THE CODE OF HARA-KIRI

A WAY OF SATISFYING HONOR AMONG JAPANESE NOBILITY.

Men Who Deliberately Commit Suicide or Get Their Friends to Kill Them-A Sample Case-The New Code of Laws Against It, but It Is Still Practiced.

It is generally understood that hara kiri, or hara-wo-kiri, is the solemn practice of suicide among Japanese noblemen-a practice most deeply rooted in their ideas of honor and faithfulness

The hara-kiri was first practiced on the battlefield. If the defeated did not wish to fall alive into the hands of the enemy they thrust their swords into their mouths or their breasts or cut their own throats. Later the hara-kiri became an institution of honor. Who-ever knew his cause to be lost either executed himself with his sword or allowed his companions to do it for him. It often happened that when a feudal lord had performed his self execution his vassals followed his example to show their loyalty beyond the grave.

HIS MEMORY UNSTAINED. My mother, who was a Japanese of rank, often related to me a case of harakiri which took place not so many years ago in her own family. The nobleman, occupying a government office, had killed his bitterest enemy and was sentenced to the hara-kiri. If he had not belonged to the caste of warriors they would either have beheaded him or sentenced him to be nailed to the cross, which would have brought dishonor on his family, besides resulting in pecuniary disadvantages. The hara-kiri, however, attached no dishonor to him or his memory. The condemned man was committed to the surveillance of a nobleman in whose mansion the solemn self execution was to take place. Day and hour were appointed, and the witnesses elected by the government arrived. The condemned man had begged three of his friends to render him the last service and they con-

Subordinates called on the prisoner to tell him of the arrival of the witnesses. They brought him robes of hemp on a He donned them quickly and hurried to the reception room of the palace. where the sentence of death was read to him. The prisoner listened to it without moving a feature. Then he retired once more to his chamber to change his dress for the last time. Attired in white robes, he was led by a solemn procession to the room where the self execution was to take place. A large cotton cloth was spread on the mats. Over this a scarlet quilt was laid to prevent the blood from oozing through the mats. It was already dark and a candelabrum, giving a faint light, was placed in each corner. Behind two white screens a pail, a wash basin, a censor, a tray and a short sword lay hidden. According to prevailing rules, the persons present stepped into the semidark room and took their places.

Then the duties of the three assistants of the prisoner began. The first brought him the sword on a short legged table, the hilt being wrapped in paper. The prisoner received the weapon with reverence, lifting it with both hands to his forehead to express his esteem. Then he laid it back on the table and bowed to all present. He let his upper garments fall down to the belt, and stuffed them firmly under his knees to prevent him from falling backward, which is looked on as a disgrace. Then, while with a firm hand he seized the sword, and with a quick movement cut up his stomach, the second assistant, who stood on his left side, with one fierce blow severed the head from the trunk. After rendering his friend this terrible service he retired behind the screens, drew some white paper from his belt and wiped the weapon. The third assistant then grasped the head by the tuft of hair and presented it to the principal government witness to show that justice had been fully satisfied. This was followed by deep silence. All present retired quietly. On the floor tay the body of the nobleman. Four servants appeared and car-ried away the body and cleaned the

The memory of the nobleman remained unstained. He had remained loyal to his rank in death.

NOT FOR THE SHOGUN. In 1869 a private secretary to the privy council proposed the abolition of the hara-kiri. Two-thirds of the deputies were against the proposition, and in the es held on that occasion they praised the institution as indispensable to preserve the honor of the aristocracy. and as a spur to morality and religion. The man who advanced the proposition was, as was expected, murdered not long

Of course all Japanese do not share the opinion of those deputies. In the last change of government when the shogun, completely defeated, had no other alternative than to flee to Yeddo, one of his councilors advised him to have recourse to the hari-kiri as the last means of saving his honor and that of his family. The shogun ridiculed the advice and left the room in a rage. The faithful councilor retired to another part of the palace and disem-bowled himself in proof of his earnestness. The shogun is still living and enloys a fat income.

So much about the essential characteristics of the hari-kiri. The changes which this old national custom has undergone cause the particulars concerning it to be somewhat contradictory. By the introduction of a new code of laws, the hari-kiri has been abolished and only noblemen, who still believe in the traditional code of honor of their ancestors. select it as a mode of death.-C Badakichi Hartmann in New York Sun

What They Did. Papa-Have the men been here today

my boy? Johnni Oh, yes. The painters cam and painted, the tinners tinned and the

Papa—Well?
Johnnie — They carped. — Pittaburg

Made Him Ridiculous

A good story of General Sheridan was told me the other day by a Mexican gentleman, an intimate friend of the great northern soldier in his lifetime. One day, calling on the commander of the army at his office in Washington, he found him at his desk, his feet incased in slippers and his shoes democratically placed on top of the desk. While the general was apparently absorbed in some writing, the Mexican gentleman, who thought some servant had left the warrior's shoes in the wrong place, took his cane and gently deposited the shoes on

The next day the Mexican gentleman called again on Sheridan and found him at his desk, shoes on top as before. The polite resident of the tropics began once more removing the shoes to the floor when all at once Sheridan roared out:

"Don't you do that again, sir! You make me ridiculous, sir!"

"I beg your pardon, general, but how have I made you ridiculous?" "Why, sir," said Sheridan, still annoyed, "yesterday, sir, I went out to walk after you had called on me. I was nearing the White House when I noticed a gentleman looking at me intently. Soon he addressed me, saying, 'Excuse me, general, but aren't you afraid of catching cold? 'Why, sir, no, not that I know of: what's the matter, sir? Well, said the gentleman, 'it is very damp and you are going about in your slippers! I tell you, sir." said Sheridan, addressing his Mexican friend, "you made me ridiculous. It is my habit, sir, to put my shoes on my desk where I cannot fail to see them, so I may not forget to put them on, and, confound it, sir, you come around here with your notions of propriety and send me around town

Butterflies That Bathe.

in my slippers, sir!"-Boston Herald.

It is commonly thought that a butterfly dreads the water as a fine lady dreads rain, but evidently this is not true in Australia. The case of an Australian butterfly deliberately entering the water to take a bath is recorded by M. G. Lyell, Jr. He saw it alight close to the water, into which it backed until the whole of the body and the lower part of the hind legs were submerged, the two fore legs alone retaining their hold on the dry land. After remaining in this position for something like half a minute it flew away a mrently refreshed.

Mr. Lyell says: "During the morning

noticed a number doing the same thing. In one instance no less than four were to be seen within a space of not more than three yards, and, to make sure that I was not deceived, I captured several as they rose from the water, and found in each case the body and lower go out.-Albany Argus. edge of the hind wings quite wet. While in the water the fluttering of the wings, so noticeable at other times, was suspended, and so intent were the butterflies in the enjoyment of the cold bath that they could hardly move, even when actually touched by the net.

drove them down to the water, as immediately upon emerging they flew up again to the hillside. Butterflies are often seen apparently sucking in the moisture around the edge of the pools; but they have never before been seen actually to enter the water."-Victoria Naturalist.

Buried in Luces.

Lace headdresses, or what were called heads of lace, were very fashionable in England in the reigns of Mary and Anne, and the ladies of the court sometimes paid very large sums for a fine head of French or Flemish lace, but the extravagance in this fragile article of inxury was never carried to the same ruinous extent as in France. It was, however, profusely worn during what may be called the lace epoch, and was even coveted as an article of adornment after death.

Mrs. Oldfield, the celebrated actress, left instructions that she should be laid in her coffin arrayed in a very fine headdress of Brussels lace, in a shroud of Holland linen with lace tucker and ruf- fashionables shows an entire discarding fles and a pair of kid gloves. Yards of the costliest point d'Angleterre and Mechlin laces were wrapped around the corpse of the beautiful Aurora von Konigsmarck before she was laid in her grave at Quedlinburg, and many of the mummies found in the catacombs of the Capuchin convent at Palermo are swathed in the same costly funeral engraved on the bit of metal, while letrobes. - Chambers' Journal.

An Abnormal Appetite.

A native of Wittenberg on one occasion, after eating a sheep and a sucking pig, ate by way of dessert sixty pounds of prunes without taking out the stones. On another occasion this same individual devoured two bushels of cherries. several earthen vessels, chips from a furnace, pieces of glass, some beetles, a shepherd's bagpipe, rats, birds with their feathers on, and a number of caterpillars, finishing up by swallowing a pewter inkstand, with its pens, paper knife and sand box. We are informed that when these luxuries were partaken of he was generally under the influence of brandy, but that he appeared to relish his singular food, and was a man of extraordinary strength. He died in his eighty-first year.—London Tit-Bits.

The Two Meridiaus. The Geographical congress held in Switzerland recommended the universal adoption of the metric system and also the Greenwich meridian for the reckoning of longitude and time. It is doubtful if this will be dene, however, by all nations, for, although a standard in both cases would be beneficial to the world at large, France naturally desires Paris time, and England would never surrender her prime meridian and adopt a revolution in her system of measurements unless the new measure was examined and based upon intrinsic merit. -New York Times.

"What I like about Charlie," said Ethel, "is his kindness to animals. Why, iast week when he took me to the me-nagerie he gave a whole peanut to one of the elephants."—New York Epoch. NO WELCOME THERE.

Why Don't People Arrange to Have a Special Courting Room? Have you ever been in a house where there is a couple courting? It is most trying. You think you will go and sit in the drawing room, and you march off there. As you open the door you hear a noise, as if somebody had suddenly recollected something, and when you get in Emily is over by the window, full of interest in the opposite side of the road, and your friend, John Edward, is at the other end of the room, with his whole soul held in thrall by photographs of

other people's relatives.

"Oh," you say, pausing at the door, "I didn't know anybody was here."

"Oh, didn't you?" says Emily coldly, in a tone which implies that she does not

You hang about for a bit; then you

say: "It's very dark. Why don't you light the gas?

John Edward says: "Oh, I hadn't noticed it," and Emily says that papa does not like the gas lit in the afternoon. You tell them one or two items of news and give them your views and opinions on any current question; but it does not appear to interest them. All they remark on any subject is, "Oh!"
"Is it?" "Did he?" "Yes," and "You
don't say so." And after ten minutes of such a style of conversation you edge up to the door and slip out, and are surprised to find that the door immediately closes behind you and shuts itself without you having touched it.

Half an hour later you think you will try a cigar on the piazza. The only chair in the place is occupied by Emily, and John Edward, if the language of clothes can be relied on, has evidently been sit-ting on the floor. They do not speak. but give you a look that says all that can be said in a civilized community, and you back out promptly and shut the door behind you.

You are afraid to poke your nose into any room in the house now, so after walking up and down stairs for awhile you go and sit in your own bedroom. This becomes uninteresting, however, after a time, and so you put on your hat and stroll out into the garden. You walk down the path, and as you pass by the summer house you glance in, and there are those two young lovers huddled together in one corner of it, and they see you and are evidently under the idea that for some wicked purpose of your S. B. Medicine Co., own you are following them about.

Why don't they have a special room for this sort of thing and make people keep to it?" you mutter, and you rush back to the hall, get your umbrella and

The legal profession of the present day will be surprised to learn that Mr. Webster, the greatest American lawyer of his time, made but \$15,000 a year by his practice. But the fees of counsel be-"Apparently the heat of the weather tween 1840 and 1850 were not what they have been since.

In 1848 I accompanied a client to Mr. Webster's office in Boston and asked him to name a retaining fee in an important patent case. He said he thought a couple of hundred dollars would do. When the case was tried his fee was only \$1,000. On another occasion I paid him a retaining fee of \$2,000 for the proprietors of the Goodyear india rubber pat-

His fee for artining the great equity cause of Goodyear versus Day in the circuit court of the United States for the district of New Jersey, by which he established the validity of the Goodyear patent, was \$5,000. This was in the spring of 1852, and was the last case he ever argued.

His professional income from 1818 to 1823, during which period he was out of congress, averaged, 1 think, \$20,000 a year.-Cor. New York Sun.

The Monogram Must Go.

A momentary fancy prevailing among of the long cherished monogram. No longer do artistically entwined initials 175 Second St. decorate cardcases, portemonnaies, etc. Form 'dictates that whether for change purse, memorandum book or satchel, an antique silver coin shall be sunk in the leather on the upper corner of the article. The crest of the owner is boldly tered like a motto the name runs around it in quaint characters. Smart folks, scrupulously observant of fashion's vagaries, also confine their selections of note paper to mauve gray and very soft blue, the colors being invariably embossed with silver. Shaded colors are a novelty, but conservative and possibly the best style women still hold to ivory toned paper and silver lettering as preferable to fancy shades.-St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

How Some Indians Paint.

All our North American Indians paint, and the patterns vary with the individual, with the family and with the occa sion. From notes made upon Sacs and Foxes painted for the dance we will give but one or two cases. One man's face was painted black, except around the eyes and mouth, which were scarlet. Upon his forehead was a neat checkered pattern of yellow on the black background. Another's face was divided by a vertical line in two parts—one of which was a bright yellow, the other an equally bright green.-Popular Science

Prolonging the Tomato Season.

The fact that the tomato will ripen fairly after plucking enables the southern grower to market his crop in the far north It also allows us here to prolong the season of the natives. Well grown but green fruit, picked before frost into shallow baskets or boxes, and kept in a a dark, dry room, ripens gradually for the table and may thus be eaten often until November or later. - Boston Tran-

The fragrant kernels of Pronus mabaleb strung as necklaces are much val-ned by the women of Sind and other parts of India.

A favorite method with silk manufacturers of imparting a pale straw color to pieces of silk is to steep them in a very weak solution of hydrochloric (muristic) acid. This cannot be practiced with success by the housewife, as the process is a somewhat delicate one.—New York

The big Cinereous owl of the far north is the biggest of all our owl tribe. In contrast is the little Pigmy owl of the west, which is hardly larger than a big sparrow. So small is it that it is a marvel that it ever dares to stick its talons into a mouse, for fear of being run

Women.

sches, indigestion and nervous troubles. arise largely from stomach disorders. As Joy's Vegerable farsaparilla is the only bowel reguling preparation, you can see why it is more effective than any other Sarsaparilla in those troubles. It is daily relieving hundreds. The action is mild, direct and effective. We have scores of letters from grateful women.

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Nervous debility, Miss R. Rosenblum, 232 17th Stomach troubles, Mrs. R. L. Wheaton, 704 Post St., S. F.

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purpose. The effect is two-fold. It not only makes the tea a bright, shiny green, but also permits the use of "off-color" and worthless teas, which, once under the green cloak, are readily worked off as a good quality of tea.

An eminent authority writes on this sub-

ject: "The manipulation of poor teas, to give them a finer appearance, is carried on exten sively. Green teas, being in this country especially popular, are produced to meet the demand by coloring cheaper black kinds by glazing or facing with Prussian blue, tumeric, gypsum, and indigo. This method is so general that very little genuine uncolored green tea

is offered for sale.".
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tween the artificial green tea that you have been accustomed to and the black teas. It draws a delightful canary color, and is so rant that it will be a revelation to teadrinkers. Its purity makes it also more economical than the artificial teas, for less of it is required per cup. Sold only in pound packages bearing this trade-mark:



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