

KLING-TAOS OF SIAM.

A STRANGE HALF CIVILIZED PEOPLE IN AN UNTRADDED REGION.

Some of Them Worship Snakes—Possess Some Agricultural Skill—A Brave and Fearless People—Magicians Possess the Most Influence in the Tribe.

In the course of my explorations in Asia a portion of my route carried me through the wilds of Annam and Northern Siam, a land covered for its greater extent with well nigh impenetrable forests and malarial swamps.

Firmly convinced that nothing save a speedy, determined, even impetuous, advance would enable me to succeed where others had repeatedly failed, my journey into this untraded region was made by following the course of the



Some Warriors of the Tribe.

Mekong River nearly to its source in Southeastern Tibet. My expeditionary force consisted of twenty Bangkok coolies. Leaving Saigon early in the year, by midsummer we had successfully overcome the dangers which menaced us from the fierce Lao tribes and had penetrated to the heart of the Chiao Plain, a region occupied by one of the strangest races in the world, the Kling-Taos, an important branch of the great Lao race of Siam.

Character of the Race.

Kling-Taos, although generally recognized as a distinct race, are in reality the issue of an amalgamation of races entirely alien in their general characteristics and differing widely in appearance and language.

Most of these tribes are migratory. There are but few settled villages, and these even of the most miserable kind. The houses are one-storied affairs, constructed of wicker and bamboo with a covering of clay and raised on piles to a height of five or six feet from the ground.

An Improvident People.

All of these tribes show considerable agricultural skill, but in spite of the fertility and natural richness of the country they are singularly improvident, and during an especially trying season they die by hundreds of starvation.

My acquaintance with the Kling-Taos was not confined to meeting marauding parties of warriors or trading bands. I visited and studied these remarkable people in their own country. We camped one day by the side of a tiny rivulet in the country of the Kazoyts, one of the proudest tribes of this race, and knowing the savage nature of our surroundings we had built a strong "kao," or stockade, of thorn trees, which afforded us protection from attack.

Among nearly all savage races a certain affection is manifested by parents for their offspring. Among the Kling-Taos such a moral quality is unknown.

country. They wished to see what we were, to trade with us and to demand tribute for the privilege of passing through their country. Boldness and impudence are not attractive qualities among civilized beings, and in a savage they become intolerable. We soon discovered that these traits predominated, for even the little children were bold, insolent and aggressive. They were afraid to take liberties with the mysterious white-faced leaders of the party, but they seemed to be at great pains to impress our coolies that they considered them no better than animals. Our men for several months past had stalked about among the weak tribes previously encountered in a boastful, bullying manner; but now the case was quite different and otherwise, and it was laughable to see the tables turned on our men so completely and so suddenly.

Treatment of Travelers. The head-man of the district was a pompous old warrior, who announced his intention of preventing our passage through the country unless we submitted to the exorbitant charges for the privileges which he demanded. We promptly seized upon his person, threatening the most dire punishment should he attempt to put his threat into execution. Then his insolence vanished, and, finding that we were not to be cowed by threats, he became more gracious. The Kling-Taos being brave and fearless themselves, admire these traits in others, and the effect of this summary treatment was to secure for us the freest opportunities for exploring the surrounding country and completing our investigation.

No Settled Government. There is no settled form of government among the Kling-Taos, and the constitution of society is very simple. Rank is hereditary, but as no respect is shown for birth the chiefs have little power. The religious institutions are likewise simple; there is no general object of worship. There is a vague notion of a universal ruler, who is represented by several malevolent spirits. Mian, the most powerful, inhabits the woods in the form of man-eating animals; Narge, who carries off children, lives in the clouds, and P'ek-nak, who lives in the streams, raises storms. As a protection against these the people construct—having first with much ceremony chosen a tree for the purpose—certain rude images called kwars, each representing a recently dead progenitor, whose spirit is then invoked to occupy the image and protect them against their enemies and give success to their undertakings. The kwars is about a foot high, with head disproportionately large; the male figures are sometimes represented with a spear and shield, the female holding a snake. Omens are observed before starting on any expedition; if they are unfavorable the person threatened retires, another day is chosen and the process repeated.

Magicians and Rainmakers. The most influential members of the tribe are the magicians and rainmakers, whose business it is to regulate the weather and to whom is intrusted the process of ordeal to discover crime. The desirability of this position is open to question, for, should the unfortunate magician fail to provide what is required of him, he is punished in a horrible manner. A hollow tree is selected, and in it he is imprisoned, his head protruding from a narrow opening, while the remainder of the offence is sealed up with clay. In this position he remains until he dies or until some fortunate chance assists in his release, which is not often.

Some of the Traders. The position of woman among the Kling-Taos is very low, and the traveler cannot fail to be struck by the hardness and misery of her lot. Although a woman is looked upon as a valuable commodity, she is treated in the utmost contempt, and her existence is infinitely worse than that of the animals of her lord and master. Polygamy is generally practiced, and in addition the more powerful chiefs maintain concubines. I have known of a man who possessed at one time fourteen wives and nearly twice as many concubines. At death a man's property is transferred to his relatives, but the women of his household are looked upon as common property and may be seized by the first who comes along, and who is able to uphold his claim by combat.

Knives Made by Pressure. It is announced that an entirely new method for the manufacture of table cutlery is being introduced into Sheffield, England, and is exciting much interest. A round bar of steel is placed in a machine, and by means of hydraulic pressure a perfect knife is formed—blade, bolster and handle. The "flash" is taken off, and it is subsequently ground and polished by machinery. One such machine is capable, it is stated, of producing 5,000 of these all steel knives per day at a comparatively small cost in labor. The machines are capable of dealing with any kind of cutlery or tools.

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Hardly had we settled in our "kao" when hundreds of warriors, followed by women and children, came streaming into camp. The news of the arrival of a white man's caravan was the signal for a general mustering of the population of the entire surrounding

WASHINGTON.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, April 10, 1899. No more glaring proof of the all-around military incompetency of Alorism has been shown than the fact that of the 366 bodies brought from Cuba and Porto Rico and buried in Arlington Cemetery, yesterday, after an impressive military funeral, 91 were unidentified. What sort of management must there have been when 25 per cent of the men who died or were killed over there were buried without being marked in some way for future identification? It must have been every bit as loose as that which had to do with feeding the living. It was all right and proper that these men should be honored by a military funeral and the closing for half a day of the government buildings in Washington, but this honor will not make the parents and friends of those 91 soldiers, whose graves will be marked "unknown," forgive those in authority who neglected a plain duty in failing to look after their proper identification.

Things have reached an acute stage in the beef inquiry. The court done several things last week calculated to make the public suspect its fairness, and believe that it had a preference as to the kind of testimony it wished to hear. It started by ignoring a courteous request from Ex-Representative J. Hamilton Lewis that he be allowed to appear as counsel for Dr. Daly, when he gave his testimony, and it aggravated matters by trying to dodge a specific request of Gen. Miles that 131 witnesses, whose names he furnished, should be summoned. This brought out a sharp letter from Gen. Miles, from which the following is an extract: "It is my belief that at least 25,000 men, and undoubtedly a much greater number, would confirm the testimony that has already been given that a portion of the food supplied the army was unwholesome and unsuitable for use." Gen. Miles knows that the people are with him in this case and he has no idea of being bluffed off.

If all the applications are granted, and they continue being made as rapidly as they have been, a goodly proportion of the men who enlisted for the war with Spain will soon be on the pension roll of the Government. From official figures at the Pension Bureau it is shown that the number of applicants for pension have been comparatively enormous. Out of five regiments, which lead the pension procession, there have already been filed 1735 applications for pension. These regiments and the number of applicants from each follow: Thirty-fourth Michigan, 398; First District of Columbia, 352; Eighth Ohio, sometimes called "the President's own," 349; Thirty-third Michigan, 319, and the Second Massachusetts, 317.

No law seems broad enough to protect employes of the Government from their superiors who wish to have them "voluntarily" contribute to buy a present for a retiring official. The individual contributions for this sort of thing are small, but the aggregate is large, and at least ninety-nine out of every hundred who contribute would refuse to do so, if they did not know refusal would be followed by a course of petty nagging that would be far more annoying than the loss of the money. The latest "voluntary" contributions were made by the employes of the Internal Revenue Office, to buy a \$400 watch and diamond studded chain, which was presented to Mr. Nathan B. Scott, who has resigned the position of Commissioner of Internal Revenue to become Senator from West Virginia.

Ex-Gov. and Ex-Congressman McCree, of Kentucky, was in Washington this week. He said of the political outlook in his state: "A spirited contest is going on between the three aspirants for the governorship, but it matters not to which the nomination falls he will be elected by 25,000 to 30,000 votes. We lost the state in '96, but next year Mr. Bryan, or whoever is the standardbearer of the party, will get Kentucky's elec-

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that contain Mercury,

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good that you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally, and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free. Sold by druggists, price 75c a bottle. Hall's Family Pills are the best. 1m

toral vote. I presume Mr. Bryan will be the nominee again on pretty much the same platform, although there will, no doubt, be strong declarations against trusts and against imperialism. The Republicans will almost certainly re-nominate McKinley, so we shall have a campaign pretty much on the lines of '96."

Representative Mayer, of Louisiana, said of the proposition that we should exchange the Philippine Islands for the British West Indies, which originated in the Leeward Islands and which had been much discussed in Washington last week: "As long as we are in the business of buying and selling and trading in sovereignty, I should prefer, other things being equal, to hold possessions near the United States rather than at a distance." Representative Livingston, Georgia, who would prefer that this government should pay somebody to take the Philippines off its hands, rather than keep them, thinks the suggestion is feasible, and that if properly approached England would agree to take them, although Germany would probably make a strong protest against their being transferred to England. Mr. Livingston says that all we need in the Philippines is a coal and naval station, and believes that we shall regret it if we keep more than that. Admiral Schley says that the swap will never be made for the very good reason that England would not agree to it.

How Mrs. Pinkham HELPED MRS. GOODEN.

[LETTER TO MRS. PINKHAM NO. 12,713] "I am very grateful to you for your kindness and the interest you have taken in me, and truly believe your medicines and advice are worth more to a woman than all the doctors in the world. For years I had female troubles and did nothing for them. Of course I became no better and finally broke down entirely. My troubles began with inflammation and hemorrhages from the kidneys, then inflammation, congestion and falling of the womb and inflammation of ovaries. "I underwent local treatment every day for some time; then after nearly two months the doctor gave me permission to go back to work. I went back, but in less than a week was compelled to give up and go to bed. On breaking down the second time, I decided to let doctors and their medicine alone and try your remedies. Before the first bottle was gone I felt the effects of it. Three bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and a package of her Sanative Wash did me more good than all the doctors' treatments and medicine. "The first remark that greets me now is 'How much better you look!' and you may be sure I never hesitate to tell the cause of my health."—Mrs. E. J. GOODEN, ACKLEY, IA.

Lazy Liver

Advertisement for Cascarets, a cathartic medicine. It includes a list of prices for various quantities and a note about the product's benefits for the liver and bowels.

NERVITA PILLS

Advertisement for Nervita Pills, a medicine for restoring vitality and curing various ailments. It includes a testimonial and contact information for the manufacturer.

PATENTS

Advertisement for Patents, offering services for securing and defending patents. It includes contact information for C. A. Snow & Co. in Washington, D.C.

Advertisement for Hood's Pills, a medicine for constipation, headache, biliousness, heartburn, indigestion, and dizziness. It includes a testimonial and contact information for the manufacturer.

Advertisement for Dr. Humphreys' medicine, which is said to cure various ailments. It includes a list of ailments and a testimonial from a patient.

Advertisement for Shadow and Light Wax Candles, manufactured by Standard Oil Co. It includes a list of prices for various quantities and a note about the product's quality.

RAILROAD TIME TABLE

Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad. Bloomsburg Division. In Effect August 1st, 1898. Table listing train schedules, stations, and times for various routes.

Pennsylvania Railroad.

Pennsylvania Railroad. Time Table in effect Nov. 20, '98. Table listing train schedules, stations, and times for various routes.