

STOLE THE CHICKEN.

Negro Children Show Little Respect for a New Made Chinese Grave.

Hop Lee, the Chinese laundryman who died in Armourdale Saturday, was buried yesterday in Union cemetery. Hop was a Free Mason and his funeral was under the auspices of the lodge of Chinese Free Masons of this city. Before leaving Carlat's undertaking establishment the coffin containing the dead Chinaman was opened, and a soft felt hat was put on the head of the corpse, "so he no catchee cold," as one of the mourners expressed it. About half a bushel of curious looking bits of different colored paper written all over with Chinese hieroglyphics, and a handful of Chinese coins were also put into the coffin to ward off evil spirits and to pay ferriage across various rivers that Hop would have to cross before reaching Chinese heaven.

The funeral cortege was headed by the hearse, which was decorated by white flag with a Chinese letter in the center. On the hearse beside the Caucasian driver sat an aged Chinaman. Following the hearse were six hacks containing friends of the dead man, among whom were several ladies from Armourdale who had learned to respect Hop during his long residence near them. All the way out to the cemetery the Chinaman on the hearse kept scattering handfuls of oblong tickets punched full of holes. The spirit of the dead man was supposed to keep dodging through these holes with the devil hot on his trail. So long as the tickets held out the evil one could never catch up to the spirit, but if the supply of tickets should run short and Hop in his wild chase for liberty should find no more holes to jump through the devil would surely get him.

As the coffin was lowered into the grave a bottle of whisky was poured in on top of it amid the chattering of the twenty-five assembled Chinamen. When the grave had been filled up a roast chicken and several bowls of boiled rice were placed upon it. Then the Chinamen went away and half a dozen hungry colored children, who had been licking their chops as they eyed this wonderful waste of food, rushed in and eagerly devoured the chicken and rice, leaving poor Hop to travel the road to heaven on an empty stomach.