

Justice in China.

Our Correspondent Spends a Day With Judge Wang and Photographs Some Chinese Tortures.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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Shanghai September 12, 1900.—This was the first time that the courts of a foreign country have been allowed to try a case in which Chinese law is the basis of the judgment. The American judge is the special general, although he is usually represented by the interpreter of the legation. The native judge is a mandarin of the seventh order named Wang. The law and punishments used for cases in which Chinese law is the basis are practically Chinese, the Chinese judge being allowed to have his own way except where Europeans are interested.

ROBBERING WITH A CHINESE JUDGE.
I visited this mixed court the other day. General Goodnow went with me and introduced me to Man-

in court, and this was impossible. It took four men to give the two hundred blows, each man bringing down the bamboo fifty times on the bare thigh of the victim. The bamboo was a strip of cane about two inches wide and five feet in length. It was as thin as a sole leather, but so springy that it seemed to fly back upon touching the flesh. The executioners held it in both hands, bringing it down with a noise like a pistol crack upon one single spot on the man's thigh. They never left this spot, hitting it exactly again and again until they counted the strokes aloud. In the first ten strokes there was no change of color, although the man howled and groaned. After the twenty-fifth the flesh was red, and at the end of the second fifty it had turned black. When one hundred and twenty-five were reached it was bleeding slightly, the black line having extended out to a ring about the size of your palm. At the end the flesh to the depth of an inch was a jelly.

CRIMINALS MUST CONFESS.
By Chinese law no criminal can be punished until he has confessed his guilt. This causes all sorts of tortures, with the Chinese courts of the present. I once saw an alleged pirate brought in to the native court at Amoy. The man protested his innocence. He had been so tortured that he was not able to walk

in token of confession and the officials stop off. They loosen his hands and drop in a heap on the floor. They then smear a little ink over each of his palms and press them flat downward upon a sheet of paper. One day I saw a man from Chinese has been printed. These form his signature to the confession. If he should equivocate he could be detected by means of the ink. The confession was sent to the viceroy and his head he cut off a day or so later.

ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN.

Women are not favored by Chinese judges. In a court here I heard a number of severe sentences pronounced, and at Canton one woman was punished especially for women. It is made of two pieces of leather, each as thick as a harness rug, but a little wider. They are fastened to a handle in the middle. The clapper is not more than a foot long, but it is as deadly as though it were iron. It is used for pounding the cheeks and knocking out the teeth. The Canton woman was suspected of smuggling opium, but claimed to be innocent. The punishment was given to induce confession. Dr. John H. Hykes, the head of the American Bible society, once saw a female thief treated to fifty strokes on the mouth with the clapper. He described the punishment to me. Said he: "One policeman held the woman's head back against his knees while the other struck her across the mouth with the clapper. Her lips bled at the first blow. After the fifth they began to swell, and at the end they were as thick as your three fingers. "Did she scream?" I asked. "Of course she did," replied Dr. Hykes. "Well, after that," Dr. Hykes went on, "we saw a man get 500 blows with the bamboo. This punishment was terrible, for the man's flesh was worn from his thighs, so that he could not walk. He died in the middle of July, when the heat was intense. Three days after that I learned they were dead."

STARVED TO DEATH IN CAGES.

In a further chat with Dr. Hykes he described a terrible punishment which he witnessed in Kukiang a few years ago. Said he: "I was riding on horseback upon the walls of the city, when I saw a crowd on the street below me. I stopped and some of the men asked me to come down and see the fun. I did so and found the crowd was gathered about two wooden cages, each of which held a man, bare-headed, bare-footed and disfigured with beatings. Their heads were upheld by shelves into which their necks fitted, so that their whole weight rested upon the toes. The shelves were fastened near the top of the cages, so that when they attempted to rest their toes they hung by their necks. The men had been sentenced to death in the cage for robbery and outrage. Pasted on the outside were placards which warned all persons not to give them food or drink. The heat in the middle of July, when the heat was intense. Three days after that I learned they were dead."

THE GROWING BAMBOO.

"The ordinary punishment of the bamboo is very severe," continued Dr. Hykes, "and when more than 200 blows are given, some men really die. There is considerable science in giving the strokes, and the policeman can make them heavy or light, as he pleases. In many cases the prisoners bribe the policeman to let them off easy, and the rule is that only the man who has no money who receives the full sentence. "Speaking of the bamboo, I have heard of a punishment in which the living plant is made the executioner. I have never seen this punishment, but I am told that it is not permitted by the laws of the land. The bamboo grows very fast. It jumps upward several inches in a night, and its stalk has a sharp point which will force its way through anything. In this bamboo punishment the criminal is fastened to stakes over one of these sprouts, and the plant grows slowly through him, causing his death."

BURIED ALIVE.

"While I was living at Kukiang," said Dr. Hykes, "a young man in one of the villages near by was buried alive as a punishment for murder. The criminal was noted for his violent temper and general worthlessness. Among his other faults was the lack of filial piety, which is one of the greatest of sins in China. He quarreled with his father, and he usually failed to give him a present of a mess of pork on the 15th of every month, as is the custom with good sons. His own relatives took him to task for this neglect. The son became angry and killed his father with a hoe. "The murder caused great excitement, for partridge is here considered the most terrible of crimes. If a man kills a parent, not only himself, but all his neighbors and relatives are punished. The partridge is tied upon a cross and slowly sliced to death. The officials of the province are degraded, and the crime is an injury to the district for years to come. When the above murder occurred the leading men of the community hushed it up and asked the family to perform the punishment. There was a meeting of the murderer's clan, and the result was a sentence that he be buried alive. His own relatives dug the grave, and his mother threw the dirt into the hole upon him and tramped it down with her feet."

PUNISHMENTS FOR PARRICIDES.

No one but those who have studied the Chinese can realize the horror with which they look upon parricides and matricides. Nothing will excuse the killing of father or mother by the child. In the Peking Gazette I find numerous instances of lunatics who have killed their parents and been sliced to death. In this slicing not only is the flesh cut away bit by bit, but the victim is, to a large extent, skinned alive. One of the first cuts is across the middle of the forehead, after which the executioner takes the skin and rips it off. Next the cheeks are torn off, then the arms, breast, thighs and calves, all cut by cut, the skin being torn away until the man is dead. Accidents are no excuse for such killing. It was only two years ago that a boy of eight living in a little town about twenty miles from Shanghai was playing with a stool. He was leaning it up in the air when his mother ran out of the hut, and it accidentally fell upon her head and killed her. According to the law the oldest age at which the punishment of slicing to death can be inflicted is sixteen. You would think they would have let the boy free. They did not. He was put at once in prison and will be kept there until he reaches sixteen, when the punishment will be inflicted. He has six years more to wait.

"A MISFIT"

I have never seen a Chinese execu-

tion, and I do not envy any one of the slight. The brutality of the execution is beyond conception. A missionary told me how he recently saw the heads of five robbers cut off.

"There were two executioners," said he, "one an expert, the other an amateur. The sword of the expert went through the human necks as though

through cheese, but the amateur bungled his work. The robbers were placed on their knees with their heads outstretched. As the sword cut through the necks the heads fell to the ground, some rolling twenty feet away. The blood spouted out in great jets from the bodies, which strange to say, still remained on their knees.

"When all the heads were off I asked if I might not go inside the line and look. The magistrate said, 'Of course; why not?' and I went in. I pointed to one body and asked the executioner which head belonged to it. He replied, 'I will see,' and he picked up one of the heads and laid it on the neck."

"Oh," said he, with a laugh, "this is a misfit!"

THE PUNISHMENT OF THE CANGUE.
One of the mildest and most common

of Chinese punishments is the cangue. The cangue is a framework of boards about four feet square, with a hole in the center just large enough to hold a man's neck. It is so made that it can be opened and locked upon the shoulders. Sometimes it is weighted with iron. It is always decorated with Chinese characters mentioning the crime for which it is worn. I have seen a dozen men and women with cangues on their necks all chained together. They were convicted of the same crime and had to wear the cangue for a month. A few days ago I saw two men thus weighted chained to the walls of a native drug store. They had broken into the store and stolen some goods and were condemned to wear the cangue for twenty days outside as a warning to others.

There is one species of the cangue made in the shape of a barrel with a hole in the top. The head of the criminal is outside the top, but his body is squeezed inside, his neck just filling the hole. In such punishments there are often holes for the criminal's hands in the sides of the barrel. The holes are just large enough for the wrists. They do not permit the man to scratch his nose or feed himself. His friends or relatives must have charity upon him, or he is liable to die before the punishment is over.

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CHINESE POLICEMAN
And a thief who has been apprehended for stealing drugs.

gan Wang. Dr. Barchet, the interpreter of our consulate, who also acted as judge, translated for me, and finally that touch of nature which makes the whole world kin, greased the wheels of our conversation. We had a cup of tea together before going into the court room, and Judge Wang, seeing my camera, said he hoped I would take a photograph of him on the bench. I replied that I would be glad to do so if there was to be any bambooning. Bambooning is the most common punishment here. Witnesses are bambooned to make them confess, and if this does not serve, more terrible punishments are adopted.

Judge Wang replied that he would be delighted to oblige me, but that the usual hour for bambooning was 4 in the afternoon, when he hoped I would return. "I am sorry, your honor," said I, "but I have an engagement at 4." "Ah!" said the old Chinese mandarin, as he reflexively sipped his tea, "in that case perhaps I can fix it up this morning to suit you. I have an old thief here who has not confessed. I will have him brought in near the close of the session and give him 200 blows to loosen his tongue. It will be just before noon and you will have a fairly good light for your picture."

At this moment the officers told us that the court was ready, and the old mandarin invited me to sit on the bench with him. For two hours I watched thieves, burglars, kidnappers, pirates and others dragged in by policemen. They were pulled along in chains, jerked about by their quincies, and made to get down upon their knees before us. While there the judge examined them and the detectives and policeman give evidence. Sentences were quick by pass. Some got as much as 300 blows of the bamboo, some were sentenced to the cangue, others to imprisonment in chains and some to hard labor.

BAMBOONED BEFORE THE CAMERA.

At last the end of the docket was reached and my victim was brought in. Two villainous-looking policemen in tall red hats and long red gowns knelt in front, holding him by his quincies. He trembled as he entered the room, and fell on his knees in front of the judge, who fiercely demanded his confession. The man protested his innocence, but Judge Wang, in what must have been to the prisoner a terrible tone, said:

"You are not telling the truth; you are guilty!" And then to the policeman: "Give him the bamboo and make him confess."

From the two tall Chinese in red coats seized the prisoner and laid him flat on his face on the floor. They pulled down his trousers, and another held him by the shoulders and another by the calves, so that his fat, yellow thighs showed out in all their nakedness.

UNDER THE BAMBOO.

After the bambooning began I would have stopped it if I could, but it was

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