

The Hari-Kari in Japan—A Scene of Self-Execution.

A correspondent of the New York Evening Post writes an account of the hari-kari committed by Taki, a Japanese nobleman, upon himself, according to the law. He had been found guilty of an assault upon Christians at Hiogo, and was compelled to suffer this punishment. The writer says:

Taki ascended the low platform with a slow step and a determined mien. Here he prostrated himself several times in succession before the altar, his face each time touching the ground, and subsequently sat down upon the carpet with his back turned towards the altar, and with his friend, the Kaishaku, seated on his right side. One of the three Japanese officers now made his appearance, carrying a small table or dumb-waiter, similar to those used in the temples upon the occasion of sacrifice, upon which lay, carefully wrapped up in paper, a Japanese dagger, about nine and-a-half inches in length, with a point fine as a needle and an edge as keen as a razor.

Kneeling down before the platform, he handed the dagger to the condemned, who reverentially took it, and after having lifted it with both hands above his head, placed it on the crimson carpet in front of him. Then Taki made a deep obeisance, and in a voice without a tremor, and without faltering gave utterance to the following words in Japanese: "It was I, and I alone, that gave the order to fire upon the foreigners at Kobe, without having received from any one the authority to do so. I also fired upon them afterwards, when they tried to escape. Acknowledging my great sin and misconduct, I shall now proceed to cut open my bowels; and beg the gentlemen present to do me the honor to bear witness to the execution of the deed."

Having said this, he stooped down, and loosening his clothing it fell down so that it exposed his body down to the loins. He took care to tie the sleeves of his tunic together below and behind the knees to prevent his falling backwards, as a Japanese nobleman must always fall upon his face, according to the creed of the nobility. Then taking up the dagger and removing the paper covering he glanced for a moment upon the glittering blade with an expression in his face as if he were for the last time on earth, collecting his thoughts and bidding, in his mind, all that he loved farewell. Then glancing up again and looking proudly round upon the spectators, he firmly grasped the hilt and, burying the steel in the pit of the stomach, near the left side, drew it across the stomach towards the right, making a fearful gash. But not content herewith, he turned the knife in the wound and made an incision upwards, about two inches in length.

While this horrible deed took place his mouth was firmly set, and not a sound was heard, while his eyes seemed to stare at the ceiling. For a moment, but a moment only, an expression of unutterable pain and agony came over his face, and, shutting the eyes, he staggered and tumbled forwards. At the same moment the "Katshaku," who had been watching for this opportunity, sprang to his feet; a sword glittered in his hands, a sharp cutting sound came through the air, then an ugly dull blow and a heavy fall; and the head of Taki Zenzaburo was severed from its mutilated trunk.

The deep and profound stillness of death ensued, interrupted only by the blood as it trickled from the headless body upon the ground below. Every face was pale with fear and horror; it was a moment never to be forgotten, and which I hope I may never again have occasion to see repeated.

A STARTLING paragraph is going the round of the Eastern dapers, being an announcement from a "Western Sybil," A Mrs. Klebert, who, while in a state of trance, has predicted:—1. A wet Spring. 2. A hot, dry Summer. 3. A dreadful epidemic of a new and horrible type. 4. A fresh and Bloody European war.

Such a prospect is anything but cheering and is a pretty strong dose for one year. There is every reason to expect, according to the revelations of God, ancient and modern, that His judgments will be poured out upon the wicked, thick and fast in these latter-days. But it is to be hoped in Mrs. Klebert's case, when such a conglomeration of horrors are predicted for one year, that time will do for her as it has done for many of her class,—namely prove her a false prophetess and impostor.



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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. That cash entry (No. 565), Town Site, Beaver City, Beaver County, Utah, made December 31st, 1870, embracing S $\frac{1}{2}$ of S W $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 15, N W $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ of S W $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22, N $\frac{1}{2}$ of S E $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ of S W $\frac{1}{4}$, S E $\frac{1}{4}$ and N W $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 21, N $\frac{1}{2}$ of S E $\frac{1}{4}$ and N E $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 20 S $\frac{1}{2}$ of S E $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 17, S $\frac{1}{2}$ of S W $\frac{1}{4}$ and S $\frac{1}{2}$ of S E $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 16, in Township No. 29, S of Range No. 7 W, containing 1,280 acres, has been made in trust for the inhabitants, and is now ready to be disposed of in Lots to any person or persons entitled thereto.

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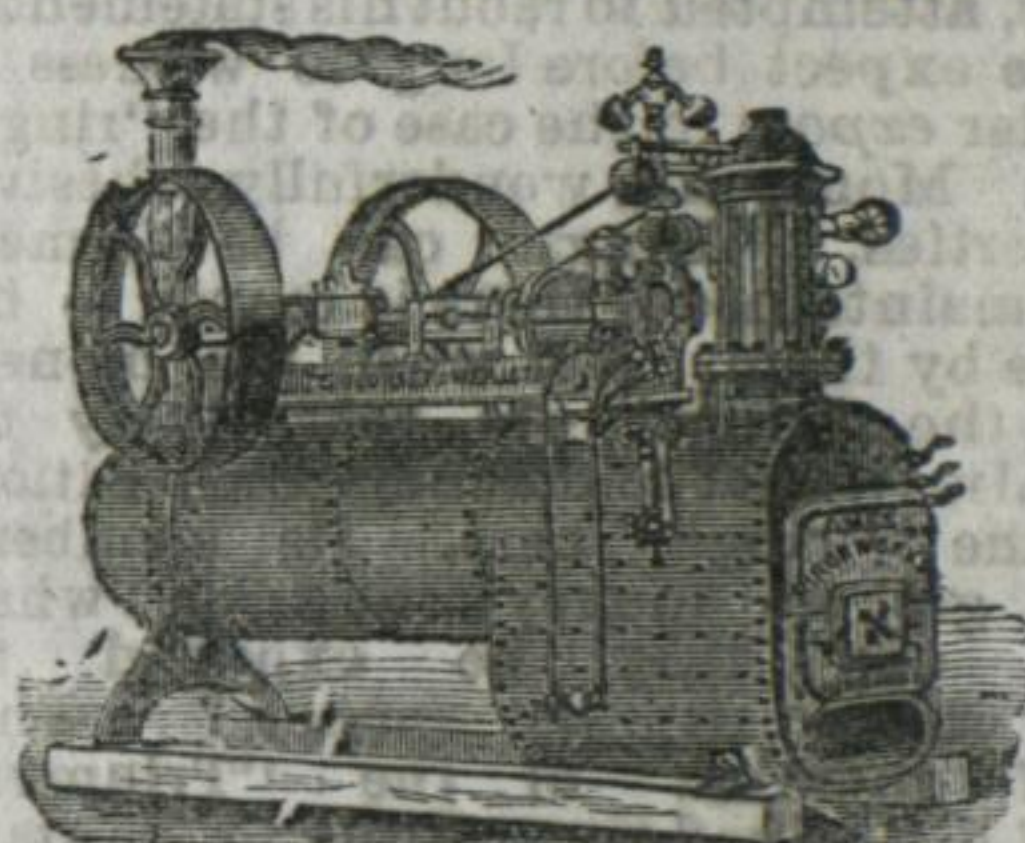
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