A STRANGE HALF CIVILIZED PEOPLE IN AN UNTRODDEN 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. Little has been written about this almost unknown country, and yet it is one of the most strange and interesting regions of the earth. Of all the mixed communities of the much-mixed East the country about the headwaters of the Mekong River offers a more varied object lesson in interracial complications than probably any other local-My of its size in the world.

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 untrodden region was made by following the course of the



Some Warriors of the Tribe.

Mekong River nearly to its source in Southeastern Thibet. My expeditionary force consisted of twenty Bangkok coolies. Leaving Salgon early in the year, by midsummer we had successfully overcome the dangers which menaced us from the flerce 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. For several months we remained among this strange people, thoroughly exploring their country.

Character of the Race.

Miling-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. The level of civilization varies, but seldom reaches even the average standard of Southern Asia. This people are of medium height, of fleshy rather than muscular frame; in color a sooty brown, with high but rather narrow and retreating forehead, thick lips and high cheek bones. A peculiarity is the variin hair, some having it straight, as in the Mongolian races, while among others it is black and frizzly, as in a full-blooded negro.

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. Among the more savage Kling-Taos it is the practice to build dwellings in trees. This is done to safeguard the dwellers against enemies and evil spirits.

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. When this occurs whole tribes migrate to the south and raid and make war upon the more civilized natives of central and southern Siam. The Kling-Taos, being bold and warlike, are really the "bogles" of Southeastern Asia, and the fierceness characterizing these periodical forays and the dread which they inspire among their more peaceful neighbors have hitherto saved them from retaliatory punishment.

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 Kazylos, 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. The camp was in an open plain, and on our way thither we had been made aware of the interest we created among the inhabitants by the glimpses of bands of Kling-Taos who were intently watching our movements from little eminences off to the west. Sometimes when we could not see the warriors their presence would be revenled by the glint of the sun on their big, bright spears, or on the "senge" ornaments of the women. "Senge" is the Siamese name for a thick iron wire, which answers the purpose of money among these people.

Auxious to See White Men. 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

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 there 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 compous 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. promptly seized upon his person, threatening the most dire punishment should be 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 onstitution 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 maneating animals; Narge, who carries off children, lives in the clouds, and Fenak, 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. Onens 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 Rainmaker.

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 ding from a narrow orifice, while the remainder of the opening 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

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.

Knives Made by Pressure.

It is announced that an entirely new method for the manufacture of table cutiery 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 "fash" 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.

WASHINGTON.

Washington, April 10, 1899. No more glaring proof of the allfrom Cuba and Porto Rico and bur- much on the lines of '96.' ied in Arlington Cemetery, yesterday, after an impressive military funeral, 91 were unindentified. What sort of said of the proposition that we should when 25 per cent of the men who the British West Indies, which origiwhich had to do with feeding the livthese men should be honored by a make the parents and friends of those 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 station, and believes that we shall refairness, and believe that it had a gret it if we keep more than that. 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 unwholsome 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: Thirtyfourth Michigan, 398: First District of Columbia, 352; Eighth Ohio, sometimes called "the President's own," 349; Thirty-third Michigan,

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 Mc-Creary, 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 nonithation falls he will be elected by 25,ooo to 30,000 votes. We lost the state in '96, but next year Mr. Bryan, or whoever is the standardhearer of the party, will get Kentucky's elec-

Beware of Ointments for Oatarrh that con-tain 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 reptutable 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 takan 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. Im

toral vote. I presume Mr. Bryan will be the nominee again on pretty much the same plattorm, although there will, no doubt, also be strong declarations against trusts and against around military incompetency of imperialism. The Republicans will Algerism has been shown than the almost certainly re-nominate McKinfact that of the 366 bodies brought ley, so we shall have a campaign pretty

Representative Mayer, of Louisiana, management must there have been exchange the Philippine Islands for died or were killed over there were nated in the Leeward Islands and buried without being marked in some which had been much discussed in way for future identification? It must | Washington last week: "As long as have been every bit as loose as that we are in the business of buying and selling and trading in sovereignty, I ing. It was all right and proper that should prefer, other things being equal, to hold possessions near the military funeral and the closing for United States rather than at a dishalf a day of the government buildings tance." Representative Livingston, in Washington, but this honor will not Georgia, who would prefer that this government should pay somebody to 91 soldiers, whose graves will be take the Philippines off its hands, marked "unknown," forgive those in rather than keep them, thinks the sugauthority who neglected a plain duty gestion is feasible, and that if properly in failing to look after their proper 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 neval Admiral Schley says that the swap will never be made for the very good reason that England would not agree

> How Mrs. Pinkham HELPED MRS. GOODEN.

[LETTER TO MRS. PINKHAM NO. 12,733] "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.

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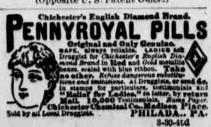
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Time Table in effect Nov. 20, '98 Scranton (D & II) iv | 16 45 Pittston 7 (8 Wilkesbarre. .iv Plym'th Ferry'' Nanticoke.....'' Mocanaqua...'' Wapwalioper.'' Nescopeck.....ar Nescopeck.....1v Catawissa..... ar Catawissa .....iv S. Danville ..... Sunbury ...... Lock Haven...lv | P M. | 512 10 | 105 | 105 | 107 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 10 Philadelphia .ar Baltimore...." Washington " Sunbury ...... ly Lewistown Jc ar 12 05 Pittsburg ...... 4 6 55 Harrisburg..... lv 111 45 Pittsburg .... .ar 1 6 55 111 30 1 2 00 Weekdays. Daily, f Flag station Pittsburg. ... 1v P. M. 1 7 · 5 A. M. 1 2 00 P. M. 1 8 20 A. M. 1 3 4c A. M. Lewistown Jc." Sunbury... ar Washington...lv 110 40 Baltimore....... 111 55 Philadelphia.... 111 20 A. M. Pittaburg ... lv 512 45 Clearfield ... 4 69 Philipsburg ... 4 56 Tyrone ... 7 15 Bellefonte ... 8 31 Lock Haven ... ar 9 30 9 82 A. M. Williamsport.." 2 21 10 17 10 35 10 48 f10 47 10 56 11 10 

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