RAISING RICE AND PEPPER IS THEIR PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION.

All the Land is Owned by the King-Flooded Farms—Methods of Ir-rigation—Primitive Implements.

Siam, says Frank S. Carpenter in the American Agriculturist, is a great wedge at the lower end of the vast peninsula of Indo-China. It is bounded on the sides and at the top by the French possessions of Tonquin and the English principality of Burmah. These two nations are castof Burmah. These two nations are casting their covetous eyes upon it. It is a land of some mountains and many valleys. The mighty Menam River flows from north to south through it, and the valley of this is one of the richest agricultural regions of the world. Forty miles from its mouth lies Bangkok, a town of about 700,000 people, 600,000 of whom live in floating houses fastened to piles along the banks of the rivers. to piles along the banks of the rivers. These floating houses are found all along the valley of the Menam, and they line the rivers of the interior. During the rainy season a vast part of the country is flooded, and the farmers go from one part of it to another in boats. Many farmers live in floating-houses, and when their estates lie along the banks of the river they can float from one end of their little plantations to the other by simply loos-ing the bands which bind their houses to the piles. The country has a system of land laws, and though the King really owns every foot of it, and could confis-cate estates if he would, the farmers have a certain right of tenure to their lands, and as long as they pay their taxes they can buy and sell them and will them to their children just as they do in other countries. The taxes constitute the King's rents, and these are very high. All land is taxed at ten per cent. of its value. The crops are taxed, and in fact everything that the farmers own must pay a high rate of taxation. The biggest tax, however, is that of labor. The big Farmer-King has the right to call upon every one of his tenants for three months of hard labor during the year. He delegates this right to the governors of his provinces and the heads of villages, and the result is that often when the farmers should be harvesting their own crops they have to turn in and harvest those of the King. The women, consequently, have to do the greater part of the work, and the men are little better than slaves. This three months may be increased, as the necessities of the King demand.

The Siamese farmers, like those of all

other Eastern countries, huddle together in little villages and they go out from these to work their fields which surround the towns. The fields are unfenced, and cattle are herded all the year round. Cattle thieves and crop thieves are numerous, and it is only by eternal vigilance that the farmers are able to save their crops. The principal Siamese crop is rice, and rice constitutes the food of the people. There is no better country in the world for raising it than Siam. The lowlands are easily irrigated and the rainy season lasts from May until Octofields are laid off in lots of about one-third of an acre, each surrounded by an embandment of earth about a foot and a half high for the purpose of holding water when the land is prepared for planting. The rice is first sprouted in little patches, and when it is a foot high it is pulled up, tied into bunches and taken to these little fields, which are then covered with about six inches of water. It is there transplanted, the men, women and children bending over and thrusting the stalks deep into the soft mud under the water. A good workman can set out about a third of an acre a day, and the planting season is any time between June and October. The harvest time comes along about Christmas, and in many parts of the country these rich fields are artificially irrigated.

The irrigation of Siam increases every

year, and it is chiefly the work of the Chinese settlers. These Chinese have in-troduced their methods of irrigation, and there are others which have been in use from time immemorial. The ordinary methods are much the same as those of methods are much the same as those of Eastern countries. Two women or girls dip up water in a basket, pitched within and without to prevent its leaking. They stand on the higher bank above the canal and give the basket a swing by four strings which they have attached to it. They null these strings as it dips into the came Bismarck. trings water and lift from six to eight gallons to the higher level where it runs off into the fields. The system of having small buckets around a great wheel, which is turned by a man or a woman walking up it like the dog on the churn, is also in use and in some places the old-fashioned well-sweep is used. Labor is very cheap. Farm hands get from \$1 to \$1.50 a week and board themselves, and there is, a

and board themselves, and there is, a great deal of debt labor.

The farming implements of Siam are of the rudest description. The cultivation of the whole country is done with a slow that on Area is a factor of the second plow that an American farmer would not use. It consists of a crooked stick with one handle, and it has a plowshare of cast iron about as big as a man's hand. This plowshare has a little hole in one end of it in which one end of the crooked stick is put, and the whole outfit costs about \$1.25. It cuts a furrow of about two inches deep and five inches wide, and it is drawn by an ox or buffalo which is attached to it by a yoke and rope harness. When two oxen are used the plow has a sort of tongue which is fastened to has a sort of tongue which is fastened to the yoke on the necks of the team and in

\$200,000 worth of black pepper every year. The pepper plantations are largely managed by Chinese. The berries grow in racemes, like currants, from a climbing vine trained like a hop vine upon trees or tree stumps which have been cut off high up from the ground, and good-bearing vines will yield two good crops a year. Very little cultivation is needed. Cuttings of the vines about eighteen inches long are buried at the root of the tree, and as they grow the vines are trained toward the trunk. On dry soils it is necessary to water the plants every other day during the dry seascns, for the first three years, and at the age of four or five years the plants begin to bear. They continue to bear from seven to fourteen years, and I am \$200,000 worth of black pepper every from seven to fourteen years, and I am told that the crop is a most profitable one. The principal crop is harvested in December and January, and the other becomes ripe about July or August. The harvest commences as soon as the berries begin to turn red and they are collected at this time and dried for the market. A good average yield for a plant is two pounds of pepper per annum.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

A Bowery museum advertises the "biggest dwarf" in the world.

To salute with the left hand is a deadly insult to Mohammedans in the East.

Until 1776 cotton spinning was per formed by the hand spinning-wheel.

Germany manufactures over \$10,000, 000 worth of children's toys every year Lewis Ledger, of New York city, on

a wager recently ate thirty hard-boiled eggs in fifteen minutes. The proportion of married couples who live to celebate their golden wedding is

under one in a thousand. The old Craddock fort on Ship street, East Medford, Mass., is the oldest house in America. It was begun in 1634.

A New York broker has just paid \$15,000 for a half interest in a salmon stream that flows into the Restigouche, in Canada.

The presence of a well developed apple growing on the grapevine at Ports-mouth, Ohio, is ascribed to skillful graft-

A sparrow at Colestown, Penn., built a nest in the running gear of a farmer's wagon, and makes a trip to market every

In the maw of a cow killed near Darien, Ga., a few days ago, was found a pound of six penny nails and a five cent piece.

With the present rate of increase as a basis, it is estimated that a century hence this country will have a population of 904,921,686.

Napoleon III. got his title, the third, for the second never reigned, by a com-positor mistaking the exclamation points—"!!!" for the Roman numerals

A marine on duty at the Brooklyn (N. Y.) navy yard, is unable to speak above a whisper, in consequence of hav-ing habitually eaten gunpowder for

The reason why fire crackers are alber. The climate is tropical and the winters are like our summers. Everything grows almost spontaneously, and two crops a year are not uncommon. The occasions.

The oldest man in Great Britain is an embankment of earth about a foot and a half high for the purpose of holding was born on the 24th of November, water when the land is prepared for 1783. He lives in County Ross, and is still healthy and vigorous.

The boundary line between the United States and Canada is distinctly marked from Lake Michigan to the Pacific by cairns, pillars of iron, earth mounds and timber clearings.

Prince Herbert Bismarck cherishes carefully the wreck of a watch which he carried during the Franco-Prussian war and which stopped a bullet that otherwise might have ended his life,

The great exhibition held in London, England, in 1851, was attended by 6,039,195 persons and left a profit of \$1,066,525. It remained open from the 1st of May to the 11th of October.

The Pacific coast has not a complete The Pacific coast has not a complete monoply of big trees. There is a cypress tree at Enterprise, Fla., that is over ten feet in diameter and has a trunk reach-ing up forty feet to the first branch.

Few people know of the origin of the name Bismarck. The castle of the Chancellor's ancestors received its name from the "marca," or boundary line, formed by the River Biese, Biese-Marca

A queer white and red robin astonishes the fishermen at Quonochoutaug, R. I. It has built its nest in a shaggy reach of pasture near the thundering ocean breakwater. The bird's body of a snowy white, even to the tip of its tail, except its breast, which is of a rosy

The food of a "Zoo" hippopotamus estimated to be about two hundred pounds a day in weight, and consists chiefly of hay, grass and roots. The daily provender of a giraffe weighs about fifty pounds. The lions and tigers obtain about eight or nine pounds of meat

For fifteen years a Portland (Me.) For fifteen years a Portland (Me.) business man has received from the florist's every other morning a fresh bunch of flowers—roses, heliotrope, forget-me-nots and the like, and placed it directly in front of him upon his desk. By thus looking upon the bright side of life he has undoubtedly added to his henvires. happiness.

Delmonico's Pompeiian Pillars.

has a sort of tongue which is fastened to the yoke on the necks of the team and in both cases the animals are driven not by lines but by a sort of rope halter fastened to a hole in the nose of the ox. The harrow is equally rude. It consists of a long rake with wooden teeth attached to a bamboo tongue which is fastened to the ox's yoke. It has an oval handle which the woman or man holds and upon which she bears down in order to break the clods and drive the teeth in deeper.

One of the most profitable crops is the gepper crop, and Siam exports about

ORIGIN OF THE IDEA THAT PATA GONIA IS A REGION OF GIANTS.

e Spanish Explorer Magellan Finds Two Gigantic Natives and Carries Them Off to Spain.

Carries Them Off to Spain.

Magellan's first American port was the Bay of Rio Janeiro, to which he gave the name of Santa Lucia. It had been explored by Lopez four years before, and even before that time. There was one Portuguese trader settled on an island in the bay, the pioneer settler of the great city which stands there to-day. The whole crew were delighted with the luxuries of the climate and the cordiality of the simple natives. "You can buy six hens for a king of diamonds," says Pagafelta, the amusing historian of the voyage. "They are not Christians, but they are not idolaters, for they adore nothing; instinct is their only law." This is his summary account of their religious habit and condition, an account proved to be quite inadequate by more careful inquiries. After thirteen days spent in this bay the squadron resumed its voyage of discovery.

discovery.

They looked in at the great estuary of the river La Plata; but Solis, who had lost his life there, had already discovered that this was not a passage to the Pacific. Still coasting southward, they sighted and perhaps landed on the Island of Penguins and the Island of Sea Lions, and here were struck by a terrible storm. and here were struck by a terrible storm. Not far from these islands, on the shore of the continent, they discovered the Bay of San Julian, and here Magellan determined to winter. Magellan made the ships secure at the

Magelian made the snips secure at the shore, built a forge and storehouse, and some huts for barracks, and established a little observatory, where Andres San Martin determined the latitude. Longitude in those times, they could not well determine.

While they were thus occupied, little party of natives appeared, and after some friendly signaling one or more of them came on board. Magellan directed them came on board. Magelian directed a sailor to land, and to imitate every gesture of the first who appeared, as a token of frindship. The man acted his part so well that the gentle savage was propitiated, and readily came to an interview. On this or another occasion, six Indians consented to go on board the flag-ship. Their Spanish hosts gave them a kettle full of biscuits—enough for a kettle full of biscuits—enough for twenty men, in the Castilian measure of appetite. But the hungry Indians de-voured it all. Two, at least, of these visitors were of unusual size. The Spaniards only came up to their girdles. But, as the childreh's books say, these were "friendly giants." One of them saw the "ifriendly giants." One of them saw the sailors throwing rats overboard, and begged that he might have them for his own. Afterward he regularly received the rats caught on board the ships as a daily perquisite. Before their voyage was over, Magellan's sailors were glad enough to follow his example, and to place these fellow-voyagers on their bill of fare at the rate of a ducat apiece.

This party of six—and a party of nine seen at another time—which may have included part or all of the first six, are all of the natives whom Magellan and his men ever saw. Of these, it seems certain, that two at least were very large. All the Indians wore large shoes, which they stuffed with straw for warmth. From this custom the Spaniards gave them the name of Patagons, meaning in Spanish those who have large feet. When Magellan was about to sail, he determined to carry the two giants home as curiosities. It was impossible to over-power either of them in fair contest, and he resorted to treachery, which can only be excused on the theory of the Spaniards be excused on the theory of the Spanards at that time that these savages were to be ranked among brutes, over whom Christian men had certain special rights. The two friendly giants, being about to leave the ships, Magellan loaded them with presents. He gave them knives, mirrors and glass trinkets, so that their hands were full, then he offered to each a chain. They were passionately fond of a chain. They were passionately fond of iron, but could not take the chains from very embarrassment of riches. With very embarrassment of riches. With their full consent, therefore, Magellan bade the smith fasten the chains to their legs by the manacles which were attached to them. When it was too late the poor giants found, as so many wiser men have found, that they had accepted too many presents, and that in their very wealth they were made slaves. When they discovered this they were wild with rage, to come to their succor.

Not satisfied with this success. Magel-Not satisfied with this success, Magellan tried to make more captives. He directed nine of his strongest men to compel the Indians to take them to the station where their women were. One of them escaped, but the other was subdued after a hard conflict. He consented to lead them to the wives of the two prisoners. When the women heard of the fate of their lords they uttered such the fate of their lords they uttered such screams that they were heard at the ships far away. The Spaniards had such su-periority in numbers that they expected the next morning to carry the Indian women and their children on board ship. But meanwhile two Indian men came, who spent the night with them, and at who spent the hight with them, and at daybreak the whole party escaped together. In their flight they killed one of the Spaniards with a poisoned arrow. Magellan sent a large party on shore and buried him.

And so they parted—the Spaniards and the Detection.

the Patagonians. The two giants were separated; one was placed on the Trin-dad, and the other on the Sant' Antonio. It was from these experiences that Europe took the notion, which is, perhaps, not yet fully dispelled, that Patagonia was a region of giants.—Harper's Magazine.

Mrs. John A. Logan says she has taught herself the use of carpenter tools until able to build a cupboard or put a anew shelf in the pantry. She smashed one thumb, sawed the other half off, crippled two fingers and knocked her knees, but perseverance won and the jack-plane is king.

THE FIRST PATAGONIANS | NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

'Cigar" is a new shade of brown. Beach tan is now the fashionable color Archery is again the most popular pas-

Flannel dresses are the most worn by young girls.

Women are eligible to school offices in sixteen States.

Jenny Lind's grave is covered with fresh flowers every day.

Princess Mary of Teck is one of the prettiest girls in England.

Turkish women eat rose leaves with outter to secure plumpness.

Queen Victoria, of England, is in favor of Sunday music for the people. Nearly 15.) women are buying and sell-ing real estate in Superior, Wis.

The Archduchess Valerie's wedding dress had a train fourteen feet long. The ladies of Chicago will receive and

entertain the Federation of Women's Clubs in 1882. The Misses Emily and Georgiana Hill nave started a school of journalism in

London, England. Clara Morris, the emotional actress, is

a great lover of birds, and has a regular aviary at her home.

The very English girls along the Hudson and about the bay wear white duck yachting suits. Rosa Bonheur claims that she has

painted her best pictures since she attained the age of fifty.

Deep girdles, well boned after the peasant bodice, are put on the new toilets of white and figured silk. Sweet-pea blossoms, white and colored, real and artificial, are the popular

decorative flowers of the moment. Gold bracelets made of satin gold and fastened with small padlocks are fashionable and equally expensive.

One of the prettiest dress patterns for all round wear is a black India silk flowered with pink and green posies.

The "robe" dress is shown in hand worked trimmings and hand-painted velvet for the cuffs, collar and brelettes. Mrs. Theodore Irving, the founder of the order of King's Daughters, is the widow of a nephew of Washington Irving.

A new impetus is given the cape, which appears in all styles of creamy lace and net, and also in ermine and lamb's

The favorite flower of the Princess of Wales is the Alexandra orchid, which was named for her soon after she went to England.

Miss Juliet Corson is obliged to sit in an invalid chair while she directs and illustrates her methods of cooking before

Sarah Bernhardt, the great French tragedienne, is the owner of 120 birds, and has for other pets a large black cat and half a dozen dogs.

The most stylish sleeve is the full bishop, made with a loose slip wristlet one inch wide and banded just above the elbow with a two-inch ribbon.

A young woman in Florida has just died in untold agony from the results of a bite of an insect which was concealed in a bunch of flowers she wore at neck. Beautiful white toilets for receptions

and dinners are made of the finest and richest of China and India silk scattered over with tiny white silk buds, leaves or rose sprays.

white mull and flannel dresses. Generally

a Grecian or scroll pattern is worked on the black ribbon velvet with metal or white cord.

A bill making women eligible to the office of notary public has passed the Dakota Legislature, and Mrs. C. S. Thorp, of Britton, has received the first commission. The board of education in Columbus, Ohio, has decided that hereafter there shall be no difference in the salaries paid

public schools. Fine Irish point lace, in pure white and pale beige tints, is made use of for bonnets, for evening drives, and is also

much used on sailor and garden-party hats of Neapolitan braid.

As many as three or five rows of tiny buttons are seen on bodices, and they are also plentifully on cuffs, collars and coat tails. These coat-tail basques will be the thing for all all suits. The first colored graduate from the Department of Music of the University of Pennsylvania is Miss Ida E. Power.

She is an accomplished violinist and has written several short sonatas. The ex-Empress Frederick, of Ger-

many, and her daughters have laid aside weeds and drive about Windsor hats, gloves and shoes to match. Mrs. Millais, wife of the famous Eng-

lish artist, is said to be the happiest woman in Europe, though it is hard to reconcile this statement with the fact that she keeps fifteen servants.

A charming toilet recently worn at a fashionable garden fete was of white foulard, with a broad rose-pink stripe in it and a delicate and beautifully shaded flowering of pink roses between the stripes. The reefer coats, warranted to resist

the elements, are the rage just now. They are lined with brilliant silk, cut hip deep and double breasted, closed with eight brass buttons and finished

Brave Catherine Watson, of Glasgow, Scotland, a young art student, lost her life a year ago in saving a little boy from drowning. Her heroism has been commemorated by a Celtic cross reared on a rock at North Berwick. Sleeveless and zouave jackets are work on some of the summer toilets. The ma-

on some of the summer tonets. The ma-aterial used on cotton, muslin and ging-ham dresses is generally fine velvet, but against silk there is nothing prettier than embroidery or Irish lace.

THE Chinese and Japanese have no fire apparatus beyond a water pail.

Rev. H. P. Carson, Scotland, Dak., says: "Two bottles of Hall's Catarrh Cure complete-ly cured my little girl." Sold by Druggists, 75c.

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It was Ben Johnson, we believe, who, when asked Mallock's question, "Is life worth living?" replied "That depends on the liver." And Ben Johnson doubtless saw the double point to the pun.

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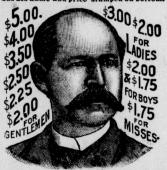
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