



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I was gratified to learn that Americans are, after all, just as we are. They are as good as, and as bad as, anybody else. There had been suggestions that Americans, as a race, were something special, but recent intelligence has proved otherwise, hasn't it? We, now, know that they are the same as all bad people, and are as good as all good people. Yin and yang, you understand. The aforementioned was proved, quite conclusively, by the evidence of maltreatment of Muslim prisoners in Iraq. Photographs and eye-witness accounts of the atrocities, performed in the torture chambers of Baghdad, Iraq, proved the innate propensity of certain Americans to perform all of those horrors that they claimed they abhorred. It is, now, very clear that the Americans join the ranks of all men, including the Japanese, who, during World War II, when the Imperial Army of The Land of The Rising Sun raped and murdered innocent civilians in Asia for the sheer joy of so doing, when the German war machine of World War II, which killed more than six million Jews and European gypsies in order to promote the concept of racial superiority, and when the Italian Army of Il Duce, 'Emperor' Benito Mussolini, when it conquered Ethiopia in 1934 and embarked on a killing spree of hundreds of thousands of innocent Muslim Ethiopians, all have the same things in common: The promotion of the drive to kill and to torture one's fellow man. Man, you see, Mr Dear Grandchild, likes to kill. It is one of our many wonderful traits. While other animals kill for food, man kills for enjoyment. The Americans, as you will recall, brought back the time-honoured, Fourteenth Century concept of Capital Punishment: The burning of heretics on the Cross of Jesus. The KKK – Klu Klux Klan, also, known as the 'Secret Society' – would, until a few decades ago, rush around areas of the South (of the United States of America), picking up what were, then, known as 'niggers', and, then, tying them to a wooden cross, which was, then, soaked in petrol and lighted. It was said that the smell of the burning flesh of a nigger could be detected one mile away from the place of purification, in the world of KKK members of the 1960s. Today, of course, the word, 'nigger', or 'nigger', is not a politically correct term: They are, today, known as blacks, or Afro-Americans, or some suchlike nomenclature. But, to the Secret Society, a name-change does not alter much when it comes to purifying the race. Adolf Hitler, during the World War II, instructed his generals to purify the German blood by burning up the Jews of the world. The Chinese, of course, do not torture other people – only their own kind. We like to keep everything in the family, so to speak. Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek sought to unite China under the leadership of The Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang, and, in 1928, the Kuomintang established a national government at Nanjing. But the Kuomintang excluded the Communists, then, headed by Chairman Mao Tse Tung (now called Chairman Mao Ze Dong). The Communists took to the countryside of central China, mobilised the peasant Red Army (which came to be known as The People's Liberation Army), and set up several local governments. By 1938, Japan had seized control of much of China. During World War II (1939-1945), the Kuomintang Government suffered serious debilitation, while the Communists, with support from The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), significantly expanded their territorial bases, military forces, and party membership. At one time, Chairman Mao Tse Tung had a meeting with Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, with a view to their joining forces in order to concentrate their joint efforts on defeating the Japanese. But Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek had his own agenda: He wanted to be lord and master of all that he surveyed in the Motherland. Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek had the backing of the Americans, at that time, but I guess his

Nationalist Army was not completely instructed in the art of war, American-style, as the world is witnessing, today, in Iraq. One thing is clear; however: Chinese only like to kill and torture their own because China has yet to win a war with foreign devils. But, at the same time, I ask you: Who invented the water-torture? The young bamboo sprout, growing through a man's stomach? The popping out of a man's eyes for looking at the Emperor? The mercury method of skinning a man alive? Yes, China, also, knows how to inflict pain, but we reserve the giving of exquisite pain to our own people.

*Turning to the British, history has proved that this race of sixty million unwashed people has done very well in the torture-and-killing stakes. It was the British, who introduced the torture of hang, draw and quarter. This is, as it sounds: First hang up a felon by his neck and, then, while he is still alive, cut open his abdomen so that his innards fall out, and, then, just before he expires, cut him into four pieces. Good, don't you think? In Eighteenth Century England, there was published, *The Newgate Calendar*, which records some of the famous criminal cases in the United Kingdom. Here is just one of the cases, copied, directly, from this famous work:*

'The cruelty of the application of the torture to extort confession, cannot but be universally admitted in the present enlightened age. Who does not shudder at the idea? St Augustin opposed such cruelty. The Romans tortured their slaves only; and Quintilian, recollecting that they were men, reproved the Romans for such want of humanity.

'The defendant, Thomas Picton, Esq., was indicted for putting to the torture a female, Louisa Calderon, one of His Majesty's subjects in the island of Trinidad in the West Indies, in order to extort confession.

'Mr Garrow stated the case for the prosecution, and, whilst he expressed the strongest desire to bring to condign punishment the perpetrator of an offence so flagrant as that charged upon the defendant, yet much more happy would he be to find that there was no ground upon which the charge could be supported, and that the British character was not stained by the adoption of so cruel a measure. The island of Trinidad, he said, surrendered to Sir Ralph Abercrombie in the year 1797; and he entered into a stipulation, by which he conceded to the inhabitants the continuance of their laws, and appointed a new governor, until His Majesty should extend to this new acquisition to his empire all the sacred privileges of the laws of England. He had the authority of the defendant himself for stating that the system of jurisprudence adopted under the Spanish monarch, for his colonial establishments, was benignant, and adapted to the protection of the subject.

'In December 1801, when this crime was perpetrated, Louisa Calderon was of the tender age of ten or eleven years. At that early period she had been induced to live with a person named Pedro Ruiz, as his mistress; and although it appeared to them very singular that she should sustain such a situation at that time of life, yet it was a fact that, in that climate, women often became mothers at twelve years old, and were in a state of concubinage, if, from their condition, they could not form a more honourable connexion. While she lived with Ruiz, she was engaged in an intrigue with Carlos Gonzalez, the pretended friend of the former, who robbed him of a quantity of dollars. Gonzalez was apprehended, and she also was taken into custody, as some suspicion fell upon her, in consequence of the affair. She was taken before the justice, and, in his presence, she denied having any concern in the business. The magistrate felt that his powers were at an end, and whether the object of her denial were to protect herself, or her friend, was not material. The extent of his authority being thus limited, the officer of justice resorted to General Picton and he had now to produce, in the handwriting of the defendant, this bloody sentence: "Inflict the torture upon Louisa Calderon." There was no delay in proceeding to its execution. The girl was informed in the jail, that if she did not confess, she would be subject to the torture; that under this process she might probably lose her limbs or her life; but the calamity would be on her own head, for, if she would confess, she would not be required to endure it. While her mind was in the state of agitation this notice produced, her fears were aggravated by the introduction of two or three negresses into her prison, who were to suffer under the same experiment for witchcraft. In this situation of alarm and horror, the young woman persisted in her innocence: and a punishment was inflicted, improperly called picketing. This was a military punishment, perfectly distinct in its nature. This was not picketing but the torture. It was true, the soldier exposed to this did stand with his foot on a picket, or sharp piece of wood; but, in mercy to him, a means of reposing was afforded,

on the rotundus major or interior of the arm. Her position might be easily described. The great toe was lodged upon a sharp piece of wood, while the opposite wrist was suspended in a pulley and the other hand and foot were lashed together. Another time the horrid ceremony was repeated, with this difference, that her feet were changed.'

Good stuff! The Americans in Iraq, probably, had read The Newgate Calendar and had taken the lessons of British torture of past years to heart: It could be described as the pragmatic approach to extorting confessions from Muslims, held under the emergency powers of the military occupation forces. Which all goes to prove that, we are all the same, under the skin: Be we yellow-skinned, black-skinned, or white-skinned, or even colours in between the above.

Until my next letter, My Dear Grandchild,

I am,

The Chief Lady of Hongkong

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