

## Moy You

### ( - 8 Jun 1900)

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*The Evening Star, June 11, 1900*

#### **Moy You's Resting Place Burial Yesterday Afternoon at Congressional Cemetery Chinese Custom Observed by His Countrymen-- Departed Spirit Provided With Food and Money**

All that was mortal of Moy You is at rest in Congressional Cemetery, his burial having taken place yesterday afternoon. In the grave was placed food enough to last Moy until the time comes for removal of his remains to China. Eighteen bodies of celestials now repose beneath the sod in the local cemetery.

Moy You had labored in this city for several years, although he had not saved much money. He had enough, however, to pay his living expenses even after he became ill of consumption. Fellow countrymen waited on him, and under their direction the doctor's directions were carried but to the very letter. But two days ago he breathed his last. Undertaker J. William Lee prepared the body for burial.

It was not until a few minutes before the procession started for the cemetery that the undertaker was directed to have the hearse and carriages on hand at 2 o'clock. Six carriages followed the hearse, and on the latter vehicle sat a Chinaman, a near relative of the deceased. He dropped on the street small slips of paper in which nine perforations had been made. These slips represented money and were thrown away in order that the evil spirits might be tempted and would lose sight of the departed spirit while gathering in the cash. Following behind the funeral procession were a number of small barefooted boys and they were the "demons" who collected the money. They followed the body to the grave and stood there to see the burning of the candies and sticks of incense, and afterward had a share of some Chinese candy that was passed around.

#### *The Food Supply*

Upon the arrival of the funeral party at the cemetery the casket was placed on the skids beside the open grave and there it rested while friends of the deceased prepared the spread, consisting of chicken that had been cooked in oil; some rice, tea, and a fancy cake. Two sets of china were spread on the ground and tea was poured into small cups. The Chinamen, in turn, picked up the cups of tea and motioned with them about the body, but did not touch the beverage. While this was being done the candies and incense were burning, and when the body had been lowered, the eatables, beverage and sets of china were placed on the cover of the box. Then began the work of filling the grave, and while this was being done, those who stood about the grave indulged in candy and distributed coins of small denomination wrapped in red paper.

#### *The Price of Ferriage*

It was explained that this part of the ceremony was done for the purpose of paying the way of the departed spirit across the river. A bunch of handsome white roses rested on the casket. On the card attached to the flowers was written: "For Mr. You." In a short time friends of the departed will visit the grave and leave eatables for the deceased.

It is expected that the bodies of the Chinamen in Congressional cemetery will be disinterred and taken to China this year.