinese and the various consular prosecutions against improper immigration, the widely conflicting theories of the parties proved decidedly interesting. The moon-eyed beauties, radiant in vari-colored silks, their hair plastered in the most approved Oriental style, their podal extravagances encased in gilt silken shoes, were the cynosure of their interested countrymen. At the further end of the bench in the lobby, sat an enamored Adonia, his eyes riveted upon the youngest of the quartet, who, perfectly oblivious of the sensation which she was causing, contentedly toyed a small bag with her Adonia, with abundant provisos, gave evidence of being thoroughly Americanized, and at regular intervals a subdued cough was heard, but to no purpose; the maiden was as yet unacquainted with such esthetic overtures.

FEDERAL JURISDICTION CLAIMED.

Mr. Teare, the United States District Attorney, at the outset raised the question of jurisdiction, claiming that the detention of the women was due to the Assistant Surveyor of the Port, acting under authority of an Act of Congress relative to immigration. Under its provisions he was compelled to prevent the landing of Chinese women brought here for immoral purposes. He did not believe that jurisdiction was concurrent in such cases, but, on the contrary, he claimed that it was a case for the Federal Courts.

Judge Hunt took the position that any person deprived of his liberty might take the benefit of the writ of *habeas corpus*. He also said, in answer to Mr. Teare, who claimed that jurisdiction in the *Cota* case had been taken by the Federal Courts, that it was because the question in their case involved an existing treaty between two nations.

Mr. Quint, the counsel for the women, contended that his clients had undergone an examination at Hongkong, and that they had been fortified by a consular certificate. He expected to prove that one of the women was on board with her husband, that another was coming to join her husband in this city, and that still another was with her children. He proposed to enter into the merits of the case in order to prove the above statement.

Mr. Teare asked that inquiry be directed solely as to the grounds of the Surveyor's action, so as to justify the detention and to lay some ground for whatever subsequent proceedings might be taken.

The matter was finally compromised, when each side was ready to enter upon the testimony, but the numerous interpreters in attendance proved an obstacle, until Judge Hunt allowed one to each of the contestants.

A WILY WITNESS.

Wong Ah Yim, the alleged matron, testified that her husband resided in this city, on Duont street.

Mr. Quint asked the Court to allow the alleged husband to enter the room, in order that the witness might identify him.

Judge Hunt replied that he would consent to the head of the family coming in for identification, on condition that all the other Celestials be ushered into the courtroom at the same time. His Honor finally ordered that the alleged sire be confined in a room, where he might be identified by the respective attorneys, and that he should finally be brought into Court with the other Chinamen, when the witness would conclude her testimony.

Resuming, Mrs. Wong Ah Yim testified that she had been in China for the past six years, having previous to that time resided in this city for five years. The two children discharged by the Court were hers. She had not seen her husband since he left her in China up to the day when the vessel docked. She testified as to his personal appearance, saying he was about 48 years of age, clean shaven, tall, and that he was a fisherman. The younger child was five years and the other 10 years of age. She had another child in China of 12 years of age. Her residence, while she was in this city, was in the classic regions of Rowalley. In answer to a question as to her means of subsistence, she replied that she had taken an active part in the piscatorial pursuits of her husband, and that the catch was her only resource.

"Ask her if she was ever married before," queried Mr. Teare.

A blush gradually suffused Mrs. Ah Yim's countenance as the interpreter explained the query, and, raising her ample sleeve to her mouth, she gave answer in the negative, followed by a chuckle.

Mr. Teare was incorrivable, and he directed his very next interrogatory to the particular kind of fish that the matron had caught.

"Wild fish," retorted the interpreter, and the response was greeted with laughter.

The remainder of her testimony was, substantially, that during her stay in China she had operated a sewing machine, and by this means had accumulated the passage money. One of the young women who accompanied her on the trip had been placed under her surveillance by a grandmother, with instructions to have her delivered to her mother in this city. She also testified that her photograph had been taken previous to her departure from Hongkong, and that she had received the consular certificate given to passengers. The certificate purported to give evidence of Mrs. Yim's unimpeachable character, and that her mission was to go in search of a recalcitrant husband.

A HUSBAND FOR THE OCCASION.

This closed the testimony of Mrs. Yim, and the propriety of putting her to a practical demonstration of her alimony was considered. The Deputy Sheriff was instructed to assemble the Chinamen, who had been turned out in the early stages of the proceedings, and to march them into Court with the alleged husband. No sooner had the order of the Court been communicated to the excited Celestials than a rash was made for the lobby, the husband being conspicuously absent. Mrs. Yim leaped forward, cast a searching glance over the Celestials, and sat back in her chair with an air of disappointment.

The Chinese were ordered to vacate their places, and, after the alleged husband had been placed in their midst, they again reentered the room. They were informed that not a word must be spoken for a week made, and that disobedience would be punished by imprisonment. Mrs. Yim was then told to point out her husband. She stretched out her arm, pointing to the third man, and then walked rapidly to where he sat, placed her hand on his shoulder, and spoke to him. He rose, came inside the railing and took his seat. The attempt to corner the madam had been abortive.

H. W. Brown, Assistant Surveyor of the Port, testified to the inspection of the certificates of the female passengers, saying that the papers given by Mrs. Yim did not correspond with her verbal statement.

Colonel F. A. Bee explained the circumstances under which certificates are granted, saying that the Chinese Consulate in this city was endeavoring to discourage the importation of females. He had information that Mrs. Yim was a procurer and that she had tried to obtain passage for a year past.

Captain A. Roper of the *Anjer Head* testified that Mrs. Yim had paid \$40 for the younger child's passage. The passage for females was fixed at \$300 and for males at \$40, the idea being to discourage female immigration. He knew nothing of the movements of the passengers until he was at sea. The vessel was chartered and the charterer made his own use of it.

THE DRIVER OF THE BUS.

"How is it, Captain," said Mr. Quint, "the you don't know who comes aboard?"

"I've nothing to do with that, sir. I'm the man that drives the bus; the conductor attends to the pay. If the bus is full or empty, that's his business, not mine," retorted the Captain to the enjoyment of the spectators.

"It's your business to know, is it not?" persisted Mr. Quint.

"Decidedly not, sir. The charterer pays me \$6500 to run the bus. If he carries dead-loads he's out, not me," was the crushing retort.

"Pretty heavy price," said Mr. Quint, mentally contrasting the legal profession with that of the merchant marine.

"Ah, but I have to feed my horses," laughingly answered the skipper.

Judge Hunt then dismissed the case until to-morrow at 10 A. M., resuming the women to the precedent case of the Captain.