

TERRIBLE TORTURES PRACTICED BY THE CHINESE.

HON. EDWIN M. CONGER AND HIS ASSOCIATES AND ATTACHES.



What will add particular horror to a war with China, as it already has added horror to the story of the fate of the envoys and their guards, is the fact that of all nations and tribes and races on the face of the earth today the Chinese are the most cruel, the most devoted to fearful tortures of those in their power, and the most adept in devising ever new forms of martyrdom for the objects of their hatred.

In their almost simple cruelty they are lower than the animal, says the New York Press. If they merely delighted in torturing, one might say it was a perversion. But they do not merely delight in it. They torture living creatures, from rats to man, as a simple matter of course, and the native victims accept it equally as a matter of course. There is something especially terrible in the master-of-fact stolid way in which they subject a prisoner to demonic pain with as much readiness as a magistrate in New York would sentence a man to spend ten days "on the island."

To begin with, there is the whipping and scourging with bamboo rods. This is so common a method of "preparing" a victim for trial, that it is hardly considered punishment, much less torture. Yet the bamboo is laid on hard enough to bring blood at each stroke, and especially when it is applied to the soles of the feet, the victim often faints from pain and loss of blood combined. One can hardly enter a Chinese court of "justice" without witnessing a flogging.

The mildest punishment that is known to the simple and kindly official Chinese is the cage or Cangue. Its principle is that of all Chinese punishments—slow torture. A Chinaman would take no artistic pleasure in anything that killed quickly or that reached its culmination of pain quickly. His victim must suffer a little more, each hour. In that way he makes his delight last long and can keep a whole string of wretches to charm him by their slow dying for months. If he killed them at once his fun would be over too soon.

The Cangue, then, is formed to keep the agony of the penitent up for months, till madness or death ends his sufferings. It is a delightfully simple thing—so simple that there is nothing at all terrifying about it at first. It is a large frame of wood, with a collar in the middle. It weighs about fifty pounds, and is so made that it can be locked around a man's neck. When it is so locked, it rests directly on the muscles of the neck and on the bones of the shoulders, and it is so constructed that it cannot be shifted even a tenth of an inch, nor can the weight be relieved with the hands. In addition, the collar has a sharp rim underneath. At first the victim does not suffer much, except from inconvenience. He is turned loose as soon as the Cangue is locked on him, and for an hour or two he waddles around in fair comfort. But, gradually, as the sharp edge of the collar cuts deeply into the flesh of his neck, and all his muscles are drawn more and more tense, pain begins to conquer him, and in a week the tortures have the felicity of seeing a maddened wretch stumble and fall around blindly, weeping and yelling with anguish. Remember, in addition, that the Cangue is so made that the man in it cannot feed himself or drink, must depend on others, which gives his jailors the chance to add the torture of hunger and thirst to his other sufferings, and the extent of this "easy" punishment may be estimated.

The bamboo furnishes favorite implements for Chinese legal tortures. Sharp-edged silvers of bamboo are used for countless purposes in countless ways. Indeed if the reader will imagine just what he would hate most to have done to him with a bamboo siliver, he will hit

something that the Chinese are sure to do. The most simple and merciful deeds are to stick tiny silvers all over their victims and to leave them there for weeks. Worse still is the cheerful practice of driving wedged pieces of bamboo under the finger or toe nails of accused persons. This is done gently and slowly with a mallet, and the hammering is kept up until the victim confesses or the judges decide that it is enough (which isn't a good thing to gamble on), or—

Impalement is a popular amusement. A sharpened bamboo stake is used for this pleasing diversion. The sufferer is pinioned and laid on the ground. Then the executioner either drives the stake through him as an insect would stake through him, or he impales on a pin, carefully avoiding any immediate mortal injury, or the stake is forced along the whole length of the body, providing a death somewhat more swift but even more hideous to contemplate. In one unspeakable form of impalement the yellow wretch-

es do not carry it far enough to kill the victim at once, but stop just so that he will live in incredible agony for days and days, and sometimes even weeks, during which time he is placed on public exhibition.

Crucifixion is a common form of punishment, but usually it is only a mere accompanying detail of other tortures. Thus a man may be crucified and left in the sun to die from thirst. Or he may be nailed to a cross with his head shaved and covered with sweet syrup to attract insects that will bite him to death after days of suffering.

Of all punishments that involve crucifixion, however, the one that delights the official Chinese heart the most is Ling-Chee. Ling-Chee is such a brilliant result of ingenious thought that the executioners rarely nail a man who is to suffer this form of punishment to the cross. They fear the pain from that might interfere with his enjoyment of the real performance, which is nothing less than slicing him to death with di-

abolical skill. Therefore the man who is to suffer Ling-Chee generally is bound to the cross. Then there arrives the executioner. An executioner skillful at Ling-Chee is viewed with high respect in the empire, much as a successful bull fighter is viewed in Spain. To hang in Ling-Chee and to slice so much from the victim early in the game that he faints, or, worst still, dies before he has suffered all the slicing that has been decreed, would blacken the executioner's name forever, and might even make him the next subject for Ling-Chee.

The executioner is received with a little murmur of approbation, for his record is as well kept in mind as is the record of an athlete in America or England. He bows to the high dignitaries and then takes one of his swords from the sword-carrier who has followed him. They are wonderful swords that are used by the Ling-Chee executioners. Sometimes they are hundreds of years old and have records so long and bloody that a person with nerves might well

shudder to touch them. The executioner does not shudder. He knows what depends upon his delicacy of touch. Swiftly he swings the great weapon around his head till it whistles. Satisfied that it is ready for business, he approaches the victim slowly. Remember that all this time the poor wretch has been staring at the assembly, at the executioner, at the array of swords. He is to be kept in suspense still longer; for when the executioner approaches him he does not begin at once to slice him. First he faints at him and then withdraws. Then he makes believe again. Suddenly the sword shoots in wickedly and one of the victim's eyebrows is sliced off so neatly that it scarcely draws blood. Now begins wonderful work—wonderful and devilish. It may be that the condemned man has been the subject of great imperial mercy. In that case he may have been blessed beyond compare by having his sentence commuted so that he is to be killed in only twenty slices, whereas hardened offenders might have been sentenced to die only after seventy-five cuts or even more. If the victim is very lucky, the sword will be at him so swiftly that the eye can scarcely follow it. At each stroke some part of the poor bound body will fall to the ground. Now it may be a shoulder, now a piece of the breast, now an arm. Suddenly the last cut is made. It is straight at the heart and the weapon cuts it out and ends the suffering of the wretched man. But the spectacle is not ended. The executioner now has to dismember the corpse, and this he does with passes of the sword, each carefully studied and done according to regularly laid out rules. Left there is absolutely nothing left on the cross and only a pile of terrible fragments lies at its base.

When Ling-Chee is to be a long operation, and the victim is to die only after long torture the slicing is sometimes done so slowly that half the day elapses before the condemned man dies. The executioner knows just what to cut without killing and he goes to work as carefully as would a surgeon. Muscles and tendons and flesh are stripped from the body with the razor blade of the sword, until only a dreadful framework remains that still has awful life in it. And at this terrible spectacle the Chinese gaze stolidly without an expression either of pleasure or loathing.

Another ingenious torture that is much used is to suspend the condemned man with his head down in a pit. At the bottom are snakes, toads and all kinds of loathsome reptiles, which writhe within a few inches of the victim's face. Here he is left until the torture of the position, hunger, thirst and reptile bites kill him.

trials members of this large movement realize the fate toward which the empire is drifting, and they know that the policy of the emperor dwags is only giving the foreign nations additional reasons for grabbing land. Their proposals, therefore, are to the extreme length of depositing the emperor or depriving him of power. If possible, they will put back upon the throne the young Kwang Hsu and surround him with counselors from their own body, or they will elect from among the hundreds of titled people whose sympathy has been enlisted either openly or secretly some person who understands their purposes and will be ready to execute them.

The purity of motive and the absolute sincerity of the adherents of Kong Yu Wai are suggested in the nature of the organization which he established. From the outset it was made universal in its membership. No oath or other test of loyalty was imposed. It was presumed that nothing but patriotism would lead a Chinaman to affiliate himself with the movement. Heads are at no premium in the Celestial kingdom, and short shirt is the lot of the fellow who runs afoul of the powers that be. Wherever a Chinaman may be he is at liberty to be a member of the Po Wong Woey if he is in sympathy with its aims. He may take an active part in its operations, or he may merely lend it his moral encouragement. The order is as free and broad as a republic.

"As another evidence of the cohesive power of the movement, it is noticeable that there is no constitution or formal declaration of principles. There appear to be no formal officers. The leadership is voluntary as the membership. In the smaller juntas scattered through the United States, Canada and Hawaii an informal secretary transmits the funds to the general offices at Macao or Hong Kong. There are no other officers. How so extensive a scheme can be successfully carried upon so informal a basis is, of course, a matter to be wondered at, yet the liberality of the organization is undoubtedly the secret of its success. It places the Chinaman solely upon his honor, and the obligation to that often mythical element of human nature seems to please him. The Chinaman, although he always walks in single file, is a greater than creature. He is fond of gatherings. He likes to chatter. He likes vocal noise. He likes heroes. He likes to be doing something. And when he is away from home—in America, in Canada, in Hong Kong—the possibilities of the junta suit well his habits. He flocks to it with his fellows. It is his pastime—his serious, always informal pastime."

PO WONG WOY.

Chinese Revolutionary Junta Aims to Save Empire from Dismemberment.

"To save the Chinese empire from dismemberment! That is the immediate object of the Po Wong Woey. The pa-

Z. C. M. I. INVITES THE ATTENTION OF THE LADIES TO ITS

GRAND MID-SUMMER SALE

—FOR THE—

Week Commencing Monday, July 16.

These figures tell their own story. The goods are all high quality, new and stylish. We must clear our shelves for the immense stock of fall goods now beginning to come in, hence the low prices. The goods are useful, too; that you can note at a glance, and we are sure the prices will delight all bargain lovers, for they are offers that cannot be excelled in this market. Come and investigate. This is only a partial list.

Ladies' Shirt Waists.

Our regular \$5c and \$1.00 Shirts, in sizes, styles and colors, to be sold this week at—

50c EACH

Positively no waists exchanged.

Our entire line in LINENS, LAWNS, PERCALES, SATEENS and CALICOS, black and colored, to be closed out at—

EASTERN COST

Our enormous line of Ladies' White Waists ranging from—

\$1.00 TO \$2.00

Latest Styles. Newest Fabrics.

To be placed on sale without reserve at prices that will astonish you.

Summer Corsets

LESS 20 PER CENT.

The best and newest styles to select from.

Our regular 25c "Leader" Summer Corset to go in the sale at—

25c

25 PER CENT OFF

On the most complete line of

Ladies' Underskirts,

In Sateen and Fancy Seersucker ever shown in Salt Lake. NEWEST FABRICS. WELL MADE.

Ladies' Silk Underskirts.

Great Variety, black and colored, 25 per cent off during the Sale.

Muslin Underwear.

A job lot of 25 dozen Corset Covers, ranging from 15c to \$2.50, to be CLOSED OUT REGARDLESS OF COST.

Our entire stock of Muslin Underwear; all new Goods.

LESS 20 PER CENT

BABIES' MULL and SUMMER SILK BONNETS; fine assortment, at GREATLY REDUCED PRICES

CHILD'S MULL HATS and SUN BONNETS in endless variety at prices that will surprise you.

CLOAK DEPARTMENT.

In our Grand Mid-Summer Sale we have Wash Skirts and Suits, Silk Dresses, Wrappers, Silk Waists, Tea Gowns, Summer Capes, Separate Skirts, Etc., at IMMENSE REDUCTIONS. Many lines made HALF PRICE. Some things

LESS THAN HALF PRICE.

Here is a Ladies' White Duck Skirt, Trimmed with Bias Bands of same, Well made. Good shape, 50c for...

Another is a Ladies' White Pique Skirt with embroidery set in trimming for only... \$1.25

Then comes a Crash Skirt with Bias Band Trimming. A very pretty skirt, only... 50c

The next is a Navy Blue Duck Skirt, with White Trimming. A splendid number, only... 65c

The entire line of Silk Foulard Dresses

HALF PRICE

All Fancy Silk Waists HALF PRICE.

NO EXCHANGES. NO ALTERATIONS. NO APPROVALS.

Children's White Jackets HALF PRICE.

A collection of about 25 separate Skirts in Fancy Plaids. Ranging in price from \$6.50 to \$10.00. Your choice of any only... \$3.75

All novelties in White Pique and Burlap Skirts

HALF PRICE.

Ladies' Crash Suits HALF PRICE.

Misses' Separate Skirts HALF PRICE.

Summer Capes HALF PRICE.

Black Satin Skirts, worth \$8.50, for... \$3.75

NOTIONS DEPARTMENT.

Plain and Moire Taffeta and Fancy Ribbon, regular price 50c to 60c; this week... 25c

Ladies' Handkerchief and Imperial Ties, sold regularly at 75c to \$1.25; in Sale at... 50c

LADIES' PUFF TIES.

Pique and Silk, regular prices, 35c to 75c; in the Sale at... 25c

LADIES' SILK CLUB TIES.

Regular price 25c; in Sale at... 15c

Entire line Ladies' Fancy Neckwear 1/3 Price

33-1/3 Per Cent Off

ALL LADIES' LEATHER PULLEY BELTS.

Entire line of Allover LACES, EMBROIDERIES and FANCY VESTINGS at... 33-1/3 Per Cent Off

60 dozen Ladies' black cotton Hose, worth 25c; this week... 15c Pair

25 Doz. LADIES' TAN HOSE, all shades and sizes... 15c Pair

Worth Double.

BOYS' BICYCLE HOSE.

A full line splendid value at 25c; For the Sale at... 12-1/2c

BOYS' BICYCLE HOSE. Our regular 25c Leader, in all sizes at... 20c Pair

Our Entire Stock of Hosiery 20 Per Cent Off During the Sale.

Grand Clearance Sale on all

COTTON DRESS GOODS.

All Dimities that were 75c to 25c will be sold at... 15c

All Dimities that were 12-1/2c and 15c will be sold at... 10c

All Cordettes that were 16-3/4c will be sold at... 12-1/2c

All Cordettes that were 25c will be sold at... 17-1/2c

All Piques in colored and White will be sold at... 20 Per Cent Off

All Cotton Crepons, Colored and White that were 50c, will be sold at... 25c

All Cotton Crepons, Colored and White that were 25c will be sold at... 15c

All Cotton Crepons, Colored and White that were 15c will be sold at... 12c

Silk Striped Crinkle... 25c

Japanese Crinkle Seersuckers, were 16-3/4c in sale... 12-1/2c

All Remnants at Half Price.

All Dress Gingham that were 12-1/2c and 15c, now... 10c

HAMMOCKS.

Regular Retail Price. Sale Price.

75c 50c

\$1.25 90c

1.50 1.20

2.00 1.50

2.50 1.75

3.00 2.00

3.25 2.50

3.75 3.00

4.50 3.50

These and a Thousand Other Equally Good Bargains in these Departments this week at

Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, Superintendent