

The teacher and his father were dragged out one morning to the execution ground. The son's head was chopped off before his father's eyes. The old man was then executed, and the two heads were put into buckets and carried slowly back to Bangkok.

All along the way, and at every stopping place the crier called to the multitude to see the fate of those who followed the "barbarian." A poster with the inscription "Jip Kon-e-long-than" ("Heads of the Christians") was fastened over the buckets. In this way they succeeded in terrorizing the people. The heads were finally put on the gates of the city of Bang-kah.

The others of the party were brought back to Bang-kah and imprisoned. Two of them died from torture and starvation.

The merchant lived in the prison for eight years longer, during which time he continued faithful to Christ and ceased not to exhort the other prisoners to follow the Saviour.

At first it was very difficult for me to receive letters from him. Several were sent enclosed in small bamboo quills. After some years the strictness was relaxed, and I received letters from him regularly. The substance of all was this:

"I, Tan Su-bi, believe that all things—heaven and earth, angels and men—were created by the great God. I believe our Saviour Jesus became man and died for Su-bi. I believe God loves me in prison, and His Holy Spirit gives me comfort and keeps me cheerful. I thank God that the Gospel came to Tamsui."

The last letter closed with these words: "I believe Jesus my Saviour has power to save me and give me eternal life."

He died shortly afterward. Those who planned and carried out the wrong were never brought to justice, but years after they all confessed the plot, and that the Christians were entirely innocent.

This is only one instance of the corruption and inhumanity of officialdom, and of the violence and injustice inflicted upon Christians in North Formosa, witnessed during the past twenty-three years.—*From Far Formosa.*

NEW YEAR IN CHINA.

THEIR New Year's day will come on the thirteenth of February, beginning with the new moon. All the Chinese months begin with a new moon, and are numbered, first, second, etc., instead of having names like our months.

Although the people of China have many feast days, New Year's day is still the great day of all days in the year for them. There is a great getting ready for it. One very important thing is that everyone must pay his debts. If there is any doubt about a man's paying, there are a great many strange ways of bringing him to time. One way is to carry off the front door of his house or shop. Then he must settle up in a hurry. If he cannot get back his door, and get some fierce, glaring pictures of his gods pasted on it before the New Year, all the prowling evil spirits can come right in and work all kinds of evil on himself and family, and they can never hope to be happy or prosperous again; so he believes.

As the New Year approaches, crowds of people, rich and poor, go to the temples to pay vows, and burn incense and pray the gods to forgive their sins, and have the priests pray for them, and make offerings before the idols.

Then, although mid-winter, it is the great house-cleaning and brightening-up time. Inside and out, everything is polished up and decorated. All the women, and every girl old enough to hold a needle, is busy all day long getting the New Year's garments ready. Every one who can must have new clothes at this season, if at no other time. And as all shops will be closed for three days at least, the supply of food and fuel for that time must be laid in, as well as provision for the great feasting and sacrificing to ancestors, which make so great a part of New Year's ceremonies.

But when the New Year really begins, yes, before it begins, all night before, what a racket! The air is fairly alive with the din of fire crackers and the glare of rockets. The Chinese don't want to sleep, and no one else can, no matter how much he wants to.