



No. 32.—DECAPITATION.

Our artist has seized the moment when the culprit, half stupefied with opium, having been shot out of the cage or basket in which he has reached the ground, has his queue firmly grasped and pulled over his head by a man who will, by tightening his hold, keep the neck steadily

stretched for the knife. The executioner usually performs his duty very dexterously, a second blow from the short broad sword or knife being hardly ever required. The magistrate deputed to witness and report the execution, sits behind a desk upon which is laid the death warrant.