

HIGHBINDERS' HAUNTS

The Police Go Into Them Rough Shod.

Oil Poured on the Brave Bluecoats.

The Cunning Chinese Criminals Flee at the Approach of the Raiders.

Sergeant Price and his Chinatown squad were re-enforced by a squad of twelve big officers under Sergeant Harter, when the work of destruction in the rooms of the highbinder societies was resumed yesterday afternoon. Price and his men wore rough clothes and carried heavy firemen's axes. The hilts of their heavy revolvers projected from beneath their coats. Harter and his protecting force were all in full uniform and each wore around his waist a belt, in the right side of which was a long and heavy club. On the left side, in leathern holsters, were heavy revolvers, each of which was good for the lives of six highbinders.

Threats had been made by the murderous Chinese that they would show fight were the squad to go out again to demolish their goods. Chief Crowley smiled grimly when the report reached him, and he at once ordered Sergeant Harter and his detail to accompany Price and stand

the men two hours in which to remove the valuable fittings of their place. Consul Bee denominated the Chee Kung Tong as an association of highbinders, and advised the Chief to break it up. At 7:30 p. m. the Chee Kung Tong men had not removed their goods and gods, and Sergeant Price and his posse started to assist them. Signs were torn down, altars destroyed and josses ruthlessly thrown aside, without any respect for their dignity, and in two hours, from being one of the handsomest highbinder retreats in the Chinese quarter, it was turned upside down. An amusing incident occurred during the removal of a plaster of paris joss by four of the Chinese. It was very heavy and required considerable care in its removal, and the Chinese were bestowing all their attention on their work, when a piece of a chair was knocked down by Sergeant Price and in falling brushed against one of the Chinese. He had no idea what touched him, but he thought it was caused by the anger of the joss, and, uttering an unearthly cry, he dropped the joss and dashed madly out through the place, preceded by a howling mob of Chinese. It was impossible to get another Chinese in there for an hour. Finally when the work of destruction was all complete and the officers had left, Sergeant Price and a number of reporters went up to inspect the ruins. Signs and richly covered furnishings littered the stairways and it was necessary to climb a ladder to reach the third floor. Three Chinese were up there, but left on the arrival of the sergeant, uttering maledictions upon his head. No attention was paid to them, but when the sergeant and the scribes wanted to leave they found that the ladder was removed and they were prisoners until assistance could be procured from the outside.



The safeguard.

ready at a moment's notice to assist him in beating off any of the coolies who might be bold enough to attack the officers. The presence of the reserve party and the sight of their heavy "guns" had a good effect upon the coolie murderers, for throughout the day no violence was met.

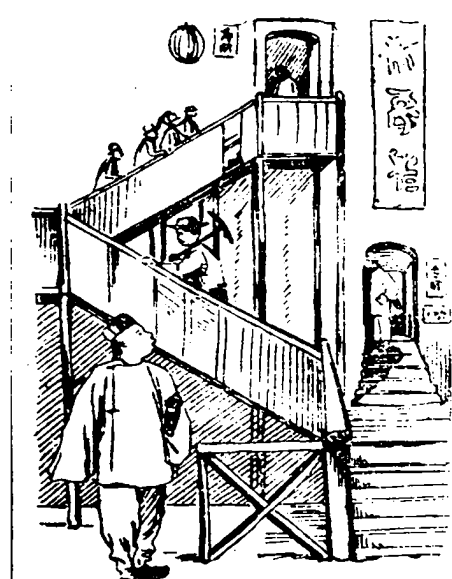
Most of the places visited yesterday were vacant, lookouts having warned the highbinders of the approach of the police in time to allow the outlaws to escape. One savage old fellow in the quarters of the Chou Choe Kay on Dupont street revenged himself by pouring oil on the officers as they went downstairs after wrecking the place, smashing the joss into little bits, and dealing destruction with heavy hands.

At 1024 Dupont street it was found that the Chinese themselves had destroyed the property of the Gong Yet, Shian Seer and Wah Tin San Companies. The heavily fortified place of the Tong Sing Tong, at Pacific and Dupont streets, was knocked into a "cocked hat" in just about ten minutes. This society is one of the worst among the many bad ones in Chinatown, and the police did willing work in smashing its headquarters.

In all the places visited everything that could be of use to the Chinese was destroyed. Tables, chairs, josses, bunks, closets, doors, and even partitions, went down like toothpicks, and after the police were through and stopped for a breathing spell, the rooms looked as if they had entertained a particularly vicious Kansas cyclone. A number of places visited were those which had been broken up on Saturday night. Some of these had been refitted, but they were again demolished. The following places were raided: Chew Yee Society, 924 Dupont street; Goung Yee Soey, 1024 Dupont; Bo Sin Seer, 623 Jackson; Suey Sing Song, 1006 Dupont; Sy On Seer and Wah Tin San Tong societies, 1016 Pacific; Guy Sin Seer, 819 1/2 Washington; Hop Sing, 1027 Washington; Hing Kong Tong, 817 Washington; Quong Dock Tong, 812 Washington.

The quarters of the Chee Kung Tong, the parent highbinder society, at 69 Spofford alley, were left to the last. It is here that the roots of the great highbinder tree are nurtured. All the other societies are but as limbs of the Chee Kung Tong. It is rich and powerful, as may easily be supposed. In its building on Spofford alley, which the society owns, were altars and josses which cost many thousands of dollars. Rich gilded carvings, figures of bronze and brass, heavy hangings of Oriental magnificence and beauty adorned these headquarters of the worst and most notorious association of cutthroats and robbers that the modern world has known.

This is what might be called the Grand Lodge of the Society of Highbinders. The men who belong to it are past masters in



Entrance to highbinders' quarters.

the art of human butchery, and it is their boast that they fear not God, man nor devil. Nor do they. This society, say the police, and it is undoubtedly true, levies blackmail and holds sway by terrorism over six-tenths of the Chinese on this continent. Its members think less about a human life than about a good dagger or pistol. It retains murderers, as do the other societies, who, for a certain sum, will kill any one who may be so unfortunate as to have been marked for death by the ruling spirits.

The police visited the Chee Kung Tong quarters shortly after 2 o'clock, and gave