

A LIFE FOR A LIFE.

Eight hundred years ago, William the Conqueror abolished the death penalty in England. He was a warrior, accustomed to see bloodshed, but he had a horror of legal executions, and only one man was hanged in England during his reign. Before his time, in England and in many other countries, the legal machinery for depriving criminals of life has been barbarous, and capital punishment has often been inflicted for what are now regarded as very petty offenses. Draco, the Athenian, prescribed the punishment of death for a large number of offenses, which the law-giver extenuated by saying that the smallest of the crimes specified deserved death, and there was no greater penalty which he could inflict for more serious offenses. Under the Hebrew code, desecration of the Sabbath, blasphemy, idolatry, witchcraft, cursing, disobedience to parents, murder, adultery, incest and kidnapping were punishable with death. Montesquieu says that under the old Roman law the penalty of death was denounced against the writers of libels. The Anglo-Saxons and other German nations had a scale of fines for every crime. Besides paying the relations of the deceased, a murderer was also obliged to make compensation to the master if the deceased was a slave, or to the lord if the deceased was a vassal under his protection. At the time Blackstone wrote, there were in English law 160 different offenses which had been declared felonies, without benefit of clergy, and might be visited with the death penalty; but gradually the fearful list has been reduced to the crimes of treason and murder. By the laws of the United States the crimes punishable with death are treason, murder, arson, rape, piracy, robbery of the mail with jeopardy to the life of the person in charge thereof, rescue of a person convicted of a capital crime when going to execution, burning a vessel of war, and corruptly casting away or destroying a vessel belonging to private owners. Some States have abolished capital punishment altogether. In 1863 thirty-seven Indians who had taken part in the Minnesota massacre were hanged on one scaffold, the nearest approach on this continent to Judge Jeffrey's "bloody circuit" after the Monmouth rebellion.

In former days the endeavor was to make the death of a criminal as painful as possible. The mode of execution common among the Syrians, Egyptians, Persians, Carthaginians, Greeks and Romans was crucifixion; it was usually accompanied by other tortures. Ariarathes of Cappadocia, aged 80, when vanquished by Perdiccas, was discovered among the prisoners, and by the conqueror's orders was flayed alive and nailed to a cross, with his principal officers, 322 B. C. Crucifixion was ordered to be discontinued by Constantine, A. D. 330. Beheading, the decollatio of the Romans, was introduced into England from Normandy. It became frequent, particularly in the reigns of Henry VIII and Mary, when even women of the noblest blood thus perished. Among other instances may be mentioned Lady Jane Grey, beheaded February 12th, 1554, and the venerable Countess of Salisbury—the latter remarkable for her resistance of the executioner. When he directed her to lay her head on the block, she refused to do it, telling him that she knew of no guilt, and would not submit to die like a criminal. He pursued her round and round the scaffold, aiming at her hoary head, and at length took it off, after mangling the neck and shoulders of the illustrious victim in a horrifying manner. She was daughter of George, Duke of Clarence, and last of the royal line of Plantagenets.

Boiling to death was made a capital punishment in England by a statute of Henry VIII. In 1531. The punishment was first applied to John Roooe, a cook, who had poisoned 17 persons. Margaret Davie, a young woman, suffered in the same manner for a similar crime in 1542. Breaking on the wheel was a barbarous mode of death, of great antiquity, ordered by Francis I. of France, for robberies. Ravallio, who murdered Henry IV. of France, in 1610, was carried to the Greve, and tied to a rack, a wooden engine in the shape of St. Andrew's cross. His right hand, within which was fastened the knife with which he did the murder, was first burned at a slow fire. Then the fleshy and most delicate parts of his body were torn with red-hot pincers, and into the gaping wounds melted lead, oil, pitch and resin were poured. His body was so robust that he endured this exquisite pain, and his strength resisted that of the four horses by which his limbs were to be pulled to pieces. The executioner, in consequence, cut him into quarters, and the spectators dragged him through the streets.

Burning alive was inflicted among the Romans, Jews and other nations, on the betrayers of counsels, incendiaries and for incest. The Britons punished heinous crimes by burning alive in wicker baskets. Burning was countenanced by bulls of the Pope, and witches suffered in this manner. Barrington estimates the judicial murders for witchcraft in England in 200 years at 30,000. Joan of Arc was burned as a witch in 1431. About 500 witches were burned at Geneva in three months, 1615. One thousand were burned in the diocese of Como, in a year, 1624. More than 100,000 were burned in Germany. At Salem, in New England, 19 persons were hanged by the Puritans for witchcraft, and 55 were tortured. The English laws against witchcraft were enacted under Henry VIII. Elizabeth and James I., and repealed in 1736 under George II. Many persons have been burned alive on account of religious principles. The first sufferer in England was Sir William Sawtre, burned in 1401. In the reign of Mary, Bishops Ridley, Latimer and Cramer were burned. As late as the time of James I., in 1612, Englishmen were burned to death for heresy. Drowning in a quagmire was a mode of capital punishment among the Britons about 450 B. C. The same form of punishment is said to have been inflicted on eighty intractable bishops near Nicomedia, A. D. 370; and to have been adopted in France by Louis XI. The wholesale drownings of the Royalists in the Loire at Nantes, by command of the brutal Carrier, in 1793, were termed noyades. Forgery was first punished by death in 1634. By the statute of Elizabeth the punishment for forgery was fine, standing in the pillory, having both ears cut off,

nostrils slit up and seared, forfeiture of land and perpetual imprisonment. Thomas Maynard was the last person executed for forgery, Dec. 31, 1829. In 1777 Rev. Dr. Dodd was hanged at Tyburn for forging a bond for 24,300 in the name of Lord Chesterfield. John Hatfield, who married, by means of the most odious deceit, the celebrated "Beauty of Buttermere," was hanged for forgery at Carlisle in 1803. Captain Charles Montgomery was ordered for execution for forgery in 1828, but he took a dose of prussic acid and was found dead in his cell. Edward Lowe, hanged for coining in 1827, was the last coiner drawn on a sledge to the scaffold.

Hanging, with the accompaniment of drawing and quartering, was first inflicted upon a pirate, William Marise, a nobleman's son, in 1241. Five gentlemen attached to the Duke of Gloucester were arraigned and condemned for treason, and at the place of execution were hanged, cut down alive instantly, stripped naked, and their bodies marked for quartering, and then pardoned. This was in 1447. Nicholas Bayard, of New York, who was tried for high treason and found guilty in 1702, was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. The sentence, however, was not carried into execution. The last execution in this manner in England was that of the Cato street conspirators in 1820. Hanging in chains was abolished in 1834.

The Romans punished a parricide, named Orestes, 172 B. C., by scourging; then sewed him up in a leathern sack made air tight, with a live dog, a cock, a viper and an ape, and then cast him into the sea. The guillotine was invented about 1785 by Joseph Ignatius Guillotin, an eminent physician and senator, esteemed for his humanity; it was designed to render capital punishment less painful by decapitation. During the French Revolution he ran some hazard of being subjected to its deadly operation, but (contrary to a prevailing opinion) escaped, and lived to be one of the founders of the Academy of Medicine at Paris, and died in 1814, greatly respected. A somewhat similar instrument has been used in Italy, at Halifax in England, and in Scotland. The Scotch called it the Meiden and the Widow. The Act of incorporation of Halifax empowered the town to punish by decapitation any criminal convicted of stealing to the value of 13½ pence. King James I. in 1620 took this power away.

In the 38 years of Henry VIII's reign 72,000 criminals were executed in England. In the ten years between 1820 and 1830, there were executed in England alone 797 criminals, but as the laws became less severe the number of executions decreased. In the three years ending 1820 the executions in England and Wales amounted to 312; in the three years ending 1840 they were 62. The dissection of the bodies of executed persons was abolished in 1832. Jack Sheppard, the highwayman, perished on the scaffold in 1724; Eugene Aram, the murderer, in 1759; Rev. Henry Hackman, in 1779; John Holloway and Owen Haggerty in 1807. Thirty spectators of this execution were trodden to death, and numbers were pressed, maimed and wounded. Burke, who used to commit murder to supply subjects for dissection, suffered death in 1829; John Bishop, Thomas Williams and Elizabeth Cooke were also hanged for burking. William Duell, executed for murder at Tyburn in 1740, came to life when about undergoing dissection at Surgeons' Hall. Mary Hamilton was hanged in 1746 for marrying 14 wives of her own sex. Ann Williams (1753) and Ann Bedingfield (1763) were burned alive for the murder of their husbands. Elizabeth Herring (1773) was hanged and then burned for a similar crime. Renwick Williams, a "Jack the Ripper" monster, who prowled nightly through the streets of London, in 1790, armed with a double-edged knife, with which he shockingly wounded many females, was hanged. Fifty thousand people witnessed the execution of William Palmer, the poisoner, at Stafford in 1856. The British commission on capital punishment reported against public executions in 1865.

The advisability of substituting death by electricity for death by hanging has been much discussed in the United States during the last two years.

SOLD HIS FAMILY.

A Nova Scotian Sells His Wife and Three Children for \$40.

A Halifax despatch says: Some months ago a man named William Gifford, of this city, entered into an agreement with one George Thomson for the sale of his (Gifford's) wife and family for the sum of \$40, the conditions of the sale being that Thomson should take care of the children until they reached the age of 16 years. The transfer of the wife and family was made, and since then Thomson has been living with Mrs. Gifford and her children. Everything went along serenely for a time. Some time ago, however, trouble arose. Thomson is charged with cruelly beating two of the children and with turning another out of doors under distressing circumstances. He has also made it very hot for his purchased wife, whom he looks upon now as a poor investment. The S. P. C. has decided to issue warrants for the apprehension of the children, when they will be placed in an institution.

In school—"We come now to transparent objects. Emily, give me an example." "A pane of glass." "Correct; and now Sophy may give one." "A key-hole."

—Jack (who had popped)—It takes you a long time to decide. Sallie—I know. And I've about concluded to wear a demi-train of white chiffon over white silk, and have no bridesmaids.

The town of Cardiff, Wales, will have the unique distinction of having a marquis as mayor next year. Lord Bute was asked to accept the office, and he at once complied.

The Glasgow Cancer Hospital was opened during the last week in October by the Duchess of Montreal. It is the only institution in Scotland especially devoted to the treatment of this dreadful disease, which is said to be more prevalent than in any other of the British dominions; and that the need for it was fully recognized is evidenced by the fact that it has been started perfectly free from debt.

TONGUE OUT OUT.

A Most Remarkable Operation in Surgery Successful.

Through an Incision Under His Jaw a Septuagenarian Has His Tongue Taken Out—One Hundred Arteries and Veins Cut.

Surgeons in New York are marveling over the seemingly successful but very intricate and difficult operation performed at Roosevelt Hospital recently. The case was one of cancer of the tongue, and the operation was for the complete removal of that organ. The patient was a man 65 years of age. The surgeons were Professor Charles McBurney of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Dr. Frank Hartley, of Roosevelt Hospital. Invitations had been sent out to prominent members of the profession, and over 100 spectators sat on the benches.

The patient, who had never been addicted to the use of either tobacco or alcoholic drinks, and who remembered no possible cause for the cancerous growth, had in six months suffered a tumorous growth that invaded the entire right side of the tongue. While ether was administered to the patient Dr. McBurney explained that in such a case removal of the cancerous parts and enough of the healthy tissues surrounding these was the only way to save the life of the patient. The earlier this was done the better. In the patient's case death would almost certainly occur in less than six months were the cancer allowed to run its course. A second dose of ether having been administered to the unconscious patient the surgeon made a final examination with his forefinger and discovered that the disease was more extensive than he had previously supposed, and that the removal of the tongue through the opening of the mouth would not be possible. He determined, therefore, to remove it by the "Hooker method"—that is, by making an incision under the jaw and getting at the root of the tongue first. He made an incision parallel with the lower border of the lower jaw from just below the right ear to the chin, thus forming a curved line. The surgeon found that the sub-maxillary gland was affected by the disease and was much enlarged and hardened. Dr. Hartley deftly removed it with a few cuts of his surgical scissors. It now became necessary to cut across the great artery that supplied the tongue from the left side. The surgeons applied ligatures to this vessel, then boldly severed it and proceeded with the cut, which was now quickly made to enter the cavity of the mouth. The bleeding points were then caught with artery forceps, and ligatures were applied. In all several hundred ligatures were thus applied before the work of removing the organ could be proceeded with. The incision was now quickly enlarged, and Professor McBurney, with a sharp hook, caught the diseased organ and pulled it down through the wound. Then, with deliberate cuts, he severed it from the hyoid bone and larynx—commonly called its root. He then cut away from the oesophagus behind, and dissected it from the roof of the mouth, thus completing the removal.

After stopping the bleeding, a dressing of the wound completed the operation. Prof. McBurney says that the patient will not be allowed anything to eat for several days, when he will be fed with liquid food, which will be given through an oesophageal tube passed down the throat without disturbing the dressings. The floor of his mouth will rise into the place formerly occupied by the tongue, and will perform some of the important functions of the removed organ. The patient will be able to talk and swallow his food. Of course the effects of the operation will be very severe, and the result can only be awaited with anxiety.

A Royal Betrothal.

The sensation in Court circles is the marriage of Princess Victoria of Prussia with Prince Adolphus of Schaumburg-Lippe. It will be known that the Queen highly approves of the match, which will be celebrated in Berlin on the 19th inst. Though the Prince of Wales will not be able to be present at the ceremony, the English Royal family will be largely represented, for the Duke of Clarence, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and Connaught, and Prince and Princess Christian will be present. The fete will begin in Berlin on the 17th, and will extend over five days.

Smart Aleck Snobs.

New York *Advertiser-Reformer*: If you want to be a "breezy" writer for the press don't start by being a cyclone and looking around for things to demolish. Be a zephyr and gently touch and soothe, and pleasing those who feel and see. Giving a person or thing "a blast" is not "breezy writing" and to "pitch into" things or persons for the sake of being "smart" is too mean and vulgar an act for any decent person to do.

Much of the piety that passes for the genuine article is so thin that it can be spread over only one day in the week.

The man who has no enemies must keep a pretty sharp eye on his friends.

Worry is a bleacher who is forever making your hair white.

The rain descends on the just and the unjust. The just get wet and the unjust steal umbrellas.

AN INFALLIBLE SIGN.

Whenever it rains just note the way that the umbrella is carried. And you can tell if he and she are wedded or unmarried. For if by it she's carefully protected from the weather. It's safe to say their loving hearts are not yet joined together. But if he's nice and dry the while the rain drops on her bonnet. They're married and it's safe to bet your bottom dollar on it. —Chicago Post.

—The craze for decorative lamps continues.

Paris and London may soon be connected by telephone. The two capitals have already been connected with their respective coasts by aerial lines, and a cable to complete the circuit is being manufactured. The cable will be a double one, and will be laid between Kent and Sangate, the French and English governments sharing the cost. The circuit between the two cities will be a metallic one, and will have the resistance of 5,900 ohms.

HEROIC SAVAGES.

Some Deeds of Native Heroes in the Dark Continent.

Col. Archinard, the French commander in the Soudan, publishes in the Paris papers an extraordinary story of the heroism of one of the tribes which he was obliged to fight, says the *New York Sun*.

Ousebougou is a citadel situated in the Kaarta. It is the place which enabled King Amadon to keep up his communications between Moro and the kingdom of Segon. In fact, it was the key to the latter kingdom, and, falling into the hands of the French, it secured for them the possession of that territory and won over to them the Bambaras tribes, who were oppressed by Amadon. With twenty-seven Europeans, including officers; 265 Turcos, two mountain guns of eighty, and a number of Bambaras, Col. Archinard marched upon Ousebougou. The queer-named place is an immense village in the centre of a sandy country. Its walls are well fortified with battlements and numerous bastions, and outside the gates there are two redoubts. When the column arrived in front of it the black heads of the defenders appeared upon the walls, while the tabals, or war call, sounded continuously. Fire was opened by two guns, and in about four hours a breach was made; but the defenders seemed to care very little about that breach, and many of them came coolly to examine it, after which they shouted defiantly at the invaders. At last the Bambaras made a dash upon the walls, which were situated at about 200 meters from the village. It was absolutely necessary to get water, for the troops were suffering greatly from thirst. The defenders seemed to reserve their cartridges for this good opportunity, when they opened a fierce and rapid fire. Several of the Bambaras were shot down, but the others continued to drink at the wells while the bullets whistled around them. At 4 o'clock the defenders were massed near the breach, and, notwithstanding the continuous fires of musketry and artillery which thinned their ranks perceptibly, they seemed fully determined to continue the struggle. The colonel gave the order to charge upon the breach. The two guns were worked with increased activity, and ceased firing only when the column was within 100 meters of the trench. Lieutenant Levasseur, with his Turcos, was the first to enter the breach. Then the fusillade became intense. The Turcos rushed into the village, but soon their advance was checked. Levasseur was wounded. Four Turcos took him to the rear, and in so doing two of them were killed. Two others immediately took their places and carried the lieutenant to the ambulance. Capt. Mangin took Levasseur's place, and he, too, fell mortally wounded. The attacking party remained at a standstill. Not another inch could they gain upon the defenders. This condition of affairs became embarrassing; so the colonel threw all his reserves into the attack. The allies then became discouraged and ran. The Turcos maintained their position, but were unable to advance. Some of the fugitives were induced to return, and the colonel gave orders for the regulars to hold at all hazards the carried positions. Capt. Bardot received an order to take up a position near the breach, and to fire shells into the village and the redoubts all through the night, in order to prepare the road for the movement in the morning. M. Madama, a political agent of the French, and one of the most useful, was shot dead. The fire of the inhabitants continued with violence, while that of the invaders was slackened in order to spare the ammunition. At 2.30 o'clock in the morning a terrible war-cry was heard, and the fire of the defenders became more serious. They were advancing, and at short range they made a desperate charge upon the captured positions. It was a gallant sortie, but it was repulsed. At 3 o'clock or a little after another similar charge was made, with the same result. At last the day broke. The situation was critical. The troops were exhausted, and many of the officers were wounded. However, the advance was made. The Bambaras were determined to fight hard this time. They marched coolly to the attack, and soon captured the redoubt. The wounded among them often returned to the fight, after getting a new supply of cartridges, at their own request. The son of one of the native chiefs received two bullets in his arm. It was shattered. When it was bandaged he returned to the combat. At this point in the struggle the resistance was as stubborn as it was in the beginning; but it was the last convulsion of the heroic village. The defenders of the redoubt were surrounded, but they fought on desperately, while they shouted insults at the invaders. Their resistance was hopeless, but they still kept it up.

And here comes the most extraordinary portion of the story. The chief of the Ousebougous, Badiougou Diara, realizing his position, gathered his remaining troops over the magazine, and, rather than surrender, blew himself and them to atoms. It was then only that the tabals ceased. But the resistance was still kept up in the village by the stragglers. Even the women took part in it, and some of the brave barbarians, when about to be made prisoners, shot themselves rather than be taken alive. They fought to the last man. If among the African tribes there are many more warriors like the Ousebougous there will be some tough fighting in the Dark Continent before long. Anyway, Badiougou Diara was a hero.

Meet Punishment.

New York *Weekly*: Mr. Sorubbs (indignantly)—Sir, I have just discovered that your son has engaged himself to two of my daughters.

Mr. Grubbs (stupefied)—The young rascal! He should be compelled to marry them both.

He Was in Doubt.

Chicago *News*: "What did the doctor say about your wife?"

"He told me I must prepare for the worst. So I don't know whether he meant she's going to live or die."

Those who make a business of pleasure will find pleasure grown a task. The sweetest joys are those slipped in between the sunset of one labor day and the sunrise of another.

If men would only act on the good advice they keep on tap for others the world would not be half such a bad place to live in.

WASHINGTON RELICS.

The Father of His Country Kept Slaves—Distilled Whiskey and Patronized Lotteries.

A splendid collection of Washingtonian, probably the finest in the country, says the *Philadelphia Record*, is now at a Chestnut street auction house being catalogued preparatory to a sale in a few weeks. Many of the papers and books exhibit Washington in a light quite different from that in which he is ordinarily regarded. They show him rather as a careful, methodical farmer and business man than as a great general or as President of the United States, and are all the more valuable and interesting on that account. Among the gems of the collection are two cash books of Washington, in which he recorded every expenditure with the utmost precision, even down to the few pennies given to a beggar or the tolls paid for forage and on turnpikes.

Following are a few of the items picked out from the two little books:

- Jan. 8 (1798)—By my annual allowance for the education of poor children at the Academy in Alex. \$ 50
- By charity to the poor of Alex, per the Rev. J. A. Muir, recd..... 100
- By my subscription to the rector of Fairfax Parish..... 10
- Oct. 18—Gave my servant Christopher Dhear his expenses to a person at Lebanon, Pennsylvania, celebrated for curing persons bit by wild animals..... 25
- Oct. 21 (1798)—To cash recd. from M. J. Dandridge by his brother, Barth. Dandridge, for a runaway negro sold, viz..... 300
- Nov. 1—Sent Col. Carrington exps. for an express to Mr. Patrick Henry..... 25
- This sum ought to be charged to the public, being for a public purpose.
- July 8 (1798)—Sent to Genl. Cha. C. Pinckney 300 dollars in Columbia Bank notes for the sufferers by fire, Charleston, S. Carolina.
- Sept. 19—Ferry at Schuylkill..... 13
- Feeding at the Buck T..... 30
- Dining at the Paoli..... 1.35
- Turnpikes &..... 90
- Bill at Downingtown..... 1.47

Items of pocket money for Mrs. Washington and Nelly Curtis are common.

In his earlier years Washington was a liberal buyer of lottery tickets, and many of these are preserved in the collection. With them is a paper in which this is written in Washington's handwriting:

"Williamsburg, 5th May, 1768. Received from the Honble William Byrd, Esq., Twenty tickets in his lottery, to be paid for (so far as it may go) by a protested bill of exchange of his drawing on John Morton Jordan in May, 1766, for sixty-four pounds sterling."

In 1772 Washington purchased six tickets in "the Delaware lottery for the sale of land belonging to the Earl of Sterling in the provinces of New York and New Jersey," and the tickets, all signed "Stirling," are still preserved. History fails to say whether he was successful in any of these ventures.

A unique paper possessing remarkable interest is one of eight pages, all in Washington's neat, careful handwriting, headed, "Negroes belonging to George Washington in His Own Right and By Marriage." This is followed by a list containing the name of every slave owned by Washington, with his occupation and an occasional note as to his or her usefulness. It will be a surprise to most people to know that Washington was a very extensive slave-owner. The list has the names of 317 slaves, and in addition he hired 40 from a Mrs. French. He had 40 slaves at Mansion House, 46 at Muddy Hole, 54 at the River farm, 40 at Dogue Run farm, 32 at the Union farm and others at other places.

It is very apparent from the papers in this collection, and the extent of his expenditures, that Washington was a man of unusual wealth for his day. Besides running a number of farms he had at Mount Vernon a fishery and distillery, from which he supplied good liquor to his neighbors. The accounts of these two establishments were kept by his secretary, Tobias Lear, in a ledger still admirably preserved, and whose paper, made by hand on the Brandywine and of splendid texture, is alone worth to-day 50 cents a page.

Among the items in this ledger is one of 219 gallons sold William Washington, the General's brother, for \$127.75, and another of 29.5 gallons of "fine rectified whisky" sold to Bushrod Washington for \$27.04. The ex-President supplied his neighbors with good fish and whiskey, and probably made a good profit on both.

A Sensational German Murder.

A sensational affair has just happened at Ripendorf, a village near Wandsbeck, three miles from Hamburg. When Andreas Poch, a peasant farmer, was returning home late at night, accompanied by his wife, he noticed lights in a front room of the house. On investigating he found three masked burglars trying to open his safe. Poch drew his revolver, and, firing, disabled all three. He then rushed to the police station, and on his return found one of the men dead and the others fatally wounded. The dead burglar was his own brother, while the others were his cousins.

The Old Reprobate.

West Shore: Editor (to Miss Oldgirl, aged about forty)—Your work shows promise madam, but do you know that good literary work is seldom done by a woman until she is thirty or thirty-five? Several years hence you will be able to write available articles.

Miss Oldgirl (as she leaves)—That was the most delightful man I ever met.

A Common Experience.

New York *Herald*: He stood upon the platform and was rooted to the spot. The whole people cheered him on and loudly cried: "Hooryay!" But when they stopped, the orator, so pleased, alas! forgot just why it was he stood there and just what he had to say.

Several of the large institutions for women in England have organized fire brigades composed exclusively of women. The ladies understand and perform their duties well, but have not yet found a costume that is entirely satisfactory. A sort of water-proof bathing suit is what is wanted.

Rocheport has fought twenty-three duels during his career as a pamphleteer and editor, having been wounded in seven of them and escaped unhurt in the remaining sixteen.