

getting Kim to leave Japan, and it was only through persuading him that he had the money by which he could organize another revolution in Korea that he got him to go. Kim thought that if he had ten thousand dollars he could get enough Japanese troops to go with to Korea to conquer the country. He knew that the Korean soldiers were of no good and realized that the people were on the verge of rebellion. Hong pretended that he had the money in a French bank at Shanghai, and he showed Kim a forged check upon this bank for five thousand dollars. He told Kim that there were many Russians in Shanghai, and that during his stay in France he had learned many things about the schemes of Russia. He said that the Russians were building the Trans-Siberian Railroad in order to take Korea first and afterward China. He said that they were looking about for a good strong Korean general to help them, and that by meeting the Russians at Shanghai, Kim could in all probability have the command of their forces. In this and other ways he at last persuaded him to leave Japan. He acted so that Kim had full faith in him, going so far as to even present him with a sword cane, and telling him he must have this always with him, so that he could use it if attacked by any Koreans at Shanghai. On the trip Hong paid all the bills and he furnished Kim with money for his expenses at Shanghai. The two had rooms at one of the good hotels, and it was in Kim's own room that Hong shot him. Kim was lying down in his chair reading and Hong walking up and down the room pretending that he was much interested in a book. During the walk he got behind Kim's chair and then pulled a revolver and shot him again and again, killing him at the third or fourth shot. You have all read how the Chinese authorities protected him, and how by Li Hung Chang's order both he and the dead remains of Kim were taken to Korea. All this was barbarous enough, but perhaps the most barbarous of all remains to be told.

I refer to the treatment of Kim Ok Kiun's body. It was landed in Korea shortly before I reached here, and I sailed up the Han river the other day past the spot upon which he was mutilated. The body was taken by the Chinese vessel of war to a port near Chemulpo, and it was brought up this river by a deputation from the king. There is a point about three miles from Seoul, where Kim crossed this stream during his flight from the country after his rebellion. In a hut beside this place the body was left over night. The next day it was taken from its coffin, stripped of its clothes, and laid face downward upon the ground. Then a murderer—murderers always perform the part of executioners in Korea—cut the corpse into six pieces with a blunt sword.

"An eye witness has told me how it was done," said he.

First the head was chopped off, then the left hand was cut off at the wrist, next the right hand at the wrist, and then the left and right feet. The hair was unloosened from the top knot, which ornaments every Korean crown, and the head was tied by the hair with the feet and hands to the crossings of three poles, which were propped against each other like those of a tent. The

bloody trunk was left lying on the ground below these. Then upon the coffin, which stood near by, and upon the poles, were fastened strips of paper, bearing in large Korean characters the crime of Kim and a denunciation of his deed. For three days the remains were left in this condition, and the Japanese photographer of Seoul took a picture of them, which lies before me, and I have had a sketch made by my Korean artist from the photograph. At the end of the three days the remains were taken down, and they are now well on their way through all parts of Korea. They are carried by the king's royal couriers and six of these men have each a piece which they are bearing to and from the governors of the six leading provinces of the country. Each governor will receive his portion of the dead body with fitting ceremonies, and for three days it will be hung over the main gate of his capital city as a warning to traitors. After this time it will be taken down and will be given back to the courier, who will carry it to the mountain of Cho Pi San. This mountain is about sixty miles from Seoul. Here the different couriers will meet some weeks from now and deposit the remains, which time, decay and the birds have left of the body. They will throw it on the spot, which is considered the most disgraceful of this dishonorable mountain. It is, I am told, the only mountain in Korea which does not point its head toward Seoul, and this lack of consideration for the majesty of the king probably causes it to be the place upon which the remains of all executed rebels are thrown.

One of the most curious things I have heard in connection with Kim Ok Kiun's execution, and one which gives a good insight into Korean character and the condition of the country, was in relation to the couriers who are carrying about this dead human flesh. A prominent Korean said to me yesterday: "These couriers will earn a great deal of money by carrying Kim's body from place to place."

"How so?" said I. "I suppose the king pays them well."

"No," was the reply. "They don't get it from the king. The king will know nothing about it, but they will earn it on the road. Each courier is, you know, on the king's business, and according to law, it would be almost death to retard him. The couriers will travel very slowly and they will levy a tax on every man they meet. Take, for instance, the man who is carrying the bloody and now half-decomposed head. He has to take it to one of the southern provinces, and he could go there in ten days. It will probably take him a month, and he will earn money all the way. Suppose he comes to the door of a rich man's house. He will stop there knock on the door, and tell the rich man that he is tired, and that he would like to rest in the neighborhood for a day or so. He will lay the bloody head down on the man's parlor floor, and will order him to keep it for him until he is ready to go. The man will not dare to strike him, for he is the king's courier. He will cry, 'Oh, take it away! Take it away!' and he will earn much money from that man. A little further on he may meet a peddler with a pack on his back. He will ask the peddler to carry the head for him, and the peddler will

be glad to pay to get free. You know one of the best businesses in this country is in salt. There are salt merchants in all the villages. The salt is kept in big bags, and as it pays taxes, it is very high. When the courier comes to a town he will enter such a store, perhaps, and say to the merchant, "I find this head is not keeping well, and I will leave it here for a day to preserve it." He will thereupon thrust it well down into one of the merchant's salt bags, and he has to earn a good deal of money if he takes it away. He thus goes on earning money from every man he meets, and he will do better on the return trip than at the outset. The more decayed the head gets, the more he will earn, and at the end of the journey he will have a fortune."

I give this man's conversation in nearly his own words. Such blackmailing seemed to him perfectly legitimate, and it is through blackmailing schemes that a large part of the money of Korea is earned."

*Frank G. Carpenter*

#### GOLD AND SILVER FOR 1893.

The official report of the director of the mint to Secretary Carlisle, for 1893, is now out, and gives some interesting figures on the gold and silver production of the country. The total product of gold in the United States for 1893 is \$35,955,000, as against \$33,014,981 in 1892, and larger than any year since 1880. The gain of 1893 over the previous year is \$2,940,019. California heads the list of gold producers with a credit of \$12,080,000, which is \$80,000 more than 1892. Colorado comes next with \$7,527,000, as compared with \$5,300,000 the preceding year. This is a gain of \$2,227,000 over 1892—by far the largest increases shown by any state. The increase then go on in the following order: Montana \$684,614, South Dakota \$306,400, Oregon \$245,300, and Utah \$193,425—thus placing this Territory sixth on the list of those who have augmented their gold production during the past year. Next comes Arizona with an increase of \$114,200, then Alaska, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee, with a combined excess over 1892 of \$97,865. Among the places which show a decrease in the gold mined are Nevada with loss of \$613,000, Idaho \$74,464, New Mexico \$36,900 and Michigan, New Mexico and North Carolina, which raise the aggregate decrease to \$928,785.

In 1892, silver in the United States reached the highest record of production ever known, the total figuring up to 63,500,000 fine ounces. In 1893 there was a decrease of 3,500,000 ounces, the total product being 60,000,000 ounces. Nine states and territories show a decrease, and nine an increase. The aggregate decrease is 5,909,800 ounces, and the increase 2,409,800 ounces. The heaviest decrease is in Montana, which reported 2,132,400 ounces less than in Montana. Nevada falls back 893,200, Colorado 793,700, New Mexico 718,800, and Utah 294,500 ounces.

Crops about Espanola in Northern New Mexico are said to be very promising.