## SAW A HUMAN SACRIFICE.

IT WAS IN WESTERN CHINA WHERE THE DEED WAS DONE.

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Blow William Jameson Reid Secretly Witnessed liorrible Buddhist Ceremonies in the Temple Cave of Tzuchan - Five Old Men and One Young Girl Sacrificed - A Ghastly Spectacle.

ase coast of the Pacific Ocean, immersed in the very heart of the vast central tableland of Asia, lies the province of Koko Nor, a region of barbarous wilderness for which nature has fashioned an adamant girdle to jealously guard from intrusion. But twice in the history of all time has its uncouth surface been trodden by the foot of white man. It is from these untamed wilds that we have returned, after an ardu- ments as he came, until he was naked, ous progress across the bleak summits save a small cloth girded around the of the Peling Mountains, writes Wm. J. Jameson, of Boston.

the Sifanese headwaters of the Kinsha moil and fell prostrate to the ground, Kiang, tributary of the Yangtse groaning. Toward this grotesque, in-Kiang, we had been engaged in a thor- congruous, inanimate piece of carved ough exploration of this unknown country of Western China. The most difficult and venturesome task had trate horde lay bowed to the floor in been reserved until the last-the penetration through the fastnesses of the Peling Mountains of the Chite city of Tzuchan.

With the icy coldness of an almost Arctic winter settling in over the great mountain regions, and the chill- form and placing them before the stone ing blasts hurtling across the Mongolian plateau, the expedition seemed almost out of the question. The fact, eyes was to take place one of those good for them, while the lords and however, that a visit to this city of barbarous human sacrifices of which masters had frequently to be carried mystery had been one of the main reasons inducing us to penetrate to the heart of Asia could not be overlooked without murmur of any kind a half a and we were anxious to verify the statements of previous travellers concerning the human sacrifices which were said to take place in this stronghold of religious fanaticism, the home of the most barbarous and unenlight- touched to the wood; the first faint ened Chite Buddhists.

Fully weighing the dangers that must beset such an arduous undertaking as ours,

WE SET FORTH,

attired as Tourgouth peasants, with an escort of four of our most trusty Kiangsu sampan men, leaving the remainder of our expeditionary force at the station at Gharlkau until we should return.

- For a fortnight we paddled and poled against the adverse currents and treacherous whirlpools and rapids of to her waist. With a cool if not opdifficult stage was the half a week's journey across the sterile mountain posure of her attitude. plateau, and an undetected entrance into the Chite city.

We reached our destination about dusk. A barbarous religious festival the platform. He fully realized that of our guides led us to a cave whence icism vanished, and he struggled in imwe could overlook the plain on which the grasp of his captors, and gave vent the city stood. There we remained all to shriek after shriek, until, weak and night. Next morning the festival was exhausted, he had fallen into a stupstill in progress and we were about or with spasmodic groanings and atto venture out when we saw a long tempts to rise. Four of the minor procession advancing in our direction. priests held the faintly struggling The whole population capable of mov- body down, while from the gloomy ing seemed to have formed themselves niches talked forth the chief of the into a long procession, and, beating priests, his hand holding a long, glisdrums and tomtoms, and led by priests, tening knife. Once, twice, thrice he had forsaken the town's limits and abased himself to the ground, and, then were coming up the steep face of the turning round like a beast leaping on hilly slope in our direction. Onward its sleeping prey, he rushed toward the still they came, the priests chanting prostrate form. in dolorous ululations, while the following mass gave vocal vent to their as of a falling meteor, and the keen feelings, until the din was simply indescribable. If we had entertained the victim with a purr like that of hopes that they were bound elsewhere steel gliding over velvet. Again the we were doomed to disappointment, for gleaming and dripping blade flashed they were now scarcely thirty feet

away and approaching the entrance. We had just time to escape and clamber up the steep ascent to our place of concealment when the leaders of the procession entered the narrow orifice and halted while torches were being lit to guide their passage through the gathering gloom. Following them pressed forward the unkempt crew arear, against the fitful glare of the fire in

POINT OF SUFFOCATION. For half an hour the ear torturing

would leap into the air, frothing at on the sacrificial altar, stabbed to the the mouth, carried away by the frenzy heart and tossed to the flames. The of the moment; lacerating himself third, fourth, and fifth victims were with a knife, grasping the gory strip similarly disposed of. of flesh and grinding it under his heel or taunting a neighbour into the spirit of emulation by flaunting before his forward without invitation or assisteyes the ghastly relic.

Suddenly from out the compact mass fury. At the further end of the amphitheatre was a sort of raised plat- the grotesque and impassive stony form form upon which a solitary individual above. In an instant there was a was mounting, evidently one of the flash of darkness, and then, before we chief priests. Having made the ascent could realize it, she had deliberately he stretched forth his hand. Instantly jumped into the seething furnace. One there was silence. The torches enabled long, despairing shriek, and all was us to see the priest, who had mounted over. the platform. He was a tall, gaunt individual. Overtopping a thin, gaunt visage, and hanging over his shoulders and down his back below the middle, in witchlike locks, fell a covering of convalescent, and all you need is exsun scorched hair, in thick, greasy masses. His eyes were burning bright. All his right side was naked and of thirty miles a day, sir, but your walkthe brown parchment color of his face, ing should have an object. and quite as meagre; it was covered | Patient-All right doctor. I'll travwith rents of knife wounds, from al around trying to borrow enough to which the blood trickled. A garment pay your bill. of the coarsest cloth covered his body below the waist. Five others looking

cave, where the platform was erected, had been somewhat obscured, but at a signal from one of the priests a dozen young men stepped forward with lighted torches and mounting the elevated space, arranged themselves in a circular group on either edge.

THE GLARING BEACONS.

in which could be seen the distorted form of a gigantic image; a stony, and fanatical natures one could not ed much of their entertainers, and help wondering how any race of peo- usually were not disappointed. ple, however unenlightened, could

man of admirable proportions, not so tall as powerful and patriarchal lookforward, loosening his ragged gar-

As the stranger turned toward the stone image and raised his hand the From our station at Gharlkau, on group of worshippers ceased their turthe meanwhile keeping up an incessant stone the eyes of all were turned in adoration. For a time, in which it seemed that hours rolled on, the prosprayer, until an involuntary quickening of the pulses, and a quickly discernible stir and show of interest among the worshippers gave evidence that some moment of extraordinary interest was at hand. Quietly and unobserved a dozen men had been carrying immense armfuls of wood on to the plat-

firm our suspicions, for as quietly and | their fevered brows.

ABSOLUTELY NAKED

and bound with cords, the intended victims of the bloody carnival that was to follow. The fire had already been flicker had been fanned into an open flame, and in a minute the whole mass was a seething, roaring furnace, lighting up the interior of the cave as with the noonday sun.

The bright glow of the fire permitted us to secure a becter view of the doomed sextet. Five were men in the sere and yellow leaf, scarcely able to totter along, and whose lives could not be prolonged many years. They were huddled together apart from the other victim, a young girl, who could not have been over sixteen years of age. She had a comely, nut brown face, with dark, wavy clusters of hair tumbling over her forehead, and reaching down the Kinsha Kiang. The final and most enly disdainful look she gazed with exalted dignity on the surrounding group with never a waver in the stoic com-

At last the fateful moment had come. One of the old men was seized and stretched on a sort of stone altar raised a few feet above the floor of was in progress in the city, but one the last moment had come, for his sto-

A FLASH OF LIGHT.

blade sank to the hilt in the flesh of in air, again it descended in murderous sweep; yet again and again, five times in all, until the very air reeked with the odor of blood. Three times did the worshippers on the floor raise and abase themselves, and then as quickly as a lightning flash the minor priests seized the lifeless corpse, and held it in air. For a moment it silhouetted until the whole open space was filled a long, ghastly shadow, and then it shot through space, and the red flames leaped forward to receive their prey.

With hardly a moment's intermisstrife of discord waxed louder at every sion the next victim was hurried formoment, until a thousand devils in hu- ward. He was either possessed of the man form, flitted beneath the sepul- full amount of native stoicism or else chral glare of flickering torches like reduced to an unknowing stupor, for a weird and supernatural picture of without a tremor or the faintest atanother world. A frenzied enthusiast tempt at struggling he was stretched

The last scene of the bloody drama had arrived. The young girl stepped ance of any kind from the priests. The whole assemblage seemed spellbound. rose a howl of mingled anguish and For a brief space of time the frail body lay prostrate on the floor before

PLENTY OF EXERCISE.

High-Priced Doctor-You are now ercise. You should walk ten, twenty,

like him followed him to the platform, newspaper in writing if there is a storekeeper in town who has tried to the awe stricken multitude. Please inform the publisher of this

BANQUETS OF OLD.

Phose of the Present Day are Tame Affairs When Compared With the Feasts of Long Ago.

Banquets of the present day, even the most sumptuous, are but mean afpenetrating the surrounding gloom fairs compared with those of antiquity. discovered a huge recess in the wall. The diner-out used to the opulence of the latter Egyptian Empire, the bon impassive figure of such grotesque ug- vivant accustomed to the splendor of Two thousand miles from the Chin- liness that with all their barbarous Greece or the luxury of Rome, expect-

> Vast was the magnificence of a feast bring themselves to worship an object given by some great nobleman during of such repulsiveness. the reign of the Pharoahs. The guests, Suddenly there was a stir amidst the | both men and women, came at midday. group of priests on the platform, and some in chariots, some in palanquins, from the dark cranny in which the and a few-doubtless those who lived leering image stood, a newcomer, a near by-on foot. They were met at the doorway by slaves, and conducted to an anteroom, where their hands and ing, descended. He advanced rapidly feet were washed with perfumed water held in golden vessels; and their heads anointed with scented pomatum in sign

Ablutions ended, the guests were crowned with lotus flowers, while chaplets of the same fragrant blossoms were hung about their necks, and a single bud given them to hold in the hand. They were then ready to pay their respects to their host and hostess, whom they found seated side by side on a large fauteuil in the reception room, exchanging ceremonious greetings with their visitors.

Sometimes men and women sat together in festive gatherings; sometimes the sexes were separated, but each received equal attention. slave stationed behind each guest was ready to obey the least command, and time passed quickly in feasting and merrymaking. As the wine circulated, women as well as men were drawn into the whirl of dissipation, and furnished subjects for the merciless pencil of the caricaturist. The proof still ex-Soon the full import of this move- ists pictorially that the fair sex of that ment was apparent. Here before our | time and country drank more than was we had been apprised before setting home from a festive gathering limp as forth. It did not take long to con- the faded lotus blossoms resting on

A strange custom was in vogue; in dozen newcomers had mounted the ele- the midst of the feasting, when the senses seemed almost satiated, a slave appared bearing a small figure of a mummy, which he exhibited portentously to the revelers, saying, "Gaze here; drink and be merry, for when you die such you will be.'

COURTESY.

"Great oaks from little acorns grow." The mountain torrent increases as it proceeds towards the sea until it becomes resistless.

Kind words, little acts of courtesy, a helping hand often costs us nothing. yet these influences may tend to change the whole current of some young life, may be the means of changing the destiny of a nation.

Twenty years ago an elegantly dressed young lady-a real lady-ran against a ragged little newsboy. She turned immediately and said with a

"I beg your pardon, my little fellow; I am sorry that I ran against you." The little boy looked at her for a broad smile spread all over his face: me off my feet." "You can have my pardon and wel- The poor boy never forgot the smile come, miss; and the next time you may and gentle words. He resolved to rise run against me and knock me clean and be agentleman. To-day he isat down and I won't say a word."



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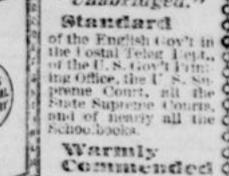
The Chronicle is the most wide ly read newspaper published in the County of Grey.

moment with surprise, and then tak- to his companion and said, "I say, Jim, ing off about three-quarters of a cap, it's the first time I ever had anyone he bowed, very low and said, while a ask my parding and it kind a' took

the head of one of the largest publish-The lady passed on, the boy turned ing houses in New York.

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High School, River Charlo, N.B. ++++++++++++++++

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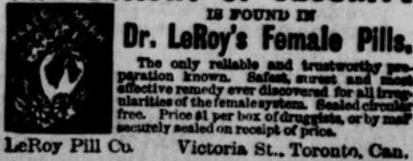
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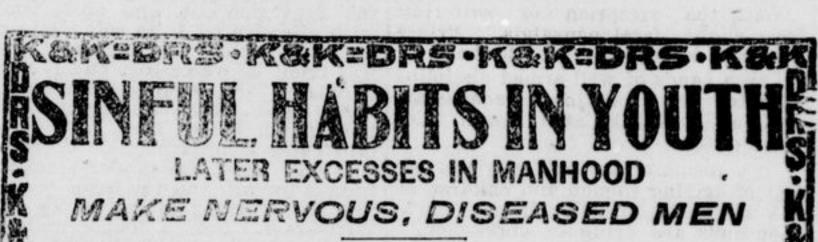
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