

tures so successfully that when arrived at adult age he had no difficulty in convincing the credulous that the unfortunate was a Buddha. Besides the blanching process which had induced a skin so pure, white, wax-like and devoid of pigment that the vulgar imagined his diet to be lard and white sugar, he had been confined in a cell of such contracted dimensions as not to permit an upright posture, entailing a corresponding lack of muscular development; in consequence, his expression, owing to facial immobility, and his constant position, exhibited the ideal ecstatic Buddha absorbed in contemplation and on the verge of metamorphosis—that is to say, he always sat motionless upon his heels, with the palms of the hands pressed together, heedless of all surroundings, and of everything but the voice of his keeper and master. Presenting the utmost extremes of human degeneration and decadence, both mental and physical, he was even less than an idiot, less than a true animal, being no more automatic in existence than a zoophyte.

Ultimately, when public curiosity was satiated and the poor creature no longer served to minister to the pecuniary greed of his master, the latter conceived the idea of publicly cremating him under the plea of assisting metempsychosis; and all necessary steps looking to the act having been taken, it was duly advertised. But just at this juncture the chief legal officer or magistrate of the district, who all along had surmised a pious fraud, and consequently kept a sharp eye on the bonze, interfered. Whether or not the reality of the promised torture actually forced itself upon the brain of the poor imbecile, when brought into the presence of the officer a tear stole from one lustreless eye and trickled down the imbecile cheek. The sympathy this act invoked led to vigorous investigation, that ultimately revealed the facts as outlined, and the bonze was obliged to flee to avoid

a certain penalty of decapitation, or perhaps being either boiled or flayed alive; and the temple that had sheltered the atrocity was razed to the ground.

Another illustration of practices most horrible came to light soon after Shanghai was opened as a treaty port, and there are many foreigners, then resident and now living, who remember the disclosure. A boy was exhibited whose cranial development evidenced that he had nearly or quite attained maturity, but whose limbs and trunk were no larger than, and as imperfect physically as, those of an infant of eighteen months or two years of age. It was not a case of hydrocephalus. This atrophic, or rather undeveloped condition, was the result of nearly twenty years of continuous confinement of all the body and appendages below the neck in a specially prepared bottomless jar; and it was subsequently shown that the victim was the sole survivor of thirteen children subjected to the same process at about the same initial period. In this instance one can hardly feel that slow boiling to death in oil was too cruel or severe a sentence.

Frequently in old China, as well as in other portions of the Celestial Empire, are exhibited unfortunates who, by repression of all mentality, and distortion of physical conformations, are rendered idiotic, speechless, and incapable of any form of locomotion that is not on all fours; and such are usually claimed by their exhibitors and masters, and accepted by the vulgar, as genuine objects. *ferae naturae*, had from the wilds of Mongol Tartary, the steppes of Siberia, the hills of Thibet or Indo-China, or the mysterious fastnesses of the still less known interior of the Island of Formosa, the latter the favorite abode of Celestial evil spirits. Also are claimed to exist, and frequently on exhibition in the interior Provinces, other "wild men" procured by the additional pro-