

To the Honorable the Common  
Council of the City of Portland

Gentlemen,

I have the honor  
to enclose to you the petition of some Chinese resi-  
dents in this city, trusting that you will forthwith  
take such action thereon as to your honorable body  
may seem meet and just.

I have the honor to remain  
Yours very truly,

A. J. McComick  
Mayor.

th-C  
Women

To the Common Council of the City of Portland (32)

Report of the Committee on "Girls & Women"

Your Committee would respectfully report to your Hon Body upon the petition referred to them for their immediate action and report, which said petition, from its unique, and novel character with which it is constructed, and executed, your Committee have deemed it essential to embody the same herein.

" I. Hon S. L. McCormick Mayor for

" The undersigned Chinese Residents of Portland  
" would represent that there are now resident  
" in this city some Chinese women of bad reputations  
" and believing that their continued residence  
" here, will injure the Respectable Chinese population  
" - relation they respectfully ask that you  
" will take such measures as are within  
" your power for their removal."

Having always believed, and considered, that this honorable body had its creation from political considerations, and that the necessity of society, for some guardian to protect them in their Legal and Political rights, and when its action had reached that end, it had fulfilled its whole duty. we are at a loss to determine from what source it can derive a power of Censor of Morals, which you are asked to exercise in this case.

That women, and especially "Chinese women", may have a bad reputation is true, but that we have any power, by coercion or otherwise to remove them from our midst (32)

is not so clear to our minds - After long, and patient research, of our State laws, and the higher, and more profound ones of your Honorable Body, we have been unable to find a single Statute, or Ordinance which makes "Bad Reputation" a crime, rendering the one so unfortunate as to be so cursed, amenable to penalty; that such is not the case, we are led to believe by the perfect unanimity of this entire Community, judging by its impressive silence on this subject in all the past; for had society believed such to have been ~~the~~ a crime here - therefore, your Honorable Body would have learned of its existence long ere this, or else we should have been impressed with the belief that the people of the city of Pattemet, until this case was presented, were all Bayard's and Bayardesses "Sans peur Sans reproche" - or that the ignorance of our benighted people was so great, that it required an importation from Celestial lands to give us a proper construction of our civil, and political duties, commencing the work of enlightenment in your Honorable Body!

Another stumbling Block in the way of your Committee coming to a full determination upon this important

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question is, that the petitioners in this instance have declared "Bad Report" to be a "nuisance"! Now, your Committee submit with due deference, that they have hitherto held and believed a "nuisance" to be a something which effectually prevented their peaceful and quiet enjoyment of the good thing of this life through the avenues of the senses, as seeing - feeling - smelling and tasting, and a "Bad Reputation" can neither be seen - felt - smelt or tasted it can have no influence upon the enjoyment of this Community

Had the same acuteness of sense, been given us, as has been displayed by your Celestial petitioners - penetrating discernment in fathoming the essence and omnipotence of our Law - and the enlarged minds and enlightened understanding of your Honorable body - we might have ~~been able to solve~~ this knotty, and vexed question; yet by proceeding further, we may be able to find some light which will perhaps dispel some of the darkness, and gloom, which now seems to surround this dark subject

The petitioners further ~~do~~ declare that this "nuisance" will injure the respectable "Chinese population"! This

involves the very intricate point for the solution of your Committee, is "bad reputation" infectious, or in other words, is it catching? Now your Committee, with an limited knowledge, believe that it can neither be seen - tasted - handled or smelt - and that by these approaches all diseases of this character - (infectious) are engendered. Now is "Bad Reputation" a disease of a higher sublimated character, known only to those of Celestial origin - and have we sense of such attenuated ethereality as to have escaped the research of a <sup>an</sup> physiologist - which these Chinese know, and recognize?

But, upon the the investigation of this, your Committee have not ventured, as being without the pale of our duty, and beyond the reach of our requirements, but deeming it of great importance, your Committee beg its reference to the Committee upon "Health and Police" whose eminent chairman will no doubt take great pleasure in investigating, and repeating, the result of his labours to your honourable body. This ~~is~~ immense field, now open to survey, is worthy of his genius and thought; his past experience will aid him, and an honourable ambition prompt the efforts that will result in its solution.

This unexplored region

rich with Celestial Love, with the help of  
 the "respectable Chinese population" May  
 yield to the investigation of this Committee  
 treasure invaluable, come of those great  
 thoughts which made Confucius matchless  
 while living, and despised him when dead -

Results so great, will win a fame  
 commensurate with their importance and  
 crown the discoverer with an unfading laurel

But while <sup>we</sup> concede the glory of this  
 achievement to others, we shall reserve the  
 fame, and honor, of having pointed out  
 the way which others have successfully trod  
 to greatness!

Your Committee beg the indulgence  
 of your honorable body for the great length  
 of this Report, but the magnitude of the  
 subject, and the names of an ~~honorable~~  
 "respectable Chinese population" signed to the  
 petition, impelled us with the importance  
 of giving it a full & thorough examination  
 Among the names of those signed - discarding  
 the hieroglyphics which we do not understand  
 and adopting the free translation thereto -  
 appended, we find ~~the~~ the substantial  
 names of Ma Ching - S. M. Brock -  
 Mung Sing - Wm. Stator Ogden - Shuck  
 You - John K. Foster - Shun Ang

L. Ch. Chan - Hung Sing - Co.

Boston and others.

With all due deference

to the above named "Respectable Chinese - Residents" Your Committee are compelled to report, that we find nothing in the said petition of which your honorable body can take cognizance and that the prayer of the petitioners be denied.

All of which is respectfully submitted

~~in answer~~

W. Langyoke Chairman

J. B.

Your Committee would beg leave to report further, that the above mentioned Chinese women of "bad repute" have removed themselves from our city, but whether they have taken their "Bad Reputation" with them or not; your Committee cannot say, or whether the said "Bad Reputation" if left behind, will endanger the health, peace and quiet, of the respectable Chinese population (your petitioners) they have not been able to determine. This will be a matter for your Committee a "Health and Police" to investigate

~~in answer~~

W. Langyoke Chairman

Portland Sept 7<sup>th</sup> 1859

Langyoke

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