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**Denver Boy Sees Chinese  
Torture and Kill Persons**

**Willford Russell, on Board U.S. Ship 2,200  
Miles Up Yangtze River, Tells of Leper  
Colonies and Loathsome Towns of Disease**

From a United States ship, bound on a mysterious mission 2,200 miles up the Yangtze river into the interior of China, a Denver boy writes his mother of the strange doings of a people who are centuries behind modern times.

A letter just received from her son, Willford, 20 years old, a graduate of the Whittier school here, has given Mrs. M. Russell, 508 South Logan street, a picture of the cruel country where they still torture criminals by putting them in boxes the shape of the body and tightening up the box until the victim's flesh sticks out of holes in its sides. The flesh is then sliced off with a sharp knife.

Willford Russell writes: U. S. S. Galveston, Chinkiang, Dear Mother—Received your letter of the 11th to-day and it seemed queer that I should get a letter away up here 2,200 miles into the interior of China, while I hardly ever get mail at a large port. Yes, we are 2,200 miles up the Yangtze river and are going still farther. Here is a land that is by far the oldest in the world and the people are not like chinamen at all. Look on the map of Asia in a school geography and find the plateau of Tibet, between China and Siberia, and you will have some idea where I am. The people here have never seen a ship as large as this before and they flock around us and gaze at us in awe. We call this part of the world "No Man's Land."

The city of Po Nang, it is said, has never been entered by a white man. It is surrounded by a large wall and they won't let a white man or any foreigner anywhere near. To watch these people work, farm and carry on their duties makes one feel as though he had been carried back to five or six hundred years B.C. I haven't seen a single modern thing or anything from the civilized world. It's a wonderful study. Houses Made of Reeds Without any Windows.

The people live in reed houses about 12 by 15 feet, with no windows or doors—only one little opening thru which they crawl in and out. From seven to ten families live in each hut. They are filthy and the place is alive with lepers. Many other kinds of plague and unheard-of diseases exist. Our doctors say they can't imagine what some of them are and they seem to be afraid to find out. The lepers are an awful sight to see.

From the poorest beggar to the richest man among them of all classes they are true to their belief. Three times each day the Chinaman bows before his God and praises and worships him as no living mortal worships our God. It is wonderful, the faith they put in a graven image or brass idol. They watch an idol as their life and feed it three times a day.

Well, we are in Kinking now, about 300 miles farther into China. To-day is the 20th. The river is so narrow and swift that we can't go against the current. We put big lines on the beach and have about 500 coolies on each side to pull us up, and with our engines at full speed, we just barely move.

A person would hardly believe these people are so uncivilized, but mother, if they were all Christians and were as true Christians as they are, and they burn incense and paper money for the God to spend. Chinese More Cruel Than any Cannibal.

Then, on the other hand, the Chinaman is the cruellest savage on earth, far worse than any cannibal. Here in Po Nang province, torture is allowed. A thief is taken out publicly and tied to a stake and the muscles cut off his body. Or, they drive bamboo shoots up under his finger nails and each day they come around and drive it up a little further until the man dies of insanity. Also they use the bamboo and the garrote. They sometimes put him in a box the shape of the body with holes in it and tighten it up until the flesh sticks out of the holes, then they shave the flesh off with sharp knives. Again they bury them in concrete with just their heads sticking out. When the concrete dries it contracts and life is squeezed out.

It is all so terrible and cruel and to the ordinary person that these things take place in the twentieth century seems incredible, but it is so. I have seen all of these punishments awarded here in Po Nang province. We stay here about twelve days. I will finish this letter when we get back to Hankow.

Well, this is a pretty long-drawn-

out letter. We are in Hankow now and this the 26th. This place here is very pretty. The city is all European style. The people here are all afraid of us and don't treat us very well. They are afraid we are going to start fights everywhere we go.

Well, I don't know much else to say, so will close. Write soon and love to all.

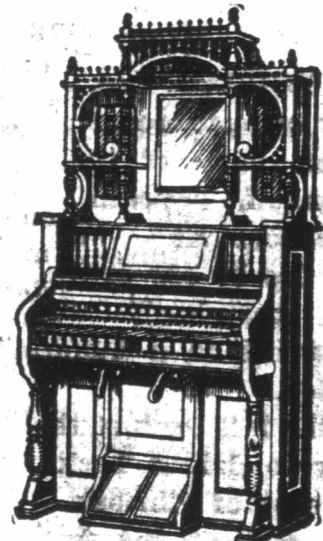
WILFORD.

**GRANDEST CHOIR  
IN THE WORLD**

Russia may safely boast of the world's greatest choir. It is in the Cathedral of Alexander Nevski, in Petrograd, and is attached to a convent erected in honor of the patron saint of Russia. Its members, of whom there are about thirty, are all monks, and are chosen from the best voices in all the Russian monasteries.

When a fine singer appears among the novitiates he is sent to the monastery of Alexander Nevski, where he is trained as carefully as an opera singer, and remains there doing nothing except assisting at the music at mass in the morning and vespers in the afternoon, until he becomes aged when he retires on a pension.

The monks are all vegetarians; they never eat meat. The rules of the Russian Church forbid them to shave, and their hair is woven like a woman's. Unlike ordinary monks, they are fastidious about their appearance, and put up their hair and whiskers in papers every night, so that they are wavy and curly.



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**The Powers and  
the Hour of Peace**

According to statements in London newspapers curiosity was raised during the early part of this month by the presence at The Hague of MM. Cahnou and Estournelles de Constant, two French statesmen, at a time when some prominent members of the German Reichstag were in the city. The Government of Holland, while it is doing nothing openly, has from the first of the war been ready to act to secure the consideration of peace proposals the moment any profitable results were likely to be attained. Last July Mr. L. H. W. Regout, a member of the Parliament of Holland, was appointed minister to the Vatican, the purpose being to secure the Pope's co-operation in opening or taking advantage of an opening of negotiations to end the war. At various times report has had it that the Pope was ready to intervene or taking steps to intervene between the belligerents.

Nothing beyond observing the situation appears to have been done, and judging by the "last man and last dollar" declarations of men who can speak with authority for most of the warring countries, the situation is far from promising for the peacemakers. It would be no matter of surprise, however, if underneath the surface of those whose position gives them knowledge as well as moral influence have received some encouragement. It has been a peculiarity of the war that the losses in men have been as large in the armies which have won much successes as in those which have had to give way. The loss in trade of all the countries has been beyond calculation. It is doubtful if twenty years of peaceful activity could restore the wealth that has been destroyed by army operations during the past sixteen months. The excitement created by the beginning of the war in all the countries concerned has passed away. Men look at the situation soberly. To some the getting rid of the evils appears to be of vaster importance than any gain in glory or territory that is possible. So from Germany, where up till the time the war began public opinion was less free than in any western European country, there have been coming reports, seemingly not promoted by enemies, to the effect that great weariness of the war is noted everywhere. Courageous writers who have voiced the sentiment of their more or less silent neighbors have been subjected to penalties for what they put forth; but a people's thoughts are not regulated or shaped by penalties. Facing the prospect of another wearying winter in the trenches for the army with losses growing daily and economic conditions becoming harder, it may well be that what some German thinkers have said and what many must commend will have influence even on the General Staff and the iron statesmen of Prussia and compel them to reason. And if peace is desired in Germany there must be in all the other countries concerned a thought that the sooner it can be won the better. There is no sign visible that from what has happened or is happening any immediate result will come. When the inner story of the war is written, though, it may be found that what has been done during the past few months was the beginning towards the end.

Germany's Longing

One thing is plain: The German newspapers and the German people would not be commended to refrain from discussing peace, unless they were thinking a vast deal about it. That they are, and that the desire for an end of the war was mooted in Germany, until it has become a passionate longing, there is plenty of evidence.—New York Post.

**Giant Submarines  
for United States Navy**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—The Navy Department plans to issue within a week or ten days advertisements for bids for the construction of two feet submarines authorized by the last Congress, plans for which have been about completed.

**The two vessels will be of 1,300 tons displacement, or 300 tons larger than the first fleet submarine authorized for the navy, which has been named the Schley. The new submarines will use steam turbines and oil-burning boilers for running on the surface and electric propulsion for submerged runs. The Schley will have a speed of 20 knots, but it is hoped to bring the two new vessels up to 25 knots surface speed.**

An elaborate system of using the two turbines for surface operations and at the same time generating electricity to be used in supplying the power for submerged runs has been worked out at the Navy Department. The submarines have been designed to carry two guns each, probably of the new 4-inch type recently developed by the Bureau of Ordnance.

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