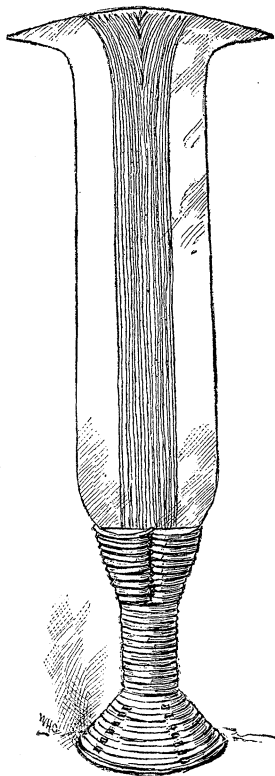


### A Bayanzi execution.

It may be interesting to ethnologists to give a brief account of the mode of execution among the Bayanzi, a large tribe of negroes inhabiting the country between the Kongo and the river draining Lake Leopold II., which empties into the Kwa, the largest southern affluent of the Kongo. The Bayanzi are said to be peaceful negroes, quite skilful in agriculture, and to excel in wood-carving and working iron into weapons of various kinds.

The executioner's sword is a short, heavy two-edged weapon, blunt at the end, where it projects in



BAYANZI SWORD.

a spur on each side. The hilt is of wood wound with brass wire, giving a very firm grip. The series of shallow grooves through the middle are called 'blood-grooves.'

In executing, the condemned is made to sit down on a block just behind a post, his limbs passing on each side of it. The post reaches to the height of his chin. His arms, legs, and body are tied to stakes. A strong sapling is bent down, having at its extremity a collar suspended by cords. This collar is placed around the victim's neck, producing so great tension, that, when the executioner delivers the blow, the severed head is thrown into the air with the force of a bomb. In all probability, this device for making the neck taut arises from the clumsy nature of the sword employed, and the consequent difficulty in using it for decapitation. The post in front of the man's neck also facilitates the entire removal of

the head. Previous to the execution it is usual for the people—men, women, and children—to torment the prisoner with fire-brands, thorns, and all sorts of devices, while he is in this uncomfortable pillory. This execution shows an ingenious arrangement of machinery to accomplish an end, resulting in a queer combination of hanging and decapitation.

The circumstance which forms the subject of this paper was witnessed in November, 1884, at Loukoléla, by Mr. E. J. Glare. Lieut. E. H. Taunt, U. S. navy, collected the sword. Mr. W. P. Tisdell sent in a scythe-shaped sword said to have been used for the same purpose. So far as known by the writer, this is the first time that an account of the Bayanzi or a similar execution has ever been published.

WALTER HOUGH.

Washington, June 9.

### An advance in educational advertising.

The announcements annually made by the better class of educational institutions in this country are generally characterized by a wholesome modesty, both as to style and substance. Indeed, one might infer from their perusal that there existed among the educational fraternity a code of ethics nearly as rigorous as that of the medical profession. That many exceptions to this rule have occurred, and are occurring, has long been known; and ten years ago Prof. F. W. Clarke amused and interested the reading public by the publications of some choice selections from advertising literature issued by a few schools in the west and south, where, as Professor Clarke remarked, the people are 'untrammelled by effete conventionalities.' He also explained the backward state of the art in some other parts of the country by saying that 'New England and the middle states are too much tied down by routine and tradition to produce such rare developments of the intellect.'

It is gratifying to know that in one spot, at least, of this benighted region, it begins to look as if somebody had cut the string. The institution inaugurating a new departure is not found, as in the instances cited by Professor Clarke, in an obscure country town whose location is only revealed after a careful study of the map, but it is in and a part of the very 'Hub' itself. With the keen insight and business tact which is supposed to be inseparable from the genuine down-east Yankee, the author of the new idea has evidently studied the question of advertising with a determination to adopt that style which experience has shown to be the most successful. As might have been anticipated, the result of his investigations is apparently, that, in the present state of our knowledge of the art, its highest development is embodied in the methods of the vender of patent medicines.

Your New-Englander is nothing, however, if not cautious, and it must not be assumed that the full power of the new method has been brought into play at once. The first output was observed in the advertising columns of a well-known newspaper, a copy of which recently fell into the hands of the writer. The announcement of a widely known educational institution, everywhere recognized as one of the first, if not the very first, of its type, began with a display in large capitals of the words, '*Beware of imitators!*'

Had this phrase occurred in connection with the advertisement of some western school, 'untram-