

BONDAGE OF COREAN WOMEN

Noble Ladies and Degraded Slave Girls of the Hermit Kingdom.

NOT PERMITTED TO LOOK UPON MAN

Corean Woman's Dress—Original Divided Skirt—Faint, Powder and Jewelry—Marriage in Corea—Slave Women and How They Are Punished.

(Copyrighted, 1891, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

The present war in Corea is bound to better the condition of her women. It could not be worse than it is. The 5,000,000 women of the country are practically slaves. They are bound to their husbands with fetters of iron, which only the monarch can loosen. They are not to go upon the streets. Their quarters are kept for them in the backs of the houses, and the best of the Corean wives would commit suicide if a stranger of the other sex rudely put his hands upon her. Many of these women are actually slaves. They have been bought and they can be whipped if they do not obey. Little is known about the condition of Corean seamstresses. The lines are so strict that they are not to be seen upon the street, or as to their coming into contact with any but their own sex, that such travel letters and books as have been written concerning Corea contain but little about them. Only the women of the lower classes go out of the house, and they are dressed in a manner which you see with their faces uncovered and generally slaves. Now and then a common woman goes about the streets of Seoul with a green cloak over her head. She holds this close to her face, leaving a crack out of which one eye peeps, and if she meets a man on a country road she runs. There are, indeed, three classes of women in Corea, the upper, the middle and the lower class.

The upper class are usually the daughters of nobles. They marry nobles, and their husbands can afford it, which is not often, they have slaves to do all the work for them, and they lead lives of comparative idleness. The dress of all classes is essentially the same, but that of the upper class is made of much more expensive material. It is a very unbecoming dress. The Corean women are not, as a rule, neat and tidy, and this dress does not add to their looks. My interpreter, "General" Pak, who has a wife, a concubine or so, and two or three female slaves, has a very nice dress. The Corean lady starts in with a divided skirt. This consists of a pair of very full drawers, which fall in folds about her feet, and which, if stretched upward would have room to spare when being gathered about the neck. The top of these drawers has a band fully eight inches wide, and this is fastened lightly over the breast by a white ribbon drawing, which is tied in front. This garment is always white, and it is fastened so tight that the band cuts into the flesh at the back, and among the lower class often runs below the breast, leaving it exposed. Above this band, and just meeting it, there is a little jacket with long sleeves. This jacket is not more than six inches long. I judge, it is sometimes of yellow, green or blue, and at other times of white.

It is tied together with ribbons of the same color as the jacket, and it is so scanty that a great unsharpened stick, an inch wide, shines out below the band, and such women as get into the sun. The drawers are not tied at the ankle. They narrow down as they fall to the feet, and below them the woman wears stockings of a white cotton. These make her feet look about five sizes larger than they are, and the winter stockings is half an inch thick. Some of these are made of wool, and are very uncomfortable, and are quite heavy. They extend only about two inches above the ankle. The Corean lady wears no shoes while at home. She trots about in her stocking feet. When she goes out, she puts on slippers of rabbit skin faced with silk. Some of these are very pretty, but they look uncomfortable, and are quite heavy. They have soles of oxide, which are nailed on to the slipper with iron pegs, the heads of which are as large as a pea. They are very penny nail, and they are clumsy in the extreme. In addition to these divided skirts, or drawers, she has overpairs of white, which are very light, and are fastened by armbands to the knees, and over the whole she wears a cloak-like gown, which falls to her feet, and which is tied on with ribbon. This practically covers her from head to foot. The Corean lady. It usually consists of good material, and often of silk. The younger women are fond of red. The middle-aged are fond of blue, and the old women wear white, which is the color of mourning.

ALL COREAN WOMEN PAINT.

I like the way the Corean women comb their hair. They part it in the middle, and put it up in a coil on the neck. They wear the biggest hairpins of their sex the world over. The average one is as thick as your little finger, and is about five inches long. It is made of silver, amber, and it is a poor woman, indeed, who does not own one or two of these pins. She is fond of jewelry, and she likes finger rings, though she wears only one on each hand. The custom is to have two rings on the third finger of the right hand. With such rings, and the above dress, she considers herself decked out, provided her face and eyebrows are properly touched up. She has a pair of coverings which cover the face with white and dash the lips with red. They use India ink to mark the line of the eyebrows, and they are very particular to have the line of the eyebrows as big around and as high as a half-bushel measure. She sits on her heels while she eats it, and her table furniture consists of a spoon and a pair of chopsticks. The spoon is served in brass bowls. She has no table cloth, and she uses no napkins. She is very particular to have the line of the eyebrows, and, contrary to the general belief, the line of the eyebrows of the Coreans are clearly. In washing the teeth a great deal of salt is used. The mouth is filled with salt, and with the finger or brush the teeth are rubbed until they are perfectly pure and clean. She washes her neck and face every morning, and in summer she takes a bath every afternoon or evening. Her bath tub is a big jar, made of burnt clay, and in the summer her bath is cold. A Corean lady seldom takes a nap in the day. She is a creature who does nothing. They are the greatest professional loafers on the globe, but they think it would be a disgrace for her who would take a nap when the sun is up.

HOW THEY LIVE.

The winter clothes of a Corean lady are often made of fur and of quilted silk. A fur coat is worth from \$10 to \$20, and a quilted silk gown is sometimes worth \$25. If she wears cotton, she can be dressed for \$5, and a lady can get a good summer outfit for \$20. The clothes are made of a material that is washed and dried before they are worn, and this is so with many of the garments of the men. Corean washing is, in fact, about the biggest industry that is carried on in the country, and I shall speak further of it in another place. The Corean lady seldom does any washing herself. This is given over to the slaves. If she is alone, blooded, poor and proud, she may do some rinsing behind the doors of her apartments, but she cannot be a lady and go out to wash.

THE BUSINESS OF A COREAN WOMAN OF HIGH RANK IS TO KEEP THE ACCOUNTS, TO BOSS THE SERVANTS, AND TO NOW AND THEN PAY A SOCIAL CALL UPON HER FRIENDS.

Some of the women are educated. That is, they are taught to read and write Corea. As a rule, however, they are very ignorant. There is a great difference in conditions as regards the classes of women. A middle-class woman, when she meets the wife of a noble, has to address her in reverential tones, and the lower classes are bound to the middle classes. The middle-class women never go out of their houses except in chattr, and among them may be classed the wives of scholars or interpreters, and those of doctors and of the traders which go to Peking. It is the lower classes that you see upon the street, with their green shawls upon their heads. They do all kinds of work in the house, and, if they are rich, they live perhaps as well as the wives of the nobles. The nobles seldom enter their houses, and they sometimes take them as concubines. Most of the rich men have concubines, and some sport harem which might be compared with those of Turkey. The concubines are not kept in the woman's quarters, but they have an establishment of their own in another part of the grounds. The only duty of the concubines is to keep clean and good looking and to please her master. Her daughters usually marry the sons of concubines, and the fortunes of the father's property, though they have no many children as his legitimate children. The women in Corea are not much respected in the laws of the country, and they are not respected by the nobles. The sons get all the property, and the daughters inherit nothing. Daughters are by no means so welcome as sons, and a woman who bears many girls is considered a disgrace to the clan.

Corean girls see most of their fun in their childhood. They trot around with the boys and play with them until they are quite old. They wear clothes like their mothers, or, if they are poor, practically no clothes at all, and they can do about as they please. After the age of 7 they are not allowed to play outside of the walls which surround the house. They are never seen on the streets, and as they grow older their lives become more and more secluded one. At or before they are taught the Corean characters and how to sew, to embroider and to keep house. They are often married at 10, and are married at 13 and 14. It is a curious thing that they practically lose their names after they are 11. The custom is just the reverse of ours. We often call a girl "baby" when she is little. The Coreans call their girls by prefixed names until they get to be 11, after which they are called "aga," or "baby." In fact, all the girls of Corea over 11 are nicknamed "baby," and this name sticks to them until they are married. Thus, an old maid of 69 will still be knocked about with the title of "baby." After a woman is married she takes her husband's name and loses her own. She is known as her husband's wife, and she is universally addressed and spoken of as such, except by her own father and family, who may still call her "baby." After she has children she is known as the mother of the boys. For instance, Mary Jones, upon marrying John Smith, would be called "John Smith's wife," and if she happened to have a boy named Jim, every one in the village or town would speak of her as little Jimmie Smith's mother.

THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY. A woman never sees her husband before she marries him, nor has she any part in making the engagement. The matter is carried on, as in China, through matchmakers, and it is customary for the groom to furnish the money for the bride's wardrobe. The swan is the emblem of marital fidelity, and the groom, before he is married, the bridegroom goes in state to the house of the father of the bride, carrying a white swan in his arms. There is usually a feast with a spread table in waiting for him, and about this stand the matchmakers and the bride's father. As he comes in he places the swan on the table and leaves it for four times and a half. He then goes to the other side of the yard, where the bride sits in a hall. She rises as he comes up, and she usually has a sword on each side of her, holding her hand, so that the long sleeves, as the hands meet in front of her face, completely hide the face from the groom. Then the two go through numerous bows, the woman still keeping her face hidden, and the bridegroom finally going down on his knees and bumping his head against the bride's house to take a peep at his wife can be caught and whipped by the man or sent to prison. If he breaks in and takes hold of the woman he can be lashed. And if he commits a worse crime than this a more similar nature he can be killed.

Among heroic deeds of our late civil war heretofore unrecorded none is more worthy of historic notice than the conduct of Lieutenant James W. Graves of the Third Missouri mounted Infantry, C. S. A., in risking his life in defense of union prisoners under his escort.

HEROES IN BLUE AND GRAY

Horrible Atrocities Committed by Border Ruffians in Missouri.

GUERRILLAS DETESTED BY BOTH ARMIES

A Remarkable Instance in Which the Confederates and Yankees Marched Side by Side Each Under Its Own Colors—An Act of Barbarism.

(Copyrighted, 1891.)

Among heroic deeds of our late civil war heretofore unrecorded none is more worthy of historic notice than the conduct of Lieutenant James W. Graves of the Third Missouri mounted Infantry, C. S. A., in risking his life in defense of union prisoners under his escort. Two weeks prior to the receipt of that protest he issued an order prohibiting any of these predatory bands from entering his lines. Notwithstanding that order, they were harbored in the encampment of General Shelby, one of our division commanders, until the extraordinary incident that I am about to relate led to their being treated as mere outlaws by all our troops.

YOUNG

Boys' all wool suit—2 pieces \$1.75

Boys' substantial long pants suit for \$2.50

Boys' silk velvet junior suit for \$3.50

Boys' heavy long pants suit for \$3.25

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Might as well try to stop an elephant by twisting his tail as to try to stop the people from flocking to our store.

Advertisement for clothing featuring a large 'YOU' graphic and various suit prices: Boys' all wool suit—2 pieces \$1.75, Boys' substantial long pants suit for \$2.50, Boys' silk velvet junior suit for \$3.50, Boys' heavy long pants suit for \$3.25, Boys' all wool suit—2 pieces \$1.75, Boys' substantial long pants suit for \$2.50, Boys' silk velvet junior suit for \$3.50, Boys' heavy long pants suit for \$3.25.

Advertisement for The M. H. Cook Clothing Co., featuring a large 'YOU' graphic and various suit prices: \$18 single breasted cassimere for \$10.50, \$15 man's black chevrot for \$7.50, \$5.00, \$7.50, \$8.50, \$10.50, \$1.75, \$2.50, \$3.25, \$3.50. Text includes: 'We will sell you a chilly morning and evening Overcoat for \$4.50', 'Mail orders always on all goods if the money comes, too.', 'ALL NEW GOODS AT NEW PRICES. Half what you've been used to paying. The M. H. Cook Clothing Co., Successors to Columbia Clothing Co., 13th and Farnam Sts., Omaha.'

their shoulders took the chair and poked it into the gate, which it entirely filled. The front of the chair was then inside the yard. The men stayed outside. The woman crawled in and pulled down the curtain. The men then dragged out the chair and carried her away. I have looked into one or two of these chairs when they were not in use. They are just big enough for women weighing about 100 pounds to sit cross-legged within, and there is no support for the back, nor well for the feet. It is in such boxes that all Corean ladies are married, and all that they ever see of the big Corean capital is through the cracks in the chair or the little glass peep holes, as big round as a red cent which they get up introducing into the closed paper windows of their houses. It is only in this way that they see men other than their husbands, and the man who would dare to enter another Corean house without an invitation could be severely punished, and a man of the lower classes who dares to look over the wall of a gentleman's house to take a peep at his wife can be caught and whipped by the man or sent to prison. If he breaks in and takes hold of the woman he can be lashed. And if he commits a worse crime than this a more similar nature he can be killed.

To appreciate the emergency that Lieutenant Graves was called upon to face, writes T. J. Mackey, late captain of engineers, C. S. A., it is necessary to understand the military situation in Missouri during the year 1864. Bands of armed guerrillas, commanded by Quantrell, Anderson, Todd, Holtzclaw and others, traversed the state and harried the homes of thousands of its people with fire and sword. The excesses committed by these leaders, all bearing commissions duly signed by the president of the confederate states, surpassed in atrocity the deeds perpetrated by savages in our Indian wars. Captain Parke, commanding a company of the Fourth Missouri cavalry, thus reports the result of an attack made upon him by a band led by Anderson and Holtzclaw at Rocheport on August 26, 1864: "My men who fell into their hands were most barbarously massacred, four being scalped, one hanged and scalped and three had their throats cut."

General W. S. Rosecrans, U. S. A., in his report of operations in Missouri, says: "On the 1st of September, 1864, Anderson's band attacked a train on the North Missouri railroad, took from it twenty-two unarmed soldiers, many on sick leaves, and after robbing placed them in a row and shot them to death. Some of the bodies they scalped and put others across the track and ran the engine over them. On September 27 this band, with numbers swollen to 300 or 400, attacked Major Albert V. Johnston, commanding 120 men of the Thirty-ninth Missouri volunteers, near Centerville, and shot every man of them in cold blood."

ORDER OF AMERICAN KNIGHTS. The men who composed these bands were members of the Order of American Knights, so-called, a secret treasonable organization hostile to the state and the United States, that had an enrolled membership of 30,000 in Missouri, under the leadership of one John H. Taylor, who was designated their "supreme head." It was a part of their policy to have every member take the oath of allegiance to the United States, and to have themselves enrolled generally into the active militia, in order that they might avert the suspicion of the authorities and at the same time procure arms and ammunition. As militiamen they co-operated with the guerrillas, and the information of projected military movements and frequently joining them after shooting down their local officers, and surrendering at the first opportunity.

The entry of General Price's army into Missouri in the early autumn of 1864 greatly stimulated the sanguinary operations of these red-handed men—troopers, for they used their encampment as their base of operations, and when hard pressed sought refuge in it.

On becoming a ward of this practice General Rosecrans protested against it in a letter to General Price, from which I quote as follows: "Permit me, general, to express my surprise and regret that you have allowed to associate with your troops bands of Missouri guerrillas without feeling any principle of nationality, whose record is stained with crimes at which humanity shudders. It is unnecessary to enumerate what these times are. The newspapers have not exaggerated. You and I have tried to conduct this war in accordance with the highest dictates of humanity and the laws of war among civilized nations, and I hope the future will make no change in this respect."

I am able to state, adversely, as the chief engineer of the Missouri expeditionary force, and a member of General Price's staff, that

Yanks. They're our meat and we're going to have 'em dead sure."

Lieutenant Graves replied: "Tell Bill Anderson that his damnable proposal is not only infamous for me to consider for an instant. We are confederate soldiers, and he and his men are murderers and thieves. Tell him if he does not get away from my line of march and clear out with his gang of cut-throats in five minutes I will open fire upon him. Now, be off, quick, and not another word from you or any of your fellows, for bringing such a proposition."

On returning to his command the lieutenant repeated the message that he had received from the guerrilla leader and the answer that he had returned. He found that the twenty-two federal officers who were armed had formed on the left of the line, and he requested them to take position at the center, saying, "Gentlemen, I desire you to be where we can guard both your backs."

One of them, a captain, had preserved his own pay flag by securing it under his overcoat at the time of the surrender, and, holding it in his hand, he said, "Lieutenant, with your leave, I will add to the gaiety of the occasion by hoisting this flag on our part of the allied line."

Consent was freely given and the flag, attached to an improvised staff, waved aside by the confederate battle flag, a red St. Andrew's cross on a blue field.

The company had formed in a line, and he requested them to take position at the center, saying, "Gentlemen, I desire you to be where we can guard both your backs."

It was indeed an extraordinary circumstance that a confederate federal company composed of veterans of both great armies. Nothing could have been more incongruous tested by the laws of war and yet was nothing more natural than the spectacle of American soldiers in the same line of battle advancing against the common enemy. It was a happy augury of the coming of this present time when all true Americans render homage to the one flag of their common country, and will be brothers in peace, friends, and in war.

The horse-holders moved with the two baggage wagons about 100 yards to the right and realigned themselves. The men were armed with Winchester repeating rifles, while all the other men in line had the Springfield breech-loader, except ten of the federal contingent, who were provided with Colt's army revolvers, which had an effective range of 150 yards. The outlaws in line numbered as subsequent ascertained, 165, but the disparity in numbers was more than equalized by the superior quality of the soldiers opposed to them. The officers were met by two companies of federal troops, and were all brave men, while the confederates of the Third Missouri had won laurels in numerous battles on both sides of the Mississippi.

"BLOODY BILL" LOSSES COURAGE. They moved on the right side of the Booneville road, which there stretched to the west, so that marching south they soon reached it at the point where the guerrillas were first reported to be in position. They were nowhere in sight, however, and the scouts had also passed on. The company still pursued its march through the belt of woods that skirted the road for a mile further, when it was met by one of the scouts, who reported that Anderson's band after following the road to Booneville for two miles, had turned to the left and gone off in a westerly direction.

It was near daylight when they resumed their march upon the main road, and it was decided to encamp, and a strong position was selected for that purpose, with easily guarded approaches. A double line of sentinels was posted, the federal officers requesting that they, too, should be detailed for guard duty. The next morning the guerrillas collected in the blonder forest, and were met by two companies of federal troops, and were all brave men, while the confederates of the Third Missouri had won laurels in numerous battles on both sides of the Mississippi.

AN UNWARRANTED HANGING. I esteemed it a fortunate circumstance for our army that the chivalric conduct of a confederate officer and his command should have been so heartily recognized at Booneville, for our entry into that town on the 9th day of that same month was signalized by an act of barbarity that added a new horror to the annals of civilized warfare. On that day our advance brigade, commanded by General Joseph O. Shelby, entered the town and annihilated an earthwork garrisoned by 250 enrolled militia under the command of Captain F. Shumaker. The column of attack was gallantly met and repulsed, suffering severely. Shelby then sent in a flag and demanded the surrender of the garrison, offering honorable terms, and at the same time stating that his artillery would soon be up, and that he would then reduce the fort, but in that event he would give no quarter. Captain Shumaker surrendered, relying upon the written guarantee that he and his men would be treated as prisoners of war, and promptly paroled. On that night he was delivered up by the provost guard, on the demand of a number of officers and soldiers of Shelby's brigade, and hanged to the limb of a tree.

General Shelby, in an official report, disclaimed having authorized the execrable murder, yet gave it his sanction. He declared that the betrayed victim of the horrible crime "richly deserved death." I can state, through a thorough investigation, that Captain Shumaker was a man of true gentlemanly spirit, and a brave and stalwart soldier. The unspokeable treachery that visited upon him such an undeserved fate added to the indignity of the demand of the Black Flags of the Confederacy. "He merit raised to that bad eminence." Lieutenant Graves' humane and fearless defense of the law, and his refusal to be charged with the execution of a man who had been paroled to convince the people of the war, and promptly paroled. On that night he was delivered up by the provost guard, on the demand of a number of officers and soldiers of Shelby's brigade, and hanged to the limb of a tree.

General Price from which I have quoted. Within a week after Anderson's barbarous and unprovoked demand that the federal prisoners should be turned over to him to be murdered his band was routed in Ray county, and his himself was killed by the Thirty-third regiment of Missouri state troops, commanded by Colonel S. F. Cox.

I should add that the federal officers who owed their lives to Lieutenant Graves' noble discharge of his duty sought their way after the war to ascertain his whereabouts, that they might bestow upon him some suitable token of their gratitude. He had removed with his regiment to the rear of Missouri, Texas and their inquiries through their local papers failed to meet his eye until last year. A correspondence resulted in his answering their inquiries, and they presented to him a massive gold medal in recognition of his noble and gallant conduct, bearing upon one of its faces two clasped hands beneath the flag of the Union, and on the other an inscription referring to the event that the medal was designed to commemorate.

"IMPARTIAL." "The intimate acquaintance which some of our people have with the Almighty," remarked a fiery-headed son of Caledonia to a writer for the New York Advertiser, "often gives rise to amusing incidents. I was over in the old country two years ago and stopped one night with a stalwart McDonald who had three sons, one in the army, another in the navy and a third still under the paternal roof. He was a pious man and when it was time to retire he read a chapter from the bible and then we all got down on our knees.

"O Lord," he prayed, "have a care for Holly for he is a strange country and sorely needs watching. And keep my Jamie Frae perill, for he is on the coast, and you had the great deed in the hollow of your hand. I hope you will bear in mind these sinners over the break of hell."

An old man on the outskirts of the crowd muttered to himself: "That's dangerous—dangerous!" A friend standing by said: "Why dangerous?" "Old Man—" Their coat collars might give away."

"I hope, brethren," said the editor of the Eagle, who had been appointed to take up the collection, "I hope you will bear in mind the proper spirit in which to contribute. In other words, you should not give to the Lord for publication, but as an evidence of the goodness of your faith."