

THE CHINESE INFERNO.

It is a Most Unpleasant Place.

Devoted to Post Mortem Tortures of a Terrible Nature.

The Chinese purgatory is not a pleasant place to contemplate as a future abode. It is distinctly unpleasant even when compared with the gehenna as painted by the most orthodox Christians. Even Dante's inferno is not so bad as the place to which naughty Celestials must look forward.

To the Chinese mind the proper punishment for sin done in flesh is a series of post mortem physical tortures of the most horrible kind. These are vividly illustrated by means of pictorial charts with which every Chinese is familiar. An examination of one of these religious charts is most interesting.

It is because the Christian missionaries preach that these tortments do not exist that they have aroused the anger of the Chinese, and especially of their priests. The present troubles are therefore directly connected with these pictures.

The Chinese love of cruelty and ingenuity in inflicting torture are vividly shown here. For every offense committed there is some different and peculiar way of tearing a man to pieces. Life on earth does not differ much from this imaginary purgatory. The Chinaman puts his enemy to the torture at every opportunity, and bears it himself with wonderful equanimity. He must suffer somewhat from it or he would not take so much trouble to inflict it, but the fact that he can conceal his feelings at all shows that they are very different from those of white men. This custom of torturing makes the danger of Europeans and Americans falling into Chinese hands during the outbreak very alarming. They are clearly as bad as Apaches.

An explanation furnished by an educated Chinaman of the various tortments illustrated on the charts gives one a clear idea of the Chinese conception of purgatory.

The human bodies which have been impaled upon the sharp limbs of bare trees will at once arrest the attention. These are the bodies of women who have been guilty of the murder of their husband. This is a very dreadful crime in China, much more so than the murder of a wife by a husband.

On the top of an ornamental bridge is pictured an unfortunate creature with his hands bound behind his back, while the executioner, with a devilish expression, pulls the eyes out of his face with an enormous pair of tongs. After the victim has been operated upon his body is handed over to the assistant executioner who tosses it into a lake. This is the punishment inflicted upon a man for the murder of his mother. The sightless body floats for a hundred days in the lake, after which it is fished out for further disposition.

A very curious scene is where a tiger is used as a chopping block while a man is bound across his back and an executioner is in the act of cutting the man in two with an enormous knife. A Chinese authority explains that the tiger plays a very important part in the Chinese religion.

He is supposed to be animated by an intelligent spirit and to eat up only wicked men. This particular tiger has misbehaved himself by eating up good men, and for punishment he is to be used as a chopping block in purgatory for a certain period. The man tied across his back, who is being divided in two, has been guilty of disrespect to a priest.

In one case an executioner with an enormous sword is engaged in dismembering a human body lying on the stump of a tree. As he cuts off the head, a leg, etc., he sticks it on the sharp limb of a tree. The body before him has lost every limb but one arm. This is the punishment inflicted on a blasphemer, or one who said that there was no "shin," or soul, in a man. It is the most dreadful punishment that can be inflicted, for this is the greatest of all crimes against religion.

Two torturers are engaged in putting a man head downward into a receptacle which looks like a large ornamental flowerpot. His legs are still sticking up in the air, while his body and head are already out of sight. This vessel is filled with boiling water, and the victim is suffering thus for having spoken ill of mandarin.

In several places on the chart are pictures of animals. They play an extremely important part in Chinese religion. In one case a man is lying on the ground, while three curiously spotted animals with long tails are gnawing at him. These are intended to be cows and calves, and the man is condemned to be eaten by them because he had killed some of their species in life. Another man is having his eyes picked out by a crane. He has been guilty of killing one of these birds, which are very sacred in China. Many other birds are hurrying up to take part in the execution, including the goose, the parrot, the chicken and others.

Still more curious are the pictures of the chicken and the kid, who are walking away with what appear to be tickets labeled "I" in their mouths. These contain souls which have once inhabited men and which having been judged in purgatory, are now being sent out on earth again in this form.

A woman having a board with a hole in it fastened about her neck is being led away by two men of very curious appearance. Three small children who look like demons cling about her. She is a woman who murdered her children; but died too soon, and is being sent back from purgatory to spend some more years on earth before undergoing the next transformation. She is condemned to have the demon children always dodging around her to remind her of her crime.

One executioner gouges out the eyes of a man whose hands are tied behind his back, while another fiend with a grin on his face holds the victim's head. This man has been guilty of disrespect to his parents which is one of the worst crimes among the Chinese.

Treachery to the emperor is the crime for which one of the terrible punishments is inflicted. The traitor is fastened feet upward between two upright posts, while two executioners saw them in half lengthwise.

A pair of scales of Chinese pattern with a man bound hand and foot at one end and a weight at the other, is pictured. The man's hands, feet and pigtail are bound together behind his back, and he is suspended face downward in a painful situation. His crime was wasting food, which, with considerable reason, is considered very wicked in China.

When the punishments are completed, the former dwellers upon earth come before the judge again to learn what shall be done with

REMARKABLE ELOPEMENT.

Sweetheart Steals Down a Ladder at Midnight.

John W. Clemmons Swims Fifty Yards in a Raging Torrent.

Bridgeport, Ind., Sept. 5.—Leander swam the Hellespont to meet his Hero and drowned.

John W. Clemmons has surpassed this feat. He stole his sweetheart from her father's house, swam fifty yards in a raging torrent with her on his back and then faced bounds and was wounded by bullets before he could call Florence Jackson his own.

If there was a prettier girl in Clark County, Ind., than Miss Florence Jackson, no one ever discovered her. Certainly John W. Clemmons did not. Clemmons is a railroad man, with all the pluck and ready resource of his calling. Girls have always said he was handsome. Miss Jackson thought so when she met him at an ice-cream festival given by the Methodist Church of her home town, Bridgeport, Clark County, Ind., six months ago. On her mother's side Miss Jackson is related to George Rodgers Clark, for whom the county is named, and the spirit of that old hero has descended in the blood even down to the fifth and sixth generations.

The girl loved John Clemmons and he loved her, but Mr. Jackson thought his daughter's value above the seeking of even a plucky railroad.

The lovers met by stealth until the father became suspicious. Then Clemmons' patience overleaped all bounds. They had to stop meeting, and Thursday afternoon was to be their last interview.

"Some one will steal you tonight," the man told his sweetheart just before they parted.

"I'll sleep with my window open, to show that I am not afraid," she answered.

At 1 o'clock Friday morning Clemmons crept under the open window. Miss Jackson was ready. In ten minutes the orchards ladder did splendid service.

Rain had been falling for four hours before midnight, and even as they descended, a misty drizzle obscured everything. It was between six and seven miles to the house of Magistrate Coombs, of Brown Hill, the nearest justice who could perform the ceremony.

From Bridgeport to Brown Hill the roads were impassable for vehicles. Hand in hand, buoyed up by their love and hopes of happiness, the man and girl stumbled and staggered over the brown quagmire that unfolded itself dimly through the drizzly mist. They spoke only in the language of lovers, with little hand-pressings and half whispered sayings.

Minard's Liniment cures Dandruff.

them next. If they have been good on earth, they are sent back to become princes and rich men. Then, according to their degree of unworthiness, they are condemned to be soldiers, workingmen, sailors, women, and so on down to the lowest forms of human life. Most of those who have undergone punishment are too bad to go back to earth again as men, and therefore their spirits must pass into the bodies of animals. Those who have sinned least inhabit the bodies of horses and cows, while others become snakes and rats.

The fact that any animal may have a human spirit makes it wrong for a Chinaman to kill one of them. On the other hand, it is often not considered wrong to kill a white man, because many of the priests teach that they are not men, but devils.

MINARD'S LINIMENT relieves Neuralgia

Three miles from Bridgeport the Muddy Fork was reached. In the East it would be called a river at any time. Now it was a raging torrent, that tumbled and swirled and rushed along a hundred yards across from bank to bank. There was no time for delay. For ten minutes past the girl had thought she heard the sound of a hoarse baying behind. Leaving his sweetheart on the bank, Clemmons jumped straight into the ford. The encouraging cries of the plucky girl on the shore kept the man up. He had almost reached the centre of the stream when his feet were swept from under him and he began

The man turned and with desperate strokes fought his way back to her. The noise of the day was coming closer now. Seizing the girl in his arms, Clemmons plunged back into the torrent. He was swimming with two lives and all his happiness depending on the strength of his arms. His sweetheart rested her hands on his shoulders and tried her best to help along. Down stream the pair were swept, and under once or twice. But all the time the other shore was coming nearer. Then the girl's head struck the low-lying branch of an overhanging tree. She threw one arm about the limb and clutched at her lover's collar with the other hand. Clemmons caught the branch also, and they were saved. As they drew themselves from the water a big dog stood on the other bank and bayed at them.

It was three miles more to Magistrate Coombs' house. Utterly exhausted as they were, the man and girl dragged themselves through the heavy mud toward Brown Hill. At almost 4 o'clock Clemmons gave a joyous shout. "There's the place!" as a big white house showed up through the gloom on the left-hand side of the road.

Clemmons entered the yard, and a big dog sprang at him. A window in the front of the house was thrown up suddenly and a rifle began to splutter nasty warnings from the opening. With a scream the girl sprang before her lover, as he sank against a tree, holding a hand to his wounded shoulder. Then a voice from inside the house shouted, "What's the matter?" and a head took the place of a rifle at the window. The farmer was all sorrow and sympathy when he understood. He asked the lovers to wait until he could drive them to the home of Magistrate Coombs. They thanked him but would not delay. It was 4 o'clock, and a pursuer on horseback from Bridgeport might appear at any minute.

Half an hour after they left the farm-house, the elopers, hiding behind trees, threw rocks at Magistrate Coombs' front door, to get him up. The Justice came out in pajamas and a towering rage. When he saw who his visitors were he ran back hastily to change his rage for a pair of trousers. Clemmons produced a water-soaked marriage license, procured in Jeffersonville several days before, and in the early dawn, with only the sleepy stars and the first peeping rays of light for witnesses, the lovers were married.

John Clemmons had gone through fire and water and won a wife.

MIXARD'S LINIMENT cures Burns, etc.

This was organized in 1897, and now 20 years old, and has been growing and financially. The society has heretofore of upwards of \$3,000,000 of Canada, to which it is confined. On Nov. 1, 1898, it had \$20,000 on hand to pay death claims. It is invested as follows:

Dominion of Canada stock	\$100,000
Deposit with Gov. Prov. Quebec	5,000
Freehold L. & S. Co., Toronto	30,000
Western Can. L. & S. Co., Toronto	30,000
Central Can. L. & S. Co., Toronto	30,000
Ontario L. & S. Co., London	20,000
Hamilton Prov. & L. S., Hamilton	20,000
British Mort. & L. Co., Stratford	20,000
Royal Loan & S. Co., Brantford	20,000
Toronto S. & L. Co., Peterboro	20,000
The Atlas L. & S. Co., St. Thomas	20,000
Imperial L. & S. Co., Toronto	20,000
Landed Banking Co., Hamilton	20,000
Union Bank, Souris, Man.	20,000
Huron & Erie L. & S. Co., London	10,000
Lon. Loan Co. of Canada, London	10,000
Quebec Bank, Toronto	10,000
Merchants Bk of Halifax, Monr	10,000
Standard Bank, Brantford	10,000
Bank of N.S., Charlottown, P. E. I.	10,000
Bank of Hamilton, Morden, Man.	10,000
Bank of Hamilton, Manitoba, Man.	10,000
Bank of Hamilton, Winkler, Man.	10,000
Loan of Paris, Debentures	22,122 15
Salisbury School Debentures	9,000 00
Town of Collingwood Debentures	8,281 88
Town of Clinton Debentures	25,000 00
Township of Hullett Debentures	7,469 87
Township of Winchester Debent	2,642 69
Portage La Prairie School Deb.	8,529 05
Owen Sound Debentures	10,000 00
Strathroy Debentures	10,101 78
Joseph Debentures	10,287 18
Senforth Debentures	6,718 75
Listowel Debentures	9,137 11
Ashburnham Debentures	5,039 05
Orillia Debentures	4,814 83
Ridgeway Debentures	3,812 74
City of St. Thomas Debentures	38,616 14
City of Winnipeg Debentures	21,925 26
Tilsburg Debentures	9,614 64
City of Huron Bonds	16,584 84
St. Catharines Debentures	16,247 19
Bloomington Debentures	16,502 50
Windsor Debentures	27,480 25
Newport Debentures	20,477 50
Richmond Debentures	9,231 48
Wingham Debentures	8,910 27
Windsor Debentures	8,835 02
Standard Bk, Brantford (cur.ac)	15,691 83
Hamilton, Winnipeg (cur.ac)	5,050 88
Total	\$814,928 08

Since its inception the order has paid to its members and their dependents upwards of two million dollars in insurance and sick and funeral benefits. The society issues policies for \$500, \$1000, \$1500 and \$2000, the latter sum being the limit of any life, and the premiums for the same are only 60 cents to \$1 per month per \$1000, according to the age of the applicant. The death rate in the society was only 4.36 per 1000 of the membership in 1898, and the average death rate since the organization of the society was 4.94.

The Sick and Funeral Benefit Branch, though an optional feature, is very popular among the membership, upwards of 16,000 being enrolled in that department. The benefits are \$3 per week for the first two weeks of illness and \$5 per week for the succeeding ten weeks during any year, besides a funeral benefit of \$30. The fee for same, payable monthly in advance, are from 25 cents to 45 cents, according to the age of the member when joining the branch. During the year 1898 over \$43,000 were paid out in sick and funeral benefits, and \$143,000 in insurance.

There are now about 700 subordinate branches, or courts as they are called, throughout Canada, and the order is now well established in all the provinces and territories of the Dominion.

All physically and morally qualified males, between the ages of 18 and 45 years of age, who are not debarrd on account of their occupation, are accepted for membership.

For further particulars enquire of any of the officers or members of the order or address

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