

ARE HUMAN FIENDS.

CHINESE PRACTICE DEVILISH FORMS OF TORTURE.

Of All Peoples on Earth They Are the Most Cruel and Delight in Long-Drawn Out Punishment—Some of Their Systems.

Of all races on the face of the earth the Chinese are the most cruel, the most devoted to fearful torture of those in their power and the most adept in devising ever new forms of martyrdom for the objects of their hatred. In their almost simple cruelty they are lower than the animals. If they merely delighted in torturing, one might say it was a perversion. But they do not merely delight in it. They torture living creatures, from rats to man, as a simple matter of course, and the native victims accept it equally as a matter of course. There is something supremely terrible in the matter-of-fact, stolid way in which they subject a prisoner to demonic pain with as much readiness as a magistrate would sentence a man to spend ten days in jail.

To begin with, there is the whipping and scouring with bamboo rods. This is so common a method of "preparing" a victim for trial that it is hardly considered punishment, much less torture. Yet the bamboo is laid on hard enough to bring blood at each stroke, and, especially when it is applied to the soles of the feet, the victim often faints from pain and loss of blood combined. One hardly can enter a Chinese court of "justice" without witnessing a flogging.

The mildest punishment that is known to the simple and kindly official Chinese soul is the cage or cangue. Its principle is that of all Chinese punishments—slow torture. A Chinaman would take no artistic pleasure in anything that killed quickly or that reach-



HUNGHEAD DOWNWARD.

ed its culmination of pain quickly. His victim must suffer a little more, and a little more, and then a little more, each hour. In that way he makes his delight last long and can keep a whole string of wretches to charm him by their slow dying for months. If he killed them at once his fun would be over too soon.

The cangue, then, is formed to keep the agony of the penitent up for months, till madness or death end his sufferings. It is a delightfully simple thing—so simple that there is nothing at all terrifying about it at first sight. It merely is a large frame of wood, with a collar in the middle. It weighs about fifty pounds, and is so made that it can be locked around a man's neck.



TRIAL OF A CHINESE BOXER.

When it is so locked it rests directly on the muscles of the neck and on the bones of the shoulder, and it is so constructed that it cannot be shifted even a tenth of an inch, nor can the weight be relieved with the hands. In addition, the collar has a sharp rim underneath. At first the victim does not suffer much, except from inconvenience. He is turned loose as soon as the cangue is locked on him, and for an hour or two he waddles around in fair comfort. But gradually, as the sharp edge of the collar cuts deeply into the flesh of his neck, and all his muscles are drawn more and more tense, pain begins to conquer him, and in a week the torturers have the felicity of seeing a maddened wretch stumble and fall around blindly, weeping and yelling with anguish.

are used by the ling-chee executioners. Sometimes they are hundreds of years old and have records so long and bloody that a person with nerves might well shudder to touch them. The executioner does not shudder. He knows what depends on his delicacy of touch. Swiftly he swings the great weapon around his head till it whistles. Satisfied that it is ready for business, he approaches the victim slowly. First he faints at him and withdraws. Then he makes believe again. Suddenly the sword shoots in wickedly, and one of the victim's eyebrows is sliced off so neatly that it scarcely draws blood. Now begins wonderful work—wonderful and devilish. It may be that the condemned man has been the subject of great imperial mercy. In that case he may have been blessed beyond com-

HOW THE CHINESE TORTURE AND KILL.



Victim bound to a cross, while the executioner with a sharp sword slices off parts of his body. The torture sometimes lasts for a day before death ensues.

The bamboo furnishes favorite implements for Chinese legal torturers. Sharpened silvers of bamboo are used for countless purposes in countless ways. Indeed, if the reader will imagine just what he would hate most to have done to him with a bamboo silver, he will hit something that the Chinese are sure to do. The most simple and merciful deeds are to stick tiny silvers all over their victims and to leave them there to fester. Worse still is the cheerful practice of driving wedge-shaped pieces of bamboo under the finger or toe nails of accused persons. This is done slowly with a mallet.

How They Crucify.

Crucifixion is a common form of punishment, but usually it is only a mere accompaniment of other horrors. Of all punishments involving crucifixion, the one that delights the official Chinese heart the most is Ling-Chee. Ling-Chee is such a brilliant result of ingenious thought that the executioners rarely nail the man who is to suffer this form of punishment to the cross. They fear that the pain from that might interfere with his enjoyment of the real performance, which is nothing less than slicing him to death with diabolical skill. Therefore the man who is to suffer ling-chee generally is bound to the cross. Then there arrives the executioner. An executioner skillful at ling-chee is viewed with high respect in the empire, much as a successful bull-fighter is viewed in Spain. To bungle in ling-chee and to slice so much from the victim early in the game that he faints, or, worse still, dies before he has suffered all the slicing that has been decreed, would blacken the executioner's name forever, and might even make him the next subject for ling-chee.

The executioner is received with a little murmur of approbation, for his record is as well kept in mind as is the record of an athlete in America or England. He bows to the high dignitaries and then takes one of his swords from the sword-carrier who has followed him. They are wonderful swords that

pare by having his sentence commuted so that he is to be killed in only twenty slicings, whereas hardened offenders might have been sentenced to die only after seventy-five cuts or even more. If the victim is very lucky, the sword will beat him so swiftly that the eye scarcely can follow it. At each stroke some part of the poor bound body will fall to the ground. Now it may be a shoulder,



WEARING THE COLLAR.

now a piece of the breast, now an arm. Suddenly the last cut is made. It is straight at the heart, and the weapon cuts it out and ends the sufferings of the wretched man. But the spectacle is not ended. The executioner now has to dismember the corpse, and this he does with passes of the sword, each carefully studied and done according to regularly laid-out rules, till there is absolutely nothing left on the cross and only a pile of terrible fragments lies at its base.

Slow Torture.

When ling-chee is to be a long operation, and the victim is to die only after long torture, the slicing sometimes is done so slowly that half a day elapses before the condemned man dies. The executioner knows just what to cut without killing, and he goes to work as carefully as would a surgeon. Muscles and tendons and flesh are stripped from the body with the razor blade of the sword, until only a dreadful framework remains that still has awful life in it. And at this terrible spectacle the Chinese gaze stolidly, without an expression either of pleasure or loathing. Another ingenious torture that is much used is to suspend the condemned man with his head down in a pit. At the bottom are snakes, toads and all kinds of loathsome reptiles, which writhe within a few inches of the victim's face. Here he is left until the torture of the position, hunger, thirst and reptile bites kill him.

Dressmakers and Bad Fits.

The dressmakers are meeting with such disaster in their attempts to collect through the courts bills for dresses for which payment is withheld on the ground of a bad fit that there is talk of a dressmakers' trust or some sort of a protective association. The advocates of this movement say it is impossible for an ordinary man judge to tell whether a gown fits or not if the wearer wants to make it appear otherwise.

Models of Inventions.

R. C. Gill, superintendent of models in the patent office at Washington, has charge of about 400,000 models of United States inventions granted during a period of something over a hundred years.

The man who always speaks the truth is sure to have other virtues.

All is not gold that glitters. Sometimes it is a diamond.

THE BEST SELLING BOOK.

Not One that Is Mentioned in Monthly Literary Reports.

"Several of the literary magazines publish lists every month of the most popular books," said the representative of a large Northern publishing house who is in the city looking after the Southern trade. "These lists are compiled from data furnished by dealers and public librarians at different cities, and the volume that usually occupies first place is, of course, the novel that happens to be the fad of the day. As a matter of fact, however, none of them have ever printed the name of the book that is really most popular and actually the best seller, not alone for this month or last month but for every month of the year. That book is the Bible. It may surprise you to know," continued the speaker, "that the Bible is selling better to-day than at any time since it was first printed. Last year, from Jan. 1, 1899, to Jan. 1, 1900, the American Bible Society alone issued nearly a million and a half copies. The exact figures are 1,426,801. Of course the society is an immense concern, but there are several others in the United States and a number in England and Europe, all turning out nothing but Bibles. They publish them in every conceivable shape, from the beautiful Oxford editions in flexible covers at \$25 apiece down to the little cheap volumes in fine print that retail for a nickel. Nowadays a very good, serviceable Bible is sold for 50 cents. It has all the latest and best notes, several colored maps and a very useful index. The sale of that edition has been enormous and has run into the hundreds of thousands. The wars on both sides of the water have had a very marked effect in increasing the demand for Bibles. You can make a calculation of the total force in the field, both English and American, and then count on at least one Bible for each soldier. Some of the boys who went to the Philippines got upward of a dozen, and most of the soldiers' Bibles were handsome, substantial copies. I think, seriously, that the old stories of Bibles that have stopped bullets have influenced many a mother, sister or sweetheart in the selection of a good, thick volume in preference to one of the thinner and lighter editions. Yes, the Bible is decidedly 'the most popular book.' Its copyright for six months would make a man rich beyond the dreams of avarice."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Hands Were in His Pockets.

There was a garden party for a charitable object out in the suburbs one evening recently, and for the space of one long minute in the latter part of the evening I thought I was about to witness what they call on the stage a thrilling situation. I went to stroll in the grounds with a young girl who wanted to ask my advice about what she had already made up her mind, and we wandered where Japanese lanterns were few. She was telling me all about Charley—or, perhaps it was Dick—when suddenly in the dim light before us we saw the young man himself. His back was toward us, and he was walking somewhat closer than was entirely necessary to a girl in a light organdie frock. The gown looked almost white in the faint light, but about the waist of it was a wide band of something dark. The girl beside me stopped short and drew a deep breath.

"Oh!" she gasped. Just then the couple in front of us stepped into the bright light of a lantern. The wide black band was still about the girl's waist, but both Dick's hands were in his pockets. My companion drew another long breath.

"Oh!" she said again.—Washington Post.

Olla Peddler of Mexico.

This picture represents a native Mexican olla seller peddling his wares. The olla is a water cooler. It is made from



SELLING HIS WARES TO THE THIRSTY.

pottery, and the water remains cool a long time in this earthen vessel, which is in universal use in the households of Mexico and in many sections of the Southwest.

Matches.

One firm in Austria uses ten tons of phosphorus a year, and turns out over 25,000,000,000 matches. Another company, an English one, uses 100,000 pounds of sulphur, 100,000 feet of choice white pine timber and 150 tons of strawboard for boxes in the same time.

The most tireless followers of fortune are a man's creditors.

FIGURES FROM PHILIPPINES.

Interesting Facts Relative to Our New Possessions in the Far East.

Manila, with its \$40,000,000 trade, its 110,000 population and its position as the metropolis of Luzon, will require a larger force of officials. In this island alone there are 123 cities having a population of from 9,000 to 40,000 each, in addition to 185 cities having a population of less than 9,000 and more than 4,000 each. To administer the governmental affairs of this single island, with its 3,500,000 inhabitants, will require on a conservative estimate the services of 3,500 officials, at an annual cost of \$3,500,000. This assigns only one official to each 1,000 of population, which official must be a sort of composite postmaster, revenue collector, judge and clerk of all work, and he must be satisfied with an average salary of \$1,000 a year. In Mindanao, with its 610,000 population, there are only eight large and eighty-four small cities, but in Cebu there are twenty-four cities over 9,000 and sixty cities under that figure, with a total population in the island of 504,000. The island called Panay has 671,000 souls, with thirty-four cities over the 9,000 mark and sixty-one under that figure. These are not savage shacks, but centers of industry, of agriculture and of commerce, many of them with cathedrals, schools, palaces, telegraph and post offices. Between 9,000,000 and 10,000,000 people occupy the Philippines.

The market reports of Manila are interesting as showing the cost of sustaining life in the luxuriant tropics. The prices are quoted in Mexican silver, which is about half the value of American gold. Potatoes cost 5 cents a pound; onions 10 cents. Cabbages sell for 25 cents a head and pumpkins are worth 30 cents apiece. Fish is cheap, but, strange to say, fruit is high. Bananas sell for 25 cents a dozen and oranges for 35 cents a dozen, while one large Chinese orange costs 22 cents, and coconuts are worth 8 cents each. Some of the fish are unknown to our markets. There are the dorado, the dapa, the bocaduce and asasa, which will be news to Americans. The bocaduce is the most expensive fish on the list and sells for 40 cents each. It ought to be good, for its name translated means "mouthsweet." A first grade hen in the Manila market sells for \$1.10. The regulation of the markets in Manila seems to have been the object of several experiments since the American troops have occupied the city.

TOLD BY FOOTPRINTS.

Tell-Tale Shoes Worn by a Man in a Searching Party.

"The part played by footprints in the frightful tragedy near Biloxi reminds me," said a New Orleans railroad man, "of a most remarkable affair which happened a good many years ago in South Georgia. The keeper of a little store near the Florida line was murdered one night and the place set on fire. Several negroes were suspected and the whole countryside turned out to search for evidence. In the rear of the burned store was a marshy place, in which the footprints of the murderer were plainly discernible, showing that he had worn a pair of heavy brogans, the right heel of which seemed to have been split in a very peculiar manner directly across the middle.

"Among the searchers was a well-to-do young farmer, and as soon as he saw the footprints he was horrified to recognize the marks of his own shoes which he had on at that very moment. The split heel was the result of a chance blow with an ax while cutting wood, and the impression in the marshy soil was absolutely unmistakable. The crowd was worked up to a pitch bordering on frenzy, and, realizing his extremely critical position, the young man had presence enough of mind to make some excuse and slip away. He went straight home, put on another pair of shoes, hid the old ones and rejoined the party.

"Two or three days later the crime was traced by certain circumstantial evidence to a negro who worked on his farm. The fellow broke down and confessed and incidentally cleared up the mystery. On the night of the murder, according to his story, he had noticed the brogans on the porch of the farm house, and appropriated them, intending at the time to merely rob the store and fly the country. After killing the storekeeper he changed his plans and came home, thinking to divert suspicion by remaining quietly at work. Consequently he returned the shoes where he found them.

"After he had made this confession the farmer told his own story and produced the tell-tale footwear. Heaven only knows what might have happened had he been caught with them on his feet the first day of the search."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Trying to Restrict the Franchise.

A proposed franchise act in Manitoba prohibits voting by persons who are unable to read and write the English language. This provision is aimed at the newly arrived Galicians and Donk-hobars, who are disposed to retain their former language and customs, and who are said to be undesirable citizens in other particulars.