### KIM OK KIUN'S MURDER.

THE BLOODY DEED WHICH PRECIPIT-ATED THE CHINA-JAPANESE WAR.

Frank Carpenter Tells the Story in Detail Just as It Occurred-A Fiendish and Cowardly Deed by a Pretended Friend-The Real Motive of the Crime.

One of the causes of the trouble between Tapan and China, and the beginning, in fact, of the present rebellion in Corea, was the assassination of Kim Ok Kiun at Shanghai. Kim Ok Kiun after his famous conspiracy in Corea fled to Japan, and he was for a long time under the protection of the Japanese government. He was inveigled over to Shanghai, and was there assassinated by a friend of the King of Corea. Japan almost claimed him as a subject, and she thought that his murder-



er and his remains should have been carried to Tokio. Li Hung Chang aided the Coreans in transporting them to this place, and the maltreatment of the body of Kim was probably foreseen by Li Hung Chang, when he gave the order for the Chinese vessel of war to carry the body to Corea. This country is a strange mixture of barbarism and civilization.

The true story of Kim Ok Kiun's taking off has not been told. I get it almost direct from his assassin. He is now nominally in prison and he cannot be brought into the presence of the king until thirty days from the time when his hands have touched a dead body. This is according to Corean custom. He is well treated, however, and when a month has passed everyone expects that he will be called to court and receive a high official position for his bloody murder. This man's life would make a plot for a dime novel, and his assassination of Kim was done, not because he hated him, but in order that he might carry out a pet scheme of vengeance. which has, I am told, been the mainspring of his actions for years. The man who gave me my information is a Corean official from the northern part of the country, who is a close friend of the assassin and who was in Seoul at the time of Kim's re- Kim and a denunciation of his deed. For bellion. He came to me almost directly after a talk with the assassin, and the man told him just how he had killed Kim at Shanghai, and gloated over it as he related why he did it. A more villainous act a sketch made by my Corean artist from I never heard described. The assassin's name is Hong Chong Woo. He is a man days the remains were taken down, and of about 40 years of age. He was born they are now well on their way through near here and when he was still young his all parts of Corea. They are carried by father moved to the Island of Quelpart, Here Hong got an office. He was a very unjust official and he levied all sorts of unfair taxes. He squeezed the people until they were almost starving and at last they arose in rebellion and mobbed him. In the melee Hong's mother was killed. The story of his oppressions getting out, Hong saw that he could no longer stay in Quelpart and he went away, vowing vengeance upon the people whom he had oppressed. He told his friends that he was going to Japan and that he proposed to learn all about modern civilization. He would come back in the course of years to Seoul and get an appointment under the king. By the aid of his knowledge he would work his way up to such a position as would eventually give him the control of his old tax district at Quelpart and he would then squeeze the life out of the people who had killed his mother. This story will sound like a tale of Munchausen's when read in the west. It does not sound so strange here. At any rate Hong went to Japan. He studied French and Japanese there until he became a good enough French scholar to translate Corean books into the French and to make money out of them. With this money he went to Paris, and he landed there with only \$12 in his pocket. His knowledge of French and Corean gave him work with the missionary societies of the Catholic church, and he also did work and became the friend of Pere Hyacinthe. He accumulated money and after a time returned to Japan. In the meantime the rebellion of Kim Ok Kiun had occurred. Kim was staying in Yokohama, protected by Japanese guards. Hong saw that through killing him he might gain the favor of the king, and get the office which would accomplish his scheme of vengeance. He sought Kim out. He wormed his way into his confidence. He pretended to want to overthrow the Corean government. At the same time be privately told the minister from Corea o Tokio that he thought Kim ought to be killed and that he was ready to do it. The legation became convinced of his sincerity and they first attempted with him to take Kim to Corea alive. They gave him a dinner at a tea house in Yokohama, where there was plenty of geishas and plenty of wine. The scheme was to get him drunk, propose a ride to cool off, to capture him during the ride, carry him to a ship and

time. Then Hong planned the assassination at Shanghai. He had great trouble in getting Kim to leave Japan, and it was only through persuading him that he had the money by which he could organize another revolution in Corea that he got him to go. Kim thought that if he had \$10,000 he could get enough Japanese troops to go with him to Corea to conquer the country. He knew that the Corean soldiers were of no use and realized that the people were on the verge of rebellion. Hong pretended

take him to Corea. Everything went well

up to the time of getting into jinrikishas

for the ride. Here it failed, because the

men from the Corean legation were not on

he had the money in a French bank at Shanghai, and he showed Kim a forged check upon this bank for \$5,000. He told Kim that there were many Russians in Shanghai, and that during his stay in France he had learned many things about the schemes of Russia. He said that the Russians were building the Trans Siberian railroad in order to take Corea first and afterward China. He said that they were looking about for a good strong Corean general to help them, and that by meeting the Russians at Shanghai, Kim could in all probability have the command of their forces. In this and other ways he at last persuaded him to leave Japan. He acted so that Kim had full faith in him, going so far as to even present him with a sword cane, and telling him he must have this always with him, so that he could use it if attacked by any Coreans at Shanghai. On the trip Hong paid all the bills and he furnished Kim with money for his expenses at Shanghai. The two had rooms at one of the good hotels, and it was in Kim's own room that Hong shot him, Kim was lying down in his chair reading and Hong walking up and down the room pretending that he was much interested in a book. During the walk he got behind Kim's chair and then pulled a revolver and shot him again and again, killing him at the third or fourth shot. You have all read how the Chinese authorities protected him, and how, by Li Hung Chang's order, both he and the dead remains of Kim were taken to Corea. All this was barbarous enough, but perhaps the most barbarous of all remains to be told.

I refer to the treatment of Kim Ok Kiun's body. It was landed in Corea shortly before I reached here, and I sailed up the Han river the other day past the spot upon which he was mutilated. The body was taken by the Chinese vessel of war to a post near Chemulpo, and it was brought up this river by a deputation from the king. There is a point about three miles from Seoul, where Kim crossed this stream during his flight from the country after his rebellion. In a hut beside this place the body was left over night. The next day it was taken from its coffin, stripped of its clothes, and laid face downward upon the ground. Then a murderer-murderers always peform the part of executioners in Corea-cut the corpse into six pieces with a blunt sword.

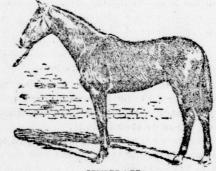
"An eye witness has told me how it was

done," said he. First the head was chopped off, then the left hand was cut off at the wrist, next the right hand at the wrist, and then the left and right feet. The hair was unloosed from the top knot, which ornaments every Corean crown, and the head was tied by the hair with the feet and hands to the crossings of three poles, which were propped against each other like those of a tent. The bloody trunk was left lying on the ground below these. Then upon the coffin, which stood near by, and upon the poles, were fastened strips of paper, bearing in large Corean characters the crime of three days the remains were left in this condition, and the Japanese photographer of Seoul took a picture of them which lies before me, and I have had the photograph. At the end of the three the king's royal couriers and six of these men have each a piece which they are bearing to and from the governors of the six leading provinces of the country. Each governor will receive his portion of the dead body with fitting ceremonies, and for three days it will be hung over the main gate of his capital city as a warning to traitors. After this time it will be given back to the courier. who will carry it to the Mountain of Cho Pi San. This mountain is about sixty miles from Seoul. Here the different couriers will meet some weeks from now and deposit the remains, which time, decay and the birds have left of the body. They will throw it on the spot which is considered the most disgraceful of this dishonorable mountain. It is, I am told, the only mountain in Corea which does not point its head toward Seoul, and this lack of consideration for the majesty of the king probably causes it to be the place upon which the remains of all executed rebels are thrown.

FRANK G. CARPENTER. ISINGLASS.

Portrait and Sketch of the Greatest Horse in England.

Isinglass is by Isonomy, out of Deadlock, and is now four years old. He is



ISINGLASS.

owned by H. McCalmont. This season he has twice defeated Ladas, Lord Rosebery's great three year old. The first time was in the Princess of Wales Stake of 10,000 sovereigns, at New Market, when Isinglass was first by a head, Bullingdon second and Ladas third, three lengths back. Isinglass again defeated Ladas in the Eclipse Stake, at Sandowne Park, winning by a length from Lord Rosebery's crack.

### Horseless Vehicles.

The competition for the prizes offered by the Petite Journal for the best horseless vehicle is concluded, and the winning priest's widely scattered parishioners. The machine is Messrs. Panhard and Pengeot's petroleum carriage. The road to Rouen was crowded at various points with people the taste of the people who give it to the anxious to witness the race. The Count good father. The periodical is delivered Dion's vehicle, which, although the first to free of charge, Mr. Pilling being, in all arrive at the appointed spot, was not given probability, the only paying subscriber. the first prize on account of its large size and resemblance to an ordinary locomotive, had two upsets on the road, and the Lewis and Clark, the first adventurers in party "on board" were forced-against their wills-to leave their carriage and of the American Fur Company, sent out sprawl in the road. M. Pengeot's petrol. by John Jacob Astor. The passing of these eum vehicle did not smell as much as might commercial travelers among the tribes of be expected, and proved to be a smart lit. Indians resulted in a composite vocabulary,

### CURIOUS INDIAN BOOKS

THE ALPHABETS OF THE ABORI-GINES AND THEIR DIALECTS.

Fifty-five Languages and 500 Different Patois Contained in the Library of a Washington Ethnologist-A Periodical Printed in the Chinook Jargon.

Perhaps the most remarkable small library in this country is the property of James C. Pilling, the well-known ethnologist of Washington, says the Post of that city. It is the largest existing collection of books in Indian languages, and of these languages there are no less than fifty-five in North America north of Mexico. All of them are distinct tongues, as different from one another as Chinese and Eng-

More than one-half of the 500 dialects into which the fifty-five languages referred to are divided are preserved in books. It is believed that the first book printed on this continent was in an Indian languagethe "Nahuatl"-published at the City of Mexico in 1539. The first Bible printed in America was in an Indian tongue-the celebrated Eliot Bible. This is one of the most costly of all rare books. About forty copies of it were specially prepared, with a dedication to Charles II. One of these in good condition is now worth

The first printing done west of the Rocky Mountains was in the Nez Perce language. It was a primer for Indian children, turned out from the mission press at Clearwater, Idaho, in 1839. The press that did the work had been brought by the missionaries all the way from the Hawaiian

Islands. The first book printed in Dakota was a dictionary of the Sioux language, produced in 1866 at Fort Laramie. It was prepared by two officers of the United States army, Lieutenants Hyde and Starring, to pass away the weary hours during a long and cold winter at that lonely outpost of civilization. They were aided in the work by an interpreter and by the Indians who loafed about the fort. The type was set up by the soldiers, and fifty copies were struck off on a crude hand press. Only two copies are now known, one of them belonging to General Starring, of New York, a brother of the author, and the other to Mr. Pilling.

The Cherokee Alphabet. The only existing alphabet that is the product of one man's mind and in which a literature has been printed was the invention of a half-breed Cherokee Indian. His name was Se-quo-yah, and he had no education whatever; but it occurred to him that he could express all the syllables in the Cherokee tongue by characters. Finding that there were eighty-six syllabic sounds in the language, he devised for each one of them a peculiar mark. From some of the marks he took characters of our own alphabet, turning them upside down. With these symbols he set about writing letters, and by means of them a correspondence was soon maintained between Indians of his race in Georgia and their relatives 500

At present this alphabet-or, more properly speaking, syllabary-is in general use among the Cherokees. In no other language can the art of reading be learned so quickly. Whereas a fairly bright child learns to read well in English in two and half years, a Cherokee youngster is able to acquire fluency in reading books written in this syllabary within two months and a half. In 1827 the American board of foreign missions defraved the cost of casting a font of type of the characters. The literature composed with them is now very extensive, numerous books and some of the newspapers of the Cherokees being published in the syllabary.

The Wa-Wa. Later, in 1840, an improved syllabary was devised by Rev. James Evans, a missionary among the Crees. It was phonetic and the characters were simpler, being composed of squares and parts of squares and circles and parts of circles. The zealous clergyman cut his type out of wood and made castings from the original blocks with lead from tea chests, which he begged from officers of the Hudson Bay Company. He manufactured ink out of soot and on a hand press of his own construction printed many little tracts and leaflets for the benefit of the Indians. With some modifications his characters have come into general use not only among the Crees, but also among many tribes of the northwest which speak languages in nowise akin to that of the Crees, and scores of books have been printed in them.

The queerest periodical in existence is a weekly now published by a French priest at Kamloops, British Columbia. It is called the Kamloops Wa-wa, which means "writing" and is in the Chinook jargon. This jargon is a sort of international speech, composed of half a dozen different Indian tongues, mixed with fragments of English, French and German. It is the language of trade intercourse among all the people of the sparsely settled northwest as far as Alaska.

Origin of the Chinook Jargon. The mission field of the holy father who publishes this periodical extends over about 500 square miles. Much of his time is spent in making long journeys between distant settlements, and during his pauses for rest on the way he amuses himself with editorial work. The weekly is written in three columns—the first column in jargon, the second in shorthand characters and the third in English. The matter is current news of the mission, sermons, prayers, etc. It is multiplied by the mimeograph and distributed among the paper on which the printing is done is blue, green, pink or yellow, according to

The jargon was started by the early white explorers who visited the Pacific coast. that direction, were followed by the people which is now used by people who speak

twenty different languages, not one of them alike unto another. Yet they understand this common business tongue, which in a manner corresponds to the Asiatic "pidgin English." Every Washington and Oregon

man talks Chinook. In the Chinook Jargon white men are divided into two kinds-"wo-hars" and "goddams." The former is a term for teamsters and the like, the derivation being obvious, while the latter is the designation for gentlemen, who, as everybody knows, used to swear terribly in the old days. A name for the white men in general is "Boston." This is believed to be derived from an historical incident, namely, the capture by the Nootka Indians at Nootka Sound of a vessel called the Boston, from the Town of Boston, Mass., in 1803. Every soul on board of her was put to death save only two, a sailmaker and a man named Jewett. The former died, while the latter was rescued by an American ship two and a half

For fifteen years Mr. Pilling has been engaged in the preparation of bibliographs of the native languages of the United States and Canada, and so far ten of these, each relating to one of the more important families, have been published by the bureau of ethnology, the eleventh being now ready for the press. He is now beginning one on the Nahvatk language of Mexico, in which the earliest American printing was done and in which more material has been published than in any other of the North American tongue, except, perhaps, the Algon-

#### THACKERAY'S KINDNESS.

The Great Novelist Acts as a True Friend

to a Sick Strangers. As, toward the end of October, a little over thirty years ago, the night train of the Chemin de Fer du Nord was about to leave the station at Paris an English gentleman got into a first class compartment, and stowing away his small valise, took his seat in one of the vacant corners. He noticed that on the seat opposite to him was a gentleman who appeared to be ill. His face was deathly pale; he was breathing very hard, and he appeared to be in great pain,

"Are you ill, sir? Can I be of any assistance to von?" the gentleman asked. "I am very ill," the sufferer replied faintly. "I am subject to a very painful malady, and feeling an attack coming on while in Switzerland, I resolved to go home -to England. It generally gives me a week's warning, but I feel I shall not reach Calais alive."

"But you must not go on, my dear sir," said his fellow traveler, feelingly. "I am a perfect stranger in Paris. I have come right through from Geneva, and

I do not know a word of French," replied the sick man, almost in a state of collapse. "It will never do for you to travel in that state. Come, let me help you out before the train starts."

The kindly gentleman was not a moment too soon. But by the kindly aid of a porter he got the sufferer out of the train, placed him gently in a cab and had his taken to the hotel which he himself had just quitted and where he knew the sick man would receive every attention. Caring for him on the way with all the tenderness of a woman he bade him cheer up, for he knew a physician who was one of the highest authorities on the particular disease from which he was suffering.

All the night the gentleman was exceedingly ill, nor did he improve much the next day. The following morning a relation of the sufferer-who had been telegraphed for-arrived, and the kind-hearted gentleman who had put off his journey to England, thrown away his railway fare and spent two nights and a day almost constantly by the sick man's side, handed over the sufferer to the care of his

Then, and not till then, did this goodhearted man decide to resume his interrupted journey.

Going into the patient's room in the evening to bid him good-by, he said: "I must now wish you farewell, as I

have important business in London. I wish you a hearty godspeed toward re-The sick man was extremely ill and not

able to do more than press his benefactor's hand and whisper a few words of grati-

The relative of the patient, who was his sister, followed the gentlemsn out of the room and said: "You have not done me the honor to

tell me to whom I and my brother owe so signal an act of kindness as that which you have shown to an utter stranger. Had you not so generously and disinterestedly taken compassion on him, I fear his relatives and friends would never have seen him again alive. In thanking you again for your kindness, therefore, I should like to know to whom we are so much indebted. Besides, you forfeited the cost of your railroad ticket. If you will allow me to reimburse you the amount-"

"Do not mention it," said the gentleman; "it is of no consequence."

"You will at least do me the pleasure of permitting us to know your name?"

"Certainly. I will give you my card." With these words the gentleman took out his card case and handed the lady his card. She read upon it the name "William Makepeace Thackeray."

It was some weeks before the invalid was well enough to resume his journey, but after his return to England one of the first visits he paid was to call upon the great novelist, in company with his sister, to thank him personally for the great kindness he had shown him when, as he believed, he should have died but for his timely assistance.

A Modern Sham. Physicians are sometimes slightly put to their wits' ends to find a suitable excuse for neglecting an office patient when wishing to devote a few minutes to something else, but a Philadelphia specialist quite distinguished himself in this line with one of his lady patients the other day. He was about to treat her foot with electricity, and she had just removed her stocking in preparation when the mail arrived. Desirous of reading one of the letters immediately, this diplomat gracefully secured time by saying, in his most professional tones, "Just expose your foot to the atmosphere for a little A LINGUISTIC PRODIGY.

Little Fanny is Not Yet Four, Yet Speaks Four Languages.

Not until January will little Fannie Erdofy reach the mature age of 4 years, and yet she is perhaps the most accomplished young lady of her age in New York. Fan-



nie illustrates in her charming little personality the irresistible laws of heredity. She speaks fluently four languages, and when it is explained that her mother writes and speaks six languages and that her father has a glib acquaintance with ten, besides numerous allied dialects, the extraordinary infant is accounted for. Arthur Edosfy, who is a registry clerk

and interpreter at Ellis island, was born thirty-two years ago in Budapest, Hungary. His wife is also a native of the same ancient city on the Danube. He has the characteristic Magyar features as well as that special linguistic aptitude, which distinguishes his race. He speaks English with great purity and has the further polyglot accomplishment of speaking Hungarian, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Greek (Romanic), Turkish, Finnish, and that most turgid and difficult of al tongues, Basque. Mrs. Erdofy speaks French and Slavonian, and so little Fannie has lived all her life in a philological atmosphere, where the air was thick with prepositions, adverbs, and conjunctions. Instead of doll babies she played with irregular verbs, and the ablative absolute, and the subjunctive mood have been familiar objects to her from her earlier fancy.

What Mamma Would Think. She (blushing)-" Oh, George, what would mamma think if she knew you

He-"She wouldn't think at all; she would say it right out."

Measuring a Room.

In a catalogue recently issued the following rules are given for the measurement of rooms to determine the exact amount of paper required to cover the surfaces. As most paper when trimmed is eighteen inches wide and twenty-four feet to the single piece, a piece will contain thirty-six

square feet. Measure the length and height of each wall in feet and multiply. Add together the number of square feet of each wall, getting the total number of square feet. Divide the total by thirty-six, which will give you the number of pieces required for side wall. Allow one-half piece of paper for each door and window.

To allow for waste and matching it is eafer to divide by thirty-three instead of

thirty-six. To find number of single pieces required for ceiling, multiply length by width in feet and divide by thirty-three.

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