

THE LADRONES AND CAROLINES.

Value and Beauty of These Much-Discussed Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

A QUEER PEOPLE WITH QUEERER CUSTOMS.

Far out in the Pacific, where the map looks as if a charge of bird shot had peppered a spot no larger than your thumb, the American flag is flying over the Ladrões. They are but specks on the face of the deep. Yet there is an empire of island wealth amid the rarest scenery in the world. An earthly paradise it is called.

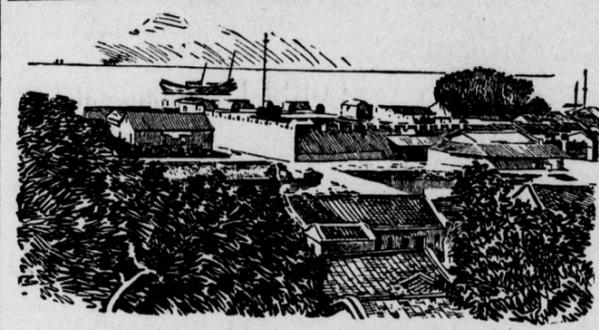
The capture of the Ladrões by the United States with a seizure of the Carolines just to the south of, the group makes them of new interest to Americans.

The Ladrões are a chain of volcanic islands extending north and south from latitude thirteen degrees twelve minutes north to latitude twenty degrees thirty-two minutes south and in longitude about 146 east. They were discovered by Magellan, March 6, 1521, and named Ladrões from the supposed stealing propensities of the natives. Later, in 1668, the islands were named Mariana, in honor of Maria Anne, of Austria, the widow of Phillip IV., King of Spain. The inhabited islands are Agrigan, Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam. On the other islands are volcanoes spouting fire and steam. The mountains range from 1000 to 3000 feet high, about the altitude of the biggest of the Catskills.

The Spaniards have controlled the islands without interference or serious trouble from the natives. There is a small garrison at Agana, the capital, where the Governor-General has resided. Many natives of the Caroline Islands have been imported into the Ladrões and the races are interestingly mixed. The blending of the tall, copper-colored, curly-haired, long-bered and mustached Carolinians with the Philippian-looking Ladrões, with their dark Malay skin,

possessing 30,000 inhabitants, and now a place of segregation for lepers, with a population of 300; Aguijan, of no importance; Rota, with 500 inhabitants, and Guam.

Guam, or Guajan, the southernmost and largest of the islands, is thirty-two miles long and has a population of about 9000, two-thirds of whom are in Agana, and nearly all the rest upon the seaboard, the country inland being almost without inhabitant. Agana,



BAHLDONAP, A TYPICAL TOWN IN THE CAROLINES.

the capital, is also a convict settlement. It is beautifully clean, and possesses good government officials, a hospital, schools and a church. The Spanish residents have usually numbered about twenty, and the regular soldiery about 200, all quartered here. The militia, comprising about all the male population, is commanded by native officers. The civil government is similar to that of the Philippines. Postal communication has been quarterly.

When first discovered the Ladrões had a population of about 60,000. Not one of the original race survives, and the islands are peopled chiefly by Tagals and Bisayans from the Philippines, mixed descendants of South American Indians, a colony of Caroline Islanders who founded Garapan in the Island of Saipan, and numerous Chamorro-Spanish half-breeds. The census of 1888 reports a population of 6476 in Agana, and a total of 10,172 in all the islands, 5034 being males, 5138 females. There are eighteen schools in the Island of Guam. Only ten per cent. of the Ladrone Islanders are unable to read and write. Spanish is the recognized language; but many of the natives speak a little English. The climate is good and equable; seventy degrees to eighty degrees Fahrenheit is the range of the thermometer.

The present population are described as "wanting in energy, of indifferent moral character, and miserably poor." They are descended in part from the original inhabitants, called Chamonos, and from the Mestizos, a mixed race formed by the union of Spaniards with these natives.

On the island called Snypan a colony from the Caroline Islands, which lie to the south of the Ladrões, was established some years ago. These people are the most active and enterprising inhabitants of the Ladrões.

Spain has derived no revenue from these islands, and has done little to civilize the people. At one time a few small schools were started, but they were soon abandoned.

In 1856 an epidemic destroyed one-third of the population.

August and September are the hottest months, and the rain-fall in the summer months is very heavy.

Agana, the capital, is well built of timber, and many of the houses have tiled roofs. There are twenty small villages on the islands.

So little has been done to civilize the people that they live in about the same primitive fashion as characterized them when Europeans first visited them.

can lie closer to the wind than any other sailing craft known. Customs, superstitions, dress, re-



NATIVES AND HUT IN THE LADRONES.

ligion, etc., prove that the people of the Ladrões have a common origin with the other races of Polynesia, but they have lived so long by themselves that they have a distinct language. Some writers have argued that the race is of American origin, while

others hold that they are an offshoot of the Japanese.

Gobien, the French writer, who studies the people on the spot, says of them:

"The natives are not so dark as those of the Philippines, and are larger of body than the average European. They lived on roots, fish and fruits, and were extremely active and quick. Many of them lived over 100 years."

Another French writer says that he saw them dive and swim so well that they caught fish in their hands under water.

In character the Ladrões are gay and amiable, loving pleasure, and spending much of their time in outdoor amusements.

The women are usually lighter in color than the men, and many of them are extremely beautiful, with luxuriant hair reaching almost to the ground. The Carolines are like the Ladrões, only more extensive in number and more densely populated. The islands are widely scattered into three great groups, the eastern, western and central. Spain originally claimed all the groups, but Germany recently took the Marshall Islands. The central or main group, now belonging to Spain, comprises forty-eight smaller

groups, making a total of four or five hundred islands.

Among the products of the country are rice, corn, wheat, sugar, cotton, tobacco, indigo, bread fruit, castor oil and kindred necessities of life. Among the curious natural features are the palm trees, that produce vegetable ivory; banyan trees that grow downward, the seeds being planted by birds high up in other trees, deposited in bark and crevices, sending down rootlets to gather sustenance and moisture from the soil.

Another tree bears a fruit so offensive in odor that no man not in practice can endure it, but once in a mouth the fruit tastes so deliciously that he cannot stop eating until it is devoured.

The women of the Carolines are neat and attractive at home or among their cocoanut trees. The men are industrious—everywhere displaying ingenuity and gentle thrift.

The Caroline Archipelago consists of thirty-six minor groups, of which the nine following are the principal: The Palaos or Pelews, Yap, Ulthi, Uleai, Namonuito, Hogolen or Ruk, the East and West Mortlocks, Bonabe or Ponape, and Kusaie, otherwise called Uaian or Stroug's Island.

The Pelew group contains some 200 islands and islets. The principal island is Bad-el-Thaob, which in area is equal to all the rest put together. The most important of the others are Koror, Uruk, Tapel, Malk, Peleleu and Angaur. The population of the Pelews is estimated at some 3000, but is probably much more. The language is a very peculiar and bizarre Malayan dialect, somewhat akin to that of Sulu



A CAROLINE WARRIOR.

Archipelago. The principal products are turtle shell, copra and beche de mer (Holothuria), which in the Chinese markets brings as much as \$400 gold per ton.

There is always civil war going on in the group between the various tribes, and a firm hand is needed to keep things in order there. Captain Butran, of the Velasco (lately sunk at Manila), who visited the group in 1885, gives these natives a good name. Captain O'Keefe, however, a wealthy trader of Yap, gives them a doubtful reputation, putting them down as a folk of piratical and turbulent character.

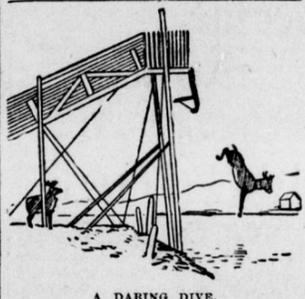
The enormous quartz wheels, the famous and curious stone money of Yap in this group, were quarried in the Island of Kokial. In olden time there was great commercial activity here, and the Yap and Pelew folks went on extended voyages of trading and conquest. Bab-el-Thaob is rich in good timber. Great quantities of yams, bread-fruits and coconuts are grown. Alligators are found in some of the creeks, and a peculiar kind of a horned frog. There are two kinds of snakes, which the natives called Bersoiook and Nguus, both somewhat venomous. There is abundance of good pasture for horses and cattle. Goats are plentiful, probably introduced by the early Malayan settlers.

The Spanish have done next to nothing to show their occupation, and everything goes on much as before. There is no Spanish garrison. The country is well worth opening up to honest and energetic trade.

DIVING ELKS.

Trained to Perform Tricks That Seem Almost Supernatural.

There seems to be no limit to the ingenuity of man in devising sensations to please the public. Especially is this true in the matter of training animals to perform feats which at first seem impossible. One of the smallest of insects, the flea, and one of the largest of animals, the elephant, have been put through a course of training which has resulted in their performing



A DARING DIVE.

feats which seem almost supernatural. However, it remained for Mr. Will H. Barnes, of Sioux City, Iowa, to train an animal which was generally considered to be the dullest of quadrupeds, namely, the elk. His efforts have proved beyond a doubt that the elk is by no means lacking in intelligence, and his famous diving elks elicit admiration and wonder from all who see them perform. Mr. Barnes secured the elks when they were young, and though it required unlimited patience, he finally succeeded in breaking them in harness. While training the elks, the owner noticed that they seemed utterly indifferent to what height they jumped from, and he then conceived the idea of teaching them to dive. The process was a slow one, but now, after two years of labor, they have attained a marvelous degree of ability in this feat, as they make a headlong plunge of fifty feet into a tank of water. Herewith is presented a cut representing the elk making the dive. As will be noticed, the animal makes a headlong plunge with his feet extended.

Strategy in the Ranks.

Captain J. W. Pratt has told a mighty military story that came to him somehow from the big camp of the United States volunteers at San Francisco. An infantryman had over-stayed his liberty. Detection meant a fine and perhaps some imprisonment, with the most disagreeable sort of police duty. The infantry chap was a genius. He pinned strips of white paper down the legs of his trousers. Then he made officer's shoulder straps out of banana skins. Then he boldly walked right through the line, answered "officer," and accepted the night honor of the sentry.—Pacific Commercial Advertiser.

The Impossible.

He—"What would you say if I were to steal a kiss from you?"
She—"But that is impossible."
He—"Impossible! Why so, pray?"
She—"Because you can't steal anything I haven't got, and no one has ever given me a kiss—see?"—Chicago Post.

The Old Bookkeeper at Lunch.



"The habits that use doth breed."

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

The Benefits of Spraying.

Although spraying destroys fungus growths, it seldom does so in time to make a successful growth of fruit the first year it is tried. The leaves are more or less injured and this makes them unable to perfect the fruit. If the fungus growths have been at work several years they have probably to some extent impaired the vigor of growth of the tree, and there will be less blossoming or setting of fruit from the blossoms until the injury has been remedied.

Guinea Fowls on Farms.

Every farmer ought to have a few guinea fowls to add to the variety of feathered life on the farm. They are also a good protection against such depredators as hawks and other enemies of young chickens, their loud cries on the approach of any such intruders giving signal to the weaker fowl to make its escape. Guinea fowls are a rather wild fowl and will not bear confinement well. It is not best to keep them unless there is good range. The hens are great layers, but will mostly steal their nests and will bring off very large broods. The young guinea fowl are very hardy and not so subject to disease as are other fowl.—American Cultivator.

Preparing the Soil for Fall Wheat.

Wheat following potatoes generally results in a heavy crop, and as the price of wheat will probably remain at a paying figure for some time the ground now in potatoes may be profitably used for wheat in the fall. If the potatoes have been well cultivated no additional preparation of the land will be necessary for the wheat after the potatoes are dug, with the possible exception of going over the ground once with a smoothing harrow.

Doubtless the best preparation of the soil for a wheat crop is to turn under a clover field, grow potatoes on it, and follow in the fall with wheat. The cultivation of the potatoes will put the soil in good condition for the wheat, which will receive the benefit of the plant food in the clover from the moment the seed wheat is put in the ground.

Washing Milk Vessels.

All through the warm weather, particular care is needed to cleanse vessels that have contained milk. If any particle of milk is left in the crevices or corners of vessels, it will sour and affect any milk that is afterwards added. Many people in cleaning milk from vessels wash them first with scalding hot water. This is a mistake. The hot water only coagulates the albumen, causing it to stick more closely to the sides of the vessel. If it be of tin the scouring of the milk soon eats through the coating of tin, and causes rust on the iron beneath it. What we call tin is merely iron with a very thin tin coating. No such vessel is fit for long use, as the tin will wear through, and all the more quickly if the coagulated albumen, made by hot water and milk, requires hard rubbing to remove it. The right way to clean milk vessels is to rinse them well with cold water, and then scald them, to destroy any germs that the cold water may have left.

Managing a Swarm of Bees.

Swarming in a moderate degree will not affect the work of honey making, but usually one swarm from a hive should be all that is necessary for each season. Swarms can best be handled by a homemade swarming box, which is simply a light box of convenient size with a handle running through both ends. A cover should be provided for fastening over the top when necessary and a few holes made in the box for ventilation. When the bees swarm keep quiet until they alight in a convenient place, then hold the swarming box under the cluster, shake off some of the bees into the box and most of the remaining ones will follow. Take the box of bees to the hive, which has been previously prepared for them, shake out a few at the entrance, and the rest will follow them into the hive. Small portions of the swarm may have clustered away from the main body, and all these should be gathered so as to make sure of the queen bee, which must be in the hive or the bees will not stay.—Atlanta Journal.

Late Cultivation of Potatoes.

It used to be the rule with potato growers never to cultivate after potatoes are in blossom. It is then that the earliest tubers begin to form and the deep cultivation of potatoes at this time so disturbs the roots as to stop the growth of the first set of potatoes. Hence the old way of growing potatoes was to give a more thorough cultivation than ever the last time just before the potatoes blossomed. In doing this the soil was drawn from the middle of the rows towards the potatoes. This was called hilling up the potatoes, and was almost always supplemented by drawing the loose soil still closer to the hill with a hoe.

No matter how easily this was done, the potato roots thus mutilated never fully accommodated themselves to their new conditions. The roots inside the conical hills would not admit much water, the potato vines died down before the potatoes became very large. Worst of all, as the hills were washed down by rains many of the potatoes were exposed to the sunlight and were turned green. This entirely destroys their value for cooking. Green potatoes are not only bitter, but are even poisonous. It is not generally known that the potato belongs to a plant family most of whose members are poisonous. In the po-

tato this poisonous principle is developed by sunlight. Green potato tops are poisonous to a certain extent, and the tubers, when they are greened by exposure to sunlight, are so acrid and bitter that it is impossible to eat them.

But in modern growing of potatoes the set is or should be planted from three to five inches below the surface. If it is hilled up at all the hilling should be done before the potato is up in the process of covering. The ridges thus made ought always to be leveled before the potatoes are up. After this is done the best way to cultivate potatoes is to run the cultivator through them twice a week, or after every rain, but only to the depth of an inch, or if the weather is dry, even less than this. Shallow cultivation does not disturb the roots, and can be continued even after the vines are large enough to lop over and cover the ground between the rows. While all the surface soil may be dry, that beneath it will hold enough moisture for the growing potatoes.—American Cultivator.

Flowers of the Yard.

How much the beautiful flowers brighten up a home. Even a small bed of pink or aster or garden petunias will give a farmhouse an air of refinement and make it look, as one little maiden said, "as though somebody lived there."

One of the prettiest screens that I ever saw was a bed of old-fashioned morning glories. There was a space about ten feet in length, between the clothes-line post and the "big gate" post. This was spaded up, making a long narrow bed, and planted with morning glory seed. Wires were stretched across from the tops of the posts, and carpet warp strung from this wire to the ground made a suitable support for the vines, where they ran riot, their dark green leaves forming a beautiful screen, that every morning was covered with the sweet, bell-shaped blossoms in which the red, white and blue of our nation's colors were represented.

This bit of beauty cost but a small amount of time and labor, but gave a large amount of pleasure not only to those whose home it adorned but to all who passed that way, especially in the morning.

The people who lived on the next farm "did not have time to fuss with flowers," but they spent time enough admiring these morning glories to have cared for some of their very own. When fall came they were presented with a generous supply of seed of each color, but whether they use them or not remains to be seen. The plants were protected from the ravages of the hens by a network of brush laid over the bed.

If one really wants some flowers and must have the hens about, a few light brush, if carefully laid, are a good protection until the plants are large enough to protect themselves.

Last summer I saw a large dry goods box placed in a yard, filled with soil and bright with beautiful blossoms.

The hens "got a notion" of gimping, or flying, on to the edge of the box and then revelling in a dirt bath when the plants were small. A piece of lath was nailed at each corner of the box and some fence wire was fastened about five inches above the top edge of the box and this baffled the hens. The plants grew and thrived and delighted the hearts of all who saw them.—Lillian McIntosh in Farm, Field and Fireside.

Farm and Garden Notes.

Underfed or overfed hens are poor layers.

It is well to feed a mash to the chickens.

Beans make a very excellent food for the hens.

When hot weather comes stop feeding corn to the poultry.

A good cheese may be known by its firm, yet mellow, touch.

It never pays to keep any farm stock after it is past its prime.

When ice is difficult to obtain, milk and butter lowered into a well will be much improved in keeping.

A few hours spent in draining a low spot may allow a field to be worked sooner than it could have been undrained.

Where milking is done without a calf, a little feeding every evening will improve the coming-up qualities of milk cows.

Gooseberries do well in part shade, and are often grown between the rows of trees in young orchards. In form, they can be trained like a tree or a bush, but the bush shape is preferable.

Every crop, if it is consumed on the farm, has two values—its feeding value and its manurial value. The man who neglects the latter will find in time that he has neglected the more important of the two.

Suicide in Japan.

Hari-kari is a Japanese word for suicide by disembowelment. This horrid practice formerly prevailed among high officials and members of the military class when unwilling to survive some personal or family disgrace, or in order to avoid the headman's sword after having received sentence of death. By committing hari-kari the culprit cleared his character and his family was not disgraced. In the latter case the act was performed in the presence of witnesses, and was accompanied by elaborate formalities. At the moment the suicide ripped open his abdomen with his dirk his head was struck off by the sword of his second, who was usually a kinsman or intimate friend. Hari-kari was first instituted in the days of the Ashikaga dynasty, 1336—1568 A. D.



A LADRONE BELLE.

has given a new tint to a large number of young men and women.

The chief products for sustaining life are coconuts and bread fruit. They grow spontaneously everywhere. It is said that one cocoanut tree will feed a man. A grove of the fruit trees to the island is what a herd of cows is to the Pennsylvania farmer.

These, with the tons of fish in the lagoons, which are natural fish ponds, are responsible for the profound indolence of the natives. They can support life without laboring. Some of the bread fruit trees are ten or twelve feet in diameter. A single tree is considered equal in life-supporting capacity to two acres of wheat. Then there are other products—guava, corn, ordinary wheat, bananas, figs and arrowroot.

The islands forming the Ladrões,

beginning at the northernmost, are Farallon de Pajaros, an active volcano 1000 feet in height; a group of three rocky islets known as the Urracas; Assumption, a partially active volcanic peak 2848 feet in height; Agrigan, seven miles in length, mountainous, and the northernmost inhabited island; Pagan, having three active cones, and peopled by a few natives; the uninhabited islands of Alamagan, Guguan, Sariguan, Anatanan and Farallon de Medinilla; Saipan, fifteen miles long, fertile, and having about 1000 inhabitants; Tinian, originally



THE BUSINESS SECTION OF AGANA, PRINCIPAL TOWN OF THE LADRONES.

In one thing the people of the Ladrões excel all the natives of the Polynesian islands—this is their facility for building and sailing a wonderful water craft with a lateen sail. Sailors of all nations for over 300 years have admired their skill with these vessels.

They are built entirely without metal, and the largest of them will carry about seven men. The boat has an outrigger which is carried on the lee side to prevent upsetting. It is said that these boats make wonderful speed, and that they