

BALLOONING.

MANY AERIAL TRIPS THAT HAD FATAL RESULTS.

Feelings of Aeronauts at Dizzy Heights—One Would Not Raise a Finger to Prevent Death—A Remarkable Escape.

A REGISTER of death from ballooning tells of the aeronaut Comaschi, who, in 1845, ascended from Constantinople before the gaze of a cheering crowd and disappeared forever. In the same way Ledet left St. Petersburg in a balloon in 1847 and was never seen again. On the 8th of September, 1850, Gale rose from Bordeaux with a horse for ballast and descended at Castas at seven o'clock in the evening. The horse was removed by peasants and the balloon rose with incredible rapidity. The aeronaut was found in Gascony the next morning suffocated by hydrogen gas. The same year Arban made his last ascension in Spain. He was carried away by a severe wind and fell among the snows of the Pyrenees or into the sea and was never seen again.

On September 15, 1851, Tardini left Copenhagen, accompanied by his wife and son. He descended on the island of Seeland, and, starting again alone, was never heard from. September 24, Merle made an ascension at Chalons-sur-Marne, and died asphyxiated by gas. His assistant, a hunchback, received no injury.

A singular accident occurred at Bucara Ayres May 24, 1869. The aeronaut, Baralle, rose from the centre of the city, hovered over it, and descended in a steambot. A number of boats and a steambot hastened to save him from drowning. The steambot's smokestack set fire to the gas, and an explosion destroyed the balloon and the steambot. The crew and oarsmen were thrown into the air; eight were killed and twenty-five wounded.

At the time of the memorable siege of Paris, from September, 1870, to February 1871, the organizers of the aerial post conceived the unfortunate plan of having the balloons start at 11 o'clock in the evening to avoid the enemies' observation. The same end would have been obtained by starting at 4 o'clock in the morning, while starting in the middle of the night there was great risk of reaching the sea before daylight. The unwise plan cost the lives of two aeronauts, and might easily have caused the loss of many more. On the 30th of November a sailor named Prince started from the Orleans railway station, which had become an aerial station; there was no moon and the wind blew violently. The aeronaut was driven westward rapidly, and at dawn fishermen saw it disappear, swallowed by the waves. Prince must have been drowned.

The same night, half an hour later, a second balloon was sent up from the Station du Nord, and it also reached the ocean at sunrise. It seems that the commission, after determining the rate of the land breeze, gave the sailor aeronaut strict orders to remain in the air eight hours. But the balloon carried a second passenger. When they had reached the ocean and the balloon was passing over Belle Isle, the passenger, disregarding the command, opened the valve. If another moment had elapsed, the second balloon would have shared the fate of the first.

On January 27, 1871, at the time of the armistice, the last but one of the balloons used during the siege left the Station du Nord commanded by a sailor, Cazacu, and was lost in the sea off La Rochelle.

It seems miraculous that the balloon which left the Orleans Station on November 21st was not lost in the sea. It started at 11 o'clock in the evening, and in fifteen hours was driven by a tempest across the North Sea and beyond Christiania in Norway. The aeronaut, Roller, and his companion believed themselves absolutely lost during long hours of agony, and owed their deliverance only to their courageous perseverance and to the geographical contour of the Norwegian coast. As they passed over a mountain of fir trees the anchor was cast from the car and they were saved. Of the sixty-four post balloons sent out during the siege, two were lost at sea and four others barely escaped a similar fate.

On July 4th, 1873, another aerial shipwreck occurred at Ionia, Mich. The aeronaut, LaMontan, who the year before had very nearly been drowned in Lake Erie, conceived the fatal idea of suspending his car, not to a net enveloping the aerial globe, but to a series of independent ropes fastened to a circle of wood placed above a Montgolfier. The ascent was very rapid. It was noticed that the car did not remain in a vertical position; the cords slipped, little by little, and uniting on one side set the balloon free. The car fell like a stone, while the unfortunate man, clinging convulsively to it, retained sufficient consciousness of mind to attempt to turn himself head downward and make the car serve as a parachute. When thirty yards from the earth he lost his hold, and his body was driven six inches into the ground.

On April 15, 1875, Croce Spinelli and Sivel were killed in the catastrophe of the Zenith. At 11:30 in the morning the aeronaut rose majestically from the gas factory of La Vilette, carrying with it the three aeronauts, Croce Spinelli and Gaston Tissandier. At 1:15 the balloon had reached a height of 8,000 yards, but its passengers had fainted in the car. At a height of 6,000 yards they were overcome by a feeling of torpor, previously felt at a much greater height by M. Glaisher in his ascension. They had not dreaded the experience, being convinced that the inhalation of oxygen would be sufficient to prevent the unpleasant feelings observed in former ascensions. But at such great altitudes the pulse very soon quickens, and gradually and insensibly body and mind grow weak. One becomes absolutely indifferent, and before long consciousness would not raise a finger to prevent death. "One does not suffer at all," wrote the survivor of the catastrophe; "on the contrary, it seems as though the surrounding rays of light fill you with joy. You rise and are glad to rise." Dizzy heights is not an unmeaning expression. After being in a swoon for half an hour Mr. Tissandier awoke and saw his friends in a faint on the floor of the car. The balloon was descending rapidly and the wind was strong. He had not strength to throw out ballast and dropped asleep again. In a few minutes he felt some one shake his arm, and recognized Croce Spinelli, who had come to life and was telling him to throw out ballast as they were falling. But he could scarcely open his eyes, and all he could remember afterward was that he saw his companion throw out the instruments, and everything he could find.

It is probable that the balloon mounted again, for three-quarters of an hour later M. Tissandier rose again and felt the balloon falling with frightful speed. The car was swinging to and fro, describing long oscillations; his companions were crouched at the bottom of the car. Sivel's face was black, his eyes glassy, his mouth open and full of blood; Croce's eyes were half closed and his mouth was bloody. Both men were dead. When they reached the ground the shock was violent and the balloon seemed to flatten. The wind was rapid and the car was dragged over the fields, while the bodies of the two unfortunate men were tossed about and every moment were on the point of being thrown from the car. Finally the aeronaut was able to seize the cord that opens the valve. The balloon struck against a tree and stopped near the Commune of Ciron in the department of Indre.—New York Sun.

COURTS IN CHINA.

EXTRAORDINARY MANNER OF CONDUCTING TRIALS.

Prisoners and Witnesses are Tortured—Terrible Methods of Torture—Corrupt Judges—Modes of Punishment.

A WRITER in the New York Times says that the manner in which trials are conducted in Chinese courts would be a startling surprise to all who have not personally attended a court scene. Torture is always resorted to in order to compel the accused to declare himself guilty of the charge against him, and to such an extent is it carried that it often results in either causing the death of the accused or else maiming him for life. Persons unacquainted with Chinese systems of judicial torture can scarcely be expected to give credence to an account of the atrocities committed by the mandarins in their efforts to punish vice and support virtue.

Trials in China are always public and are usually attended by great crowds of people, as are torture chambers, but so awful are the cruelties practiced that but few persons ever care to witness them. The Judge conducting the trial sits behind a large table covered with a red cloth. The prisoner is made to kneel in front of the table and perform the toe-tow, as a mark of respect to the court, by whom he is supposed guilty until proved innocent, a not difficult undertaking, provided he has sufficient money to bribe the mandarins and judges. As the trial progresses various questions are asked the prisoner, and if his answers are not given willingly or are not what the Judges wish them to be, then torture is resorted to.

There are very many systems of torture, the most generally used being some of the following: The upper portion of the body is uncovered and unmercifully beaten with a large cane between the shoulder blades. Should his answers continue to be unsatisfactory, the cheeks are violently beaten with an instrument made of two thick pieces of leather sewn together at one end and shaped like a slipper. The force with which this instrument of torture is applied is sufficient to dislodge the teeth, and cause the mouth to swell so greatly as to deprive the poor unfortunate of the power of taking food.

Should he continue to maintain his innocence an attendant beats his ankles with a piece of hard wood. This is often carried to such a degree as to crush the bones of the ankle and thus ruin the culprit for life. These are the milder forms of torture. Some of the more severe forms resorted to are as follows:

The prisoner is made to kneel down and his arms are stretched and tied fast to a horizontal bar passing under the breast; in the hollow of the back of his knee joints is placed another bar, upon which two men seat themselves, one at each end, and so bear down on the joints of the prisoner's knees, between which and the ground chains are placed to render the agony more unendurable. Another method of torture is to place the culprit in a rack, firmly tying the arms and legs so that the body cannot be moved, and then gradually distending severely upon almost every muscle and bone of the body. This is probably the severest torture ever resorted to, and its effect upon the person so awful that seldom does any one recover from it.

Torture is applied as often as the prisoner's strength will stand it until the accused acknowledges his guilt or the Judges decide of his innocence. The torture systems are not confined to the prisoners alone, but are almost as often applied, at the discretion of the Judges and mandarins, to the witness who may be called in to give evidence at the trial. So often and injudiciously are witnesses tortured that there is always a great difficulty in the prisoner inducing them to appear at the trial to give evidence in his favor. It is very often a difficult if not impossible matter for a visitor to a Chinese court to tell which is the prisoner and the witnesses; all seem equally guilty, if we are to judge by the torture applied to all alike.

In all Chinese courts of law the extent to which bribery and corruption is carried is simply astonishing. The verdict of the court is generally at the disposal of those who first interview the mandarins and Judges and offer them the largest sum of money. The notorious bad character of the courts is known over all China, but so prevalent is vice and corruption in Chinese official circles that no reforms can be hoped for. Were an investigation to be held, it would be very similar to the old proverb of "setting a thief to catch a thief." In the case of minor offenses where torture need not be resorted to, the punishments are not so severe and usually consist of the prisoner being led through the streets with a chain attached to his neck, while an attendant of the court follows behind, beating him with a bamboo cane over the naked shoulders and back. The cane, or wooden collar, is the most usual way of punishing petty offenders. The cage consists of a block of wood, from four to six feet square and as many inches thick. A hole sufficiently large to receive the head is cut through it, and the block allowed to rest on the shoulders.

They vary in weight from about fifty pounds, to so great that the wearer is unable to sustain it, and consequently has to remain lying down—by far the most uncomfortable manner in which it can be worn. The period for which the sentence lasts varies from one week to three months, during which time the culprit is compelled to wear the cage day and night. The form of the cage prevents the wearer from acquiring a comfortable position, either sitting, reclining, or standing. The name of the prisoner and the nature of his offense is written in large letters on the cage, and he is required to stand at the city gates, in front of the chief temples or public halls, from sunrise to sunset, where he is the object of scorn of all who pass by. In many cases the cage is so large that the prisoner cannot use his hands to eat his food, and in such cases is dependent upon kind hearted passers-by to place the food in his mouth, and as the Chinese as a rule are not over-gifted with kind heartedness, it very often results in the poor fellows almost starving through the negligence of their spectators.

Another mode of punishment frequently resorted to is confinement in a cage. The cages are of various forms—some not high enough to permit the prisoner to stand upright, some too short to allow him to lie down, and some so low as to hardly allow him to sit down. Over the top of these cages is a cage, which the prisoner is usually required to wear, and which considerably adds to his discomfort. In some cases this cage is placed so high that the prisoner's toes just barely touch the floor of the cage, thus making the neck bear almost the entire weight of the body. This method usually results in causing death, and is not very often practiced, unless the judges desire that such shall be the end of this punishment.

In cases of conspiracy, rebellion, or attempts to overthrow the Government, the laws of China are particularly rigorous. Such offenders are usually bound to a cross and their bodies cut into 120, seventy-two, thirty-six or twenty-four pieces, according to the gravity of the offense charged against them. Should, however, it be clearly shown that an accused person was unduly influenced to join the conspiracy, then the laws allow a slight mutilation of the body as a punishment of the offender. Such mutilation usually consist of cutting off the ears, nose or an arm, and serves as a distinguished mark of the culprit's felony.

In cases of persons guilty of kidnapping—a very common crime in China—and all thieves who with violence steal articles of a value of not less than \$500, the penalty is always death by strangulation; for minor offenses transportation at hard labor to distant parts of the empire is the usual punishment. The terms of exile vary in length from a few years to lifetime. In many cases of transported convicts the name of the offender, his crime, and the sentence are tattooed on the cheek and forehead. This is to prevent attempts to escape, and is a very effective means indeed.

A somewhat frequent summary death punishment consists in binding the offender hand and foot and casting him into the nearest pond or river. Such a sentence requires the sanction of all the mandarins of the city or village in which the offense was committed, and in such cases is carried into effect as quickly as possible after being agreed upon. This is a rather popular mode of inflicting the death penalty and never fails to draw a large crowd of interested spectators.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

HOW TO BAKE YELLOW-EYED BEANS.

Pick over a quart of the beans and soak them over night in cold water. In the morning drain the water off, put them in a kettle, cover with water and let come to the boil. Now drain again and rinse with hot water. Put in a bean pot with one pound of salt pork and three tablespoonfuls of molasses. Cut the pork on the top in half-inch squares, cover with hot water and bake for eight or ten hours in a hot oven. Keep the cover on the pot and the beans covered with water.—New York Voice.

HOW TO MEND LACE.

Never try to mend lace without first laying it over a color to define the exact work to be done. Not only will the mending be more satisfactory, but the strain on the eyes will not be so great. Sometimes the lace is only torn and does not need to be filled out with lace stitches as when part of the pattern is destroyed. In such cases the edges of the lace are drawn gently together with silk or linen that matches the lace in fineness, color and material. The stitches used in sewing leather balls is best for such work. It consists in first putting the needle in one side and carrying it across to the other, back and forth, inserting the needle each time on the under side.—New York Post.

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CARE OF THE REFRIGERATOR.

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Remarkable Temples.

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I had been troubled five months with Dyspepsia. I had a fullness after eating, and a heavy load in the pit of my stomach. Sometimes a deadly sickness would overtake me. I was working for Thomas McHenry, Druggist, Allegheny City, Pa., in whose employ I had been for seven years. I used August Flower for two weeks. I was relieved of all trouble. I can now eat things I dared not touch before. I have gained twenty pounds since my recovery. J. D. Cox, Allegheny, Pa. ©

CAUTION—Beware of dealers substituting cheap goods for the August Flower. The name and the price stamped on bottom of each bottle. Beware of cheap imitations. Subject to prosecution by law for order false pretences.

Oatmeal Becoming Popular.

The curious feature about the most noticeable notes about the export trade of Boston for the month of May was the increase in oatmeal sent abroad. There was a gain of more than 200,000 pounds in this item as compared with a year ago. Johnson described oats as an article which Englishmen fed to their horses and Scotchmen to themselves. But evidently, from the way in which the oatmeal trade is growing, the Scotchmen are converting the world to their way of eating, if not their way of thinking.—Boston Journal.

Women were employed in printing offices as long ago, it is said, as 1630.

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"MOTHERS' FRIEND" is a scientifically prepared Liniment, every ingredient of recognized value and in constant use by the medical profession. These ingredients are combined in a manner hitherto unknown.

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Oatmeal Becoming Popular.

The curious feature about the most noticeable notes about the export trade of Boston for the month of May was the increase in oatmeal sent abroad. There was a gain of more than 200,000 pounds in this item as compared with a year ago. Johnson described oats as an article which Englishmen fed to their horses and Scotchmen to themselves. But evidently, from the way in which the oatmeal trade is growing, the Scotchmen are converting the world to their way of eating, if not their way of thinking.—Boston Journal.

Women were