The Hemp Industry of the Philippines.

The culture and harvesting hemp-stripper. is the biggest gold mine he The islands seem to have been especially made for the benefit of the abaca plant. The moist though not swampy country to the south of Manila, the Camarires, Samar, Leyte and Cebu, would produce a solid over-growth of the abaca trees if left to

take its own course.

The tree itself resembles closely the banana palm, but differs essentially in the fineness of its fibre and its bar renness of fruit.

The natives, too, seem to have been especially provided for the hemp country. Tenaing to improvidence and in dolency, the hemp industry furnishes them employment whenever they run short of rice and tobacco, for hemp can be harvested almost at any time except during the short rainy season Attempts have been made to trans-plant the hemp trees, taking them only as far away as Borneo, but the musa textiles refused to cohabitate with any but Philippine soil. The Pacific slopes of the volcanic regions of the islands produce the best plants. Although the abaca tree coddles to thin soil, and rather dry, quickly drained localities, the trunk and leaves demand frequent and abundant moisture. Given the proper conditions, the vast plantations will thrive like asparagus beds. Very little cultivation is required; an occa sional weeding and a replanting at the harvest time and nature does the rest. The crop is not gathered as if it were a corn field, but the trees are found in all stages of growth, and the native passes through regular routes, slashing a plant here and there, his practiced eye the sole judge of its ma-Three years is the proper age The hemp-stripper for harvesting. goes forth much as a huntsman



HARVESTING THE ABACA, OR HEMP PLANT

would. With his bolo in belt and a bamboo canteen full of rice slung over his shoulder, he hies himself to the uplands. After feeling the plants, which at the age of three years are about ten feet high, he proceeds to clip off a shoot and rep ant it. After a number of trees are cut the strip-ping process begins. All the leaves are torn off and the outer skin of the stalk is peeled off. Inside of the trunk is a pithy substance, and around this are layers of fibre imbedded in a soft juicy substance. The fibre must be separated from the stalk at once lest it rot. Many Americans have cherished the idea of exporting the trunk intact, but the enterprise is not feasi-ble because of the perishable nature of

the pulpous segrement.

A bamboo-made bench is improvised, and at one end the stripper binds his bolo; the handle attached to his foot by another bamboo strip. Across the blade he draws the stalk until the fibre is thoroughly separated without injury, preserving its length of from eight to ten feet, and leaving it fine and beautiful that the trepical sun the stalk until the known as pina cloth, the best woven the product of the islands.

The entire hemp industry of the Philippines is still worked by primitive methods and with simple contrivious themselves out, shot around a corner, and we are some contributed to stop it. Those sheep did not sail away like deer, touching here and there a high place. They flattened themselves out, shot around a corner, and we are some contributed to stop it. may lick up the moisture still bleeding ances. The native, though unambifrom the operation. The work of stripping is very tiresome and requires man, and is averse to the Celestial getskill of a trained hand.

The white man has often attempted to improve upon the brown man's method of stripping the hemp, but despite large expenditures and ingenious mechanical contrivances no machine Had he not, the development would

HE prospector seeking for investment need not dig below the surface in the Philippines.

hemp-stripper.

The native is paid for his work in hemp, dividing the product equally with the plantation owner. When he cuts and strips all he can carry, he twists up the fibre into a great roll and goes down to the plantation owner's house, and there the division is made. They then hang, up the rolls They then hang up the rolls until the middle-man or contractor comes along and a bargain is struck. The bales are crudely fastened together and carried to the nearest port | rienced eye of a buyer who knows

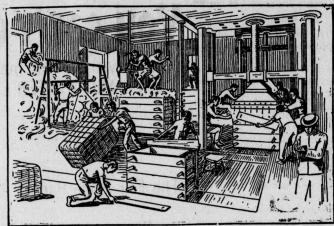
fied and separated into three piles or classes, it is dumped in bulk into a huge press and a screw applied. Af-ter this operation it is taken out and put into another press of more regular put into another press of more regular design and of more imposing character. The second press is operated by an eight-armed capstan on an overhead platform, and a score or more of naked coolies, usually Chinese, push it around. The sight is most amusing. With grunts, laughs and confused jar-gon and raillery they urge each other on and manage to bring their strength

the baling and local marketing of the

on and manage to bring their strength together at loudly accentrated periods. A good-sized press will turn out 300 to 400 bales a day, and in the course of a year a million or more bales are prepared for shipment. In Cebu large quantities are handled, principally the products of Leyte and Samar, al-though in Manila the largest presses

are in operation.

The classification of hemp requires the skill of an old hand, and the expe



and shipped usually to Manila, where they are separated, rebaled and shipped either to Hong Kong, where there is an immense rope-walk, or to New York, Boston or London. The rope-walk at Hong Kong is one of the largest in the world. Its product practically supplies China, Japan and Australia. Very little hemp is made into rope or twine in Manila. Although crude rope-walks exist in different parts of the island, their manufactured article, although strong and durable, would not compete in the foreigh market. Hemp subserves every purpose that leather might with the native. He twists it into sandals, uses it for harnesses, and it answers for binders in the building of his nipa hut. The utility of hemp is well un-derstood to the Filipino. The finer quality is selected and reserved for weaving purposes, being made up into really handsome cloth, while the ordinary hemp is universally used to make a coarse though durable material, worn generally by the natives, who delight in gaudy colors and pic-turesque though scanty costumes. There is still another texture weven from the selected strands of outer fibre, intermixed with the fibre of the pine-leaf. The cloth has the semblance



DRYING HEMP ON A MANILA WHARF.

of unfinished silk, and is pretty and durable, though not as beautiful or dressy as the pure pine-leaf fibre silk

ting control of the plantations or con tracts, while scorning up-to-date methods himself. The "Cheno," however. has made inroads in this industry, as well as in others in the Philippines.



has been produced that takes the place

not have been as rapid as it has. The of the native. Patents have been as rapid as it has. The native native patents have been native is thoroughly capable, and untaken out, and large sums of money spent upon experimental machines, and its harvesting, and could he be but the texture and peculiar nature of the abaca plant seem to require the be as good a laborer as the Chinamtouch of human hands to separate its man, but the Celestial usually controls

the tricks of the trade. The native will bring his hemp down from the plantation in a moist state and offer it for sale at night, hoping thus to fool the middle-man as to weight and quality, but as this part of the business is mostly in the hands of the Chinese, there is little danger that they will be deceived or cheated. The Chinaman is the sharpest bargain-driver in the world, and whether it is hemp, silk or old junk, he is fully capable of looking after his interests. Fineness of fibre, color, strength and length determine the value and grade of hemp. If it be carefully stripped over a smooth knife, immediately and thoroughly dried, and of good length, it will bring the highest price. be carelessly stripped, juice being left in the fibre, it loses its color and be-comes coarse. It then is considered of a second and third grade quality and brings a smaller price. The na-tive watches the market, and if he hear that the demand is heavy he takes advantage of the middle-man and compels him to pay first-grade prices for second and third grade products. Formerly hemp brought in Manila from \$70 to \$150 per ton, always fluctuatin; according to the supply. at times going up to \$300 per ton, but at present the price is practically pro-hibitive, and it looks as if it would remain so for the next two years.—Edwin Wildman, in Harper's Weekly.

Wild Sheep Shooting.

The sheep began to move toward us, It had been a long climb to get beyond and above them, but now we had our reward. On they came, only two hundred yards away. I could see their white muzzles, as though they had been sticking their noses into a flour bag. Now I could see the wrin-kles in the horns of the rams. The hoofs of the advancing flock made a swishing, pattering sound, and they were only fifty yards away. I took the nearest ram, and he never drew breath again. Johnnie's forty-four barked spitefully. He made a neat hit on another ram, further away than my already dying victim, but failed and were gone. Johnnie followed, and I was alone. In a few seconds I heard Johnnie's gun feebly thumping away. There was no echoing roar, such as you hear in the thick woods. I picked my way cautiously after Johnnie, and when I saw the jumps he had made, and the chances he had taken, I knew there was much for me to learn about hasty mountain travel. Johnnie shot six times, and two hundred yards ahead, on the crooked, rocky descent the sheep had taken. I found him on his knees by the big ram. Three bul-iets had struck.—Scribner's,

We are pretty sure for long generations of seeing the preponderance of northern races. One of their peculiarnorthern races. One of their peculiar-ities is that of being heavy eaters. This is inconsistent with a clean-built figure. The modern capitalist rarely comes from a climate like that of Athens or Naples. He fortifies himself against the long winters of New York, London, Amsterdam, Berlin and Frank-fort by substantial and oft-recurring meals. His body is a quick-combus-tion stove wrapped up in warm gar-ments that prevent light, easy motion. Men of the money-making class have considerable girth of waistcoat.—Lon-

The tonnage of the whole mercantile steam marine of Russia, Japan or Holland does not equal the tonnage of the merchant vessels taken over by the English government as trans-

DOGS GO IN SHOE LEATHER. Canine Footgear as Worn in the Klondike.

One of the greatest dangers con-fronting travelers in parts of the world where dogs take the place of horses is that the dogs which draw sleds or transport goods may freeze their feet by contact with ice, and so injure them



A DOG SHOE FOR KLONDIKE WEAR.

that the animals become practically useless, and must be abandoned, to the endangerment of the life of the traveler who has put his trust in canine motive power.

As a precaution against misfortune of this kind it has been a common thing to wrap the dog's feet in cloth, a piece of leather or rubber. At best all of these, however, were crude and poorly adapted to carry out the desired object. They protected the dogs' feet, but at the same time interfered with the free use of their legs. The devel-opment of the Klondike has given special impetus to the demand for some proper protection for dogs' feet.

The dog's shoe, of which the accom-

panying photograp! was sent from the far Northwest to Shoe and Leather Facts, is made of chrome tanned elk leather, and the upper of calf, making a soft, pliable and yet comfortable shoe. There is a tongue at the back, and the lacings are at the back of the leg instead of on the front, because a dog's knee bends just opposite from a

The dogs, it is said, take very kindly to these shoes. They become so accustomed to wearing them that they don't like to go without them, with the result that on the trail they will often come up to the driver in the morning and hold out their legs to have their shoes put on, not unlike children. If by chance the shoes should be laced too tight, they will whine and speedily make manifest their discomfort, wagging their tails with joy when the shoes are laced to

A VEGETABLE CONTORTIONIST. Queer Freak of a Little Sprig of Dog's

Mercury.

These two pictures relate to an exraordinary occurrence that befell plant of dog's mercury growing in Charterhouse Copse, in England. A



HOW THE PLANT LIFTED THE NUT.

hazel nut had been attacked by a nuthatch and a clean round hole made in it at one end-the marks of the blows of the bird's beak being clearly visible in the actual specimen. The nut was dropped by the bird after the kernel had been removed and happened to fall to the ground with the hole downward. Into this hole grew the tip of the sprouting dog's-mercury, and find-ing itself in a blind alley the plant was compelled to describe a complete circle within the cavity of the nutshell and to emerge at the same hole as that by which it had entered. Having ex-



HOW STEM CURVED THROUGH NUT.

ecuted this gymnastic feat the plant seems to have got along quite happily, for all its upper leaves are quite nor mal, though one of its lower leaver had to twist itself uncomfortably to get out to the light of day. The plant lifted the nut several inches off the ground as it grew.

How Camels Act in Water. Camels cannot swim. They are very buoyant, but ill-balanced, and their heads go under water. They can, howheads go under water. They can, how-ever, be taught to swim rivers with the aid of goatskins or jars fastened under their necks. During the Belu-chistan expedition of 1898 the camels were lowered into the sea from the ships and the drivers plunging overships and the drivers plunging over-board, clambered on the the rumps of their charges, causing the animals' heads to come up, and thus assisted they were successfully billoted ashore

DR. TALMAGES SERMON.

SUNDAY'S DISCOURSE BY THE NOTED DIVINE.

Subject: Thickening Gloom — Growing Old Without Religion a Dissual Pros-pect—Consoling Suggestions to Those Who Have Passed Lifo's Meridian. [Copyright 1900.]

WASHINGTON, D. C. — In this sermon Dr. Talmage discourses upon the invitation given to Christ to stay overnight in the Oriental village, and makes some consolatory suggestions. The text is Luke xxiv. 29. "Abide with us, for it is toward evening."

Wantiful Co. D. C. — In this serrous in the Oriental village, and make a success or control of the Oriental village, and make a success of the Oriental village, and make a success or control of the Oriental village, and make a success of the Oriental village, and make and oriental village, and make a success of the Oriental village, and make and the Oriental village, and make and the Oriental village, and make a success of the Oriental village, and make and the Oriental village, and the Oriental village

word of recantation would have unfastened the withes of the stake and put out the kindling fire?

When the night of the soul came on and all the denizens of darkness came riding upon the winds of perdition, who gave strength to the soul? Who gave calmness to the heart? Who broke the spell of infernal enchantment? He who heard the request of the villagers, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening." One of the forts of France was attacked, and the outworks were taken before night. The besieging army lay down, thinking that there was but little to do in the morning, and that the soldiery in the fort could be easily made to surrender. But during the night, through a back stairs, they escaped into the country. In the morning the besieging army sprang upon the battlements, but found that their prey was gone. So when we are assaulted by temptation there is always some secret stair by which we might get off. God will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able, but with every temptation will bring a way of escape that we may be able to bear it.

The prayer of the text is appropriate for all who are anticipating sorrow. The greatest folly that ever grew on this planet is the tendency to borrow trouble, but there are times when approaching sorrow is so evident that we need to be making especial preparations for its coming. One of your children has lately become a favorite. The cry of that child strikes deeper into the heart than the cry of all the others. You think more about it; you give it more attention, not because it is some more of a treasure than the others, but because it is becoming frail. There is something in the cheek, in the eye and in the walk that makes you quite sure that the leaves of the flower are going to be scattered. The utmost nursing and medical attendance are ineffectual. The

pulse becomes feeble, the complexion lighter, the step weaker, the laugh fainter. No more rompine for that one through hall and parlor. The nursery is derkened by an approaching calarnity. The heart feels with mournful paticipation that the sun is going down. Night speeds on. It is toward evening.

You have long rejoiced in the care of a mother; you have done everything to make her last davs hanny; you have run with quick feet to wait upon her every want. Her presence has been a perpetual blessing in the household. But the fruit gatherers are looking wistfully at that tree. Her soul is rine for heaven. The gates are ready to flash open for her entrance. But your woul sinks at the thought of separation. You cannot hear to think that soon you will be called to take the last look at that face, which from the first hour has looked upon you with affection muchangeable. But you see that life is ebbing, and the grave will soon hide her from your sight. You sit quiet; you feel heavy hearted. The licht is fading from the sky; the air is chill. It is toward evening.

The words of the text are pertinent to us all from the fact that we are nearing the evening of death. I have heard it said that we ought to live as though each moment were to be our last. I do not believe that theory. As far as preparation is concerned we ought always to be ready, but we cannot always be thinking of death, for we have duties in life that demand our attention.

When a man is selling goods it is his business to think of the bareain he is making; when a man is nleading in the courts, it is his duty to think of the interests of his clients; when a clerk is adding up accounts it is his duty to keep his mind upon the column of figures. He who fills up his life with thoughts of death is far from being the highest style of Christian. I knew a man is nleading in the courts, it is his duty to think of the interests of his clients; when a clerk is adding up accounts it is his duty to keep his mind upon the column of figures. He who fills up his life wi

nerves still. The lungs still. The tongue still. All still. You might put the steth-oscope to breast and hear no sound. You might put a speaking trumpet to the ear, but you could not wake the deafness. No motion. No throb. No hife. Still! Still!
On earth with many of you the evening is the happiest part of the twenty-four hours. You gather about the stand. You talk and laugh and sing. You recount the day. You plan for the morrow. You have games and repartees. Amid all the toil of the day that is the goal for which you run, and as you take out your waten or look at the descending sun you thrill with the thought that it is toward evening. So death comes to the disciple.

What if the sun of life is about to set? Jesus is the dayspring from on high, the perpetual morning of every ransomed spirit. What if the darkness comes? Jesus is the light of the world and of heaven. What though this earthly house does crumble? Jesus has prepared a house of many mansions. Jesus is the anchor that always holds. Jesus is the fountain that is never exhausted. Jesus is the evening star hung up amid the gloom of the gathering night.

You are almost through with the abuse and backbiting of enemies. They will call you no more by evil names. Your good deeds will not longer be misinterpreted or your honor filehed. The troubles of earth will end in the relicities of heaven. Toward evening! The bereavements of earth will end in the relicities of heaven. Toward evening. Death will come sweet as slumber to the exhausted workman. The sky will take no as starving soldier, as evening hour to the exhausted workman. The sky will take no its sunset glow, every cloud a fire paslm, every lake a glossy mirror, the forests transingured, delicate mista chimbing the air. Your friends will an nounce it, your pieses will beat it, your joys w'll ring it, your lips will whisper it, "Toward evening."