

among Burgundians to smother unfaithful wives in mud. If that were the punishment now in civilized countries for that offense on the part of both women and men, the mud marshes would be pretty well filled.

Hari-kari is the Japanese mode of punishment. Practically it is the insistence of the government that a man who has proven himself unfit to live shall end his life. It is regarded as showing a sense of honor that the culprit will slay himself; and sometimes the high born Japanese will commit hari-kari if he has been insulted in some manner which makes it impossible to avenge himself or clear his house of the stain put upon it.

The guillotine—which, with hanging, shooting and garroting constitute the chief methods of execution in the civilized nations of today—dates back but a little over a century, and was invented by a Dr. Guillotin, though Louis XVI often gets the credit of it, as he made it the official weapon of execution, and in turn lost his head on it. Shooting is regarded as the military punishment—an indication that war methods are sometimes less barbarous than those adopted against offenders in times of peace.

In America, as late as 1712, four men were burned in New York for murder; and burning at the stake was resorted to several times in New England in colonial days. It was regarded as a fitting death for heretics—a heretic being a person who does not agree with the religious views of such organizations as would forfeit life for opinion's sake. Burning at the stake was not so cruel a death as some that might be named, yet it was sufficiently cruel to horrify an ordinarily humane person. Here is an account from English history of the burning of Ellen Elsom, who was convicted of killing her husband: "She was clothed in a cloth made like 'a shift' saturated with tar, and her limbs were also smeared with the same inflammable substance, while a tarred bonnet had been placed on her head. She was brought out of the prison barefooted, and, being placed on a hurdle, was drawn on a sledge to the place of execution near the gallows. Upon arrival some time was passed in prayer, after which the executioner placed her on a tar barrel a height of three feet against the stake. A rope ran through a ring in the stake, and was placed around her neck, she herself fixing it with her hands." She was probably dead when the fire reached her, as the executioner had pulled her up several times when the irons were being fixed. He exhibited about the same eagerness to wreak vengeance that is shown in a modern lynching party.

The Persian and Roman habit of throwing to wild beasts decayed because it was shocking to the masses and was also expensive. After a time it afforded no pleasure to the barbarians who witnessed it, any more than did the proceedings of the New England barbarians who inflicted punishments that caused intense suffering but were of such a nature that, being an offense against decency, they cannot be well written of, and are an indication of superlative degradation in those who instituted and perpetuated them.

In the middle ages parboiling was a favorite method of execution. The expenses attendant on the boiling to death of Friar Stone, at Canterbury,

England, in 1539 are listed as follows: Timber for gallows 2s. 6d.; carpenter and dray 1s. 4d.; laborer setting up gallows 1s. 3d.; load of wood and horse to draw the prisoner to a dungeon 2s. 3d.; two men that sat at the kettle and parboiled him 1s.; three men that carried his quarters to the gates and set them up, 1s.; halters, cord, screws, etc., 1s.; for woman that scoured the kettle 2d.; to him that did the execution 3s. 8d.; total 14s. 8d. In some cases the victim was fastened by a chain and let down in boiling water till he was dead.

The latest method adopted for executions is by electricity, the first criminal undergoing the punishment being William Kemmler, June 26, 1890. He murdered his wife in a most diabolical manner. The officials attempted to keep from the public the details of this official killing, but in vain. Kemmler was fastened in a chair and the electric current turned on. The sizzling of the burning flesh, the struggles of the victim, the sickening stench which came from the roasting body, made it a horrible scene which it were not well to paint for tender stomachs or humane bosoms.

There are many who argue against capital punishment, urging as one objection the barbarity of the executions. This reason seems to be as good against electrocution as against hanging, and certainly in the cause of humanity both of those methods should give way before the military plan of shooting, which, were death is to be the penalty, inflicts it with as much dispatch and with less unpleasant accompaniments than any other plan. But in reading of the execution of criminals, how a sympathetic person must long for the time when the death penalty shall be done away because there shall be none who will hurt each other or make afraid.

GRÆME.

CRIME IN COREA.

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those who have rebelled against the king, should the Chinese become victorious and his majesty's corrupt officials be allowed to carry out the laws which now exist. I have told you how the body of the dead rebel, Kim Ok Kiun, was brought to Corea, how it was cut into six pieces, and how the bloody head, the hands, the feet and the trunk were carried over the country and hung above the gates of the cities as a warning to rebels. Not only this man himself was killed, but his whole family and all of his relatives have been terrible punished. His father did all he could to prevent his boy from rising against the king ten years ago, and after his rebellion he went into retirement. He was old and blind, but after Kim's death he was dragged out and his head was cut off. The men of the family even of the third and fourth generation were executed, and the women, including Kim's seventeen-year-old daughter, were given over to be the slaves or concubines of the officials.

After this rebellion, the mothers, the wives and the daughters of all who have taken up arms against the king will become the common property of the government and of the magistrates of the provinces in which they live. They will be dragged from their homes to be concubines and slaves. As their beauty wanes, they will be handed from one high official to a lower until they descend to the bottom dregs of the government service. They will have no rights that anybody will be bound to respect, and their only chance of happiness will be in death.

AT THE EXECUTION GROUNDS.

I went out, one morning during my stay in Seoul, with a Korean noble to the execution grounds. They are situated just outside of the west gate of the city, at a point where the main roads crossing Corea from the north to the south meet, and at a spot which is considered the most public place in the whole hermit kingdom. There is quite a city surrounding it, though it is outside of the walls of the capital, and a big business is done by the shopkeepers with the travelers who cross it on their way through the country. This west gate is the lowest and least honorable of any of the entrances to the Korean capital. It is through this that all the coffins are carried out of the city for burial, and it is by this way that criminals must go on their way to execution. The Korean who went with me was well versed in the laws of the country, and he showed me just how traitors are executed. They are brought from the prisons in rude carts drawn by bullocks, and their last days are filled with the refinements of torture. The carts have no springs, and the streets through which they are carried is so full of stones that it compares with the corduroy roads of the Black swamps of Ohio. The criminal is not allowed to stand or sit in the cart. He is tied to a cross which is built up just over the wheels and nailed to the cart. This cross is so high that when his arms are stretched out and tied his toes are still six inches from the bed of the cart. A block is then put beneath them, and this block is so short that the tips of the toes barely touch it. The road grows rougher as it nears the west gate, and from thence to the execution ground it is filled with ruts and great rocks. At the west gate the block is knocked out from under the toes of the prisoner, and he hangs by his arms and his neck. The bullock is then whipped by the driver, and the cart bounces up and down over the rocky way to the execution grounds. Here the criminal is taken down from the cross. He is stripped of his clothes and laid upon his back in the dust of the road. The executioner is always a murderer, and his weapon is a sword, which is so blunt that it mashes rather than cuts the head from the shoulders. There is one sword which has been used for years for this purpose. It is said, indeed, to be five hundred years old, and it has hashed up thousands of necks. The worst of the rebels are cut into six parts, as was Kim Ok Kiun. Men of less prominence and of less serious offenses are simply decapitated. But the bodies of all must lie out in the sun for three days before they can be carried away.

HOW THIEVES ARE TREATED.

All sorts of crimes are terribly pun-