

JOY REIGNS IN CHINATOWN.

WELCOMING A TROUPE OF NATIVE ACTORS.

ALL MOTT-ST. EAGER FOR THE OPENING PERFORMANCE.

There were scenes of high revel in Mott-st. yesterday. Mongolians were gathered there from all parts of the city, and from Brooklyn, Jersey City and Hoboken, to do honor to the Chinese actors, who have come from the land of Confucius to produce a series of native dramas for the edification of their countrymen in this city.

The Swintien Lok Chinese Dramatic Company, which arrived here on Friday, is quartered at the old Joss Temple, No. 10 Chatham Square. There are fifty men in the company, and they will all sleep in one room on cots arranged around all four sides of the apartment. That the arrival of these exponents of Chinese dramatic art has created a great stir among Chinamen in this city was shown by the gathering in Mott-st. yesterday of Celestials of every degree, from the prosperous merchant to the hard-working laundryman. Early in the day the leading actors were taken to a number of the Mott-st. stores and introduced to their proprietors, and in the afternoon they were escorted by a numerous following to the various points of interest about the city. The less honored members of the company spent the day in Mott-st., and wherever one saw a group of jolly, laughing Chinamen, he was sure of finding in it a member of the Swintien Lok.

In the latter part of the afternoon Mott-st. became so crowded with Chinamen that it was difficult to pass through it. It seemed to be a kind of fete day among the Celestials. Everybody was making merry. The groups on the streets laughed and chatted incessantly, as only Chinamen can, and from every open door came forth sounds of revelry. One marked characteristic of the merry-making was the absence of intoxication. Frequently the jingling of money could be heard as one passed by on the street, indicating that the devotees of fan tan were enjoying the delights of that seductive gambling game.

Most of the members of the company were dressed in the blue blouse and trousers worn by common-folk in China, which have become familiar now in all American cities. The leading men wear long over-skirts of blue or gray silk and black caps. All wear long queues down their backs. One of the men had a queue so long that when he had wound it once around his neck and shoulders the end reached almost to his knees. There are no women in the company, the female characters in the plays being impersonated by men. This, probably, will not detract from the interest of the performances to American auditors and spectators. Taka Wing, who assumes the leading female roles, is an interesting young man of twenty-seven years. He is considered to be extremely pretty in the role of Sean Neon Goon Joo, a princess. He is a favorite in his native land, and has been for half a dozen years or more.

The leading male parts are played by Moo Sung Joo, who stands at the head of the profession in China. He is an intelligent man, and believes that a regular Chinese theatre can be established and maintained in this city by his countrymen. Ma Ki Wing, Chew Lom Yin and Woy Soo Wo all play important parts and are thought to be capable performers. The play with which the company will open at the Windsor Theatre to-night will treat of life in China before the Christian era. The laws of China provide that no play relating to an existing dynasty shall have public representation, and the dramatic literature of the country is, therefore, confined almost exclusively to the ancient history of the kingdom. The opening play treats of the wars between the Chinese and Tartars, and it is said to be sufficiently full of "blood and thunder" to suit any Mongolian who may have become filled with the "Bowery Boy" spirit. The costumes, Manager Murtha says, are rich and elaborate. The performance will be a decided novelty in this city.