

quest of other delinquents. In these cases, however, the punishment is of a different character. Notwithstanding the identity of the crime, he cannot treat the offending merchant as a common thief; that would have a prejudicial effect on commerce. The penalty is graduated thus: the mildest, confiscation; the moderate, closing the shop; the severest, exposure. This last is inflicted in a singular manner. The culprit is placed with his back against his shop, and is compelled to raise himself on his toes until the weight of his whole body rests on them; his ear is then nailed to the door or shutter of his shop. This punishment lasts two, four or six hours. It is true, the criminal may abridge its duration whenever he chooses to let himself down; but the Turkish merchant is jealous of his reputation, and nothing but the last necessity would induce him to resemble a thief by the mutilation of his ears. As one gazes upon the wretch thus nailed up, one is disposed to compassionate his case, but Mohammed tells you that he is an old offender, and if you should observe his ear closely it would resemble a colander.

It was after receiving this explanation that M. Mayer found his horror sufficiently alleviated to allow of his making the sketch from which the picture referred to was afterwards composed. The criminal, nailed by his ear, was standing stiff and motionless on the extreme points of his great toes, and seated near him, on the sill of the door, was the guard, charged with seeing the punishment duly executed, smoking a pipe. The quantity of tobacco in the pipe seemed to be graduated to the time the punishment was to continue. Around these two personages was a demicircle of idlers. After a time the culprit, finding he had nothing to expect from the crowd—among whom, perhaps, he recognised some of his customers—hazarded a word to the guard. "Brother," said he, "one law of our holy prophet is, that men should help one another." The guard seemed to take no exception to the precept in the abstract, and continued quietly to smoke. "Brother," resumed the patient, "did you not hear me?" The guard made no other reply than a large puff of smoke that ascended to his neighbour's nose. "Brother," still persisted the man, "one of us can aid the other, and do a thing acceptable to Mohammed." The puffs of smoke succeeded each other with a regularity that extinguished the poor fellow's hopes. "Brother," cried the dependant with a dolorous voice, "put a stone under my heels and I will give you a piastre." No reply. "Two piastres." A pause. "Three piastres." Smoke. "Four piastres." "Ten piastres," said the guard quietly. The ear and the purse of the man held the parley which was visible in the countenance. At length the pain conquered and the ten piastres rolled at the feet of the guard, who counted them with great deliberation, put them in his purse, rested his pipe against the wall, and picking up a pebble about as large as the egg of a tomtit, placed it under the man's heels. "Brother," said the culprit, "I feel nothing under my feet." "A stone is there, however," answered the guard, resuming his seat and pipe; but it is true I selected it in reference to your price. Give me a *tatari* (five francs) and I will place a stone under you so appropriate to your necessities that you shall sigh for it when you reach Paradise." The result may be anticipated; the guard had his money, and the merchant his stone.

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