"PEARL OF ASIA."

SIAM, THE LAND OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT.

Its Ruler, People, Territory, Army and Navy Strength and General Conditions Famous Buddhist Temples.



white elephant, the pearl of Asia. cenpies an extenvery irregular outline in southeastern Asia. Its area square miles, its population about 10,000,000. In extreme length it exdegrees in the Malay peninsula Chiengsen, twenty degrees, twenty two minutes north, on the river

Mekong, or a distance of nearly 1100 It is bounded on the south by the British Malay States, occupying the lower end of the Malay peninsula, the Gulf of Siam, French Cambrodia and Cochin China. On the west and north it is bounded by Burmah, except that lower Siam touches the Bay Bengal, and on the east the boundary is Tonquin and Annam, French possessions.

war and, perhaps, the peace of Europe. and the opinions of his nobles, even to Annam is a narrow strip of territory the daily routine of his life. With

Stam has figured largely in legend the American. They are not neatly ad poetry. Marco Polo visited it. kept, and the visitor picks his way ales in which there is a strange blend-through rubbish heaps to the temple and poetry. Marco Polo visited it. Tales in which there is a strange blending of the improbable and the true entrances. have been told about it. It is only swarms to pray and to listen to the within comparatively recent times that monotonous chants of crowds of lazy ecurate information has been obtained concerning this far-away country. Authentic Sinmese history begins with 1350, when Ayuthia, now a cluster of ruins seventy miles north of Bangkok, was the capital. The period from 1659 to 1688 was made illustrious by the career of Constance Falcon, hite elephant, the earl of Asia, Greek of Cephalonia, who attained the dignity of Prime Minister. He investeritory of ery irregular outness in Asia. Its area about 250,000 by the Burmese. These in their turn primes with the second of the primes and burned by the Burmese. These in their turn primes with the second of the primes and burned by the Burmese. These in their turn primes were driven out by Phya Tak, the son were driven out by Phya Tak, the son of a Chinese by a Siamese mother. He made Bangkok the capital and afterward ascended the throne. tends from four ent dynasty was founded in 1782.

The present ruler is King Chulalongkorn L, of whom and of the form of whose Government Carter H. Harrison in his book, "A Race With the Sun," thus smeaks:

"The King owns everything and, in a certain sense, everybody. He is lord Its greatest breadth is about of all he surveys, and yet is himself the veriest slave of the groveling su-perstitions and vile customs of his people-superstitions and customs which must be a source of intense disgust to so intelligent a man as King Chulalongkorn evidently is, yet which he could not escape, except at the risk

of losing his throne. "Absolute monarch, his will a law to every man in the realm, his proclama-It is in this quarter that the trouble tions gainstid by no one, yet he himarose which threatened an East Indian | self is absolutely governed by custom

THE MOST PAMOUS TEMPLE IN SIAM.

Here come the people

priests. The lower part of the ediffed

contains the images of Buddha, and all around the pagoda are buildings devoted to the service of the priest-

hood. The most famous temple in all

Siam is the Wat Cheng, opposite the royal palace. It lifts its sacred spire 200 feet from the ground, and every inch of its irregular surface is covered with glazed and colored ornamentawhile little bells hang from every tion. possible projection, and every zephyr sets them tinkling.

Another famous temple contains the mammoth sleeping Buddha. The re-clining statue is eighty-seven feet long. The most interesting temple in Bang-kok is the temple of the Emerald God within the royal enclosure, devoted to the use of the King's family. It is most ornate, is filled with the rarest specimens of Oriental and European art, and, erowning all, is the little emerald Buddha, only a foot high, a solid mass of diamonds, sapphires and other gems. Several far loftier temples in Bangkok cost \$100,000 apiece, but the private temple of the King, surpassing them all in magnificence, cost 21,000,000.

Buddha priests in yellow garbs are seen everywhere in Bangkok. They are not permitted to work, and many young fellows enter the priesthood simply because they are thus sure of an easy, pampered existence. On the ground beside this old fellow you see the bowl with which he saunters out in the morning to collect his daily bread, or rather rice, and leaning against the tree is his large umbrella. behind a fan, for fear the lady's charms may interrupt his contemplation of holy things

Bangkok is lighted by electricity and has a system of electric street railways. Great strides in education have been made in the last few years. The Gov-ernment is a monarchy, the reigning monarch having the right to nominate his successor from among his sons. Legislative power is vested in the King in conjunction with a council of ministers, most of whom are his half broth-

Siam's military force consists of a standing army of 12,000 men, and the people generally are liable to be called out as required, but there is no armed militia. Every male inhabitant over twenty-one years old is obliged to serve public functionaries, the fathers of three sons liable to service, and those who purchase exemption by a fine of whom, strange as it may seem, are subject to conscription as a substitute. subjects of Holland. The remainder The Government possesses upward of 80,000 stand of arms, beside a considerable stock of cannon. The army is largely officered by Europeans and has been very largely increased of late years, both in efficiency and equip-

The naval equipment consists of two screw steamers of 2000 tons and eight guns each, several gunboats, officered chiefly by Englishmen and Danes, and some sea-going yachts. One cruiser of 2500 tons is being built. There are forts with heavy guns at the mouth of the Bangkok River. There is a bar at the month of the river, however, which effectually prevents the entrance of vessels drawing more than thirteen

feet of water. The National revenues amount to about \$10,000,000 a year, of which the land tax produces \$1,435,000; tax on spirits, \$500,000; tax on fruit trees, \$325,000; opium, \$600,000; gambling, \$500,000; eustoms, \$715,000; tin mines, \$350,000; edible bird's nests. \$135,000, and fisheries, \$135,000. All the taxes, with the exception of the customs duties, are farmed. There is no public debt, and power has only lately been given to the Hong Kong and Shaughai bank's local branch to issue a limited amount of paper money.

There is comparatively little industry

in the country, mainly due to the state of serfdom in which the population is kept by the local governors. Throughthe whole country the natives are liable to forced labor for from one to three months each year. The consequence is that the land, rich in many parts, is badly cultivated. Not more than one-twentieth of the available land in the delta of the Menam is cultivated. The dense forests of upper Siam make teak cutting an import

or carried on in various districts on the western side of the Malay peninsula, where tin and coal are also known to

lition. Such slavery as exists is en-tirely debt slavery. The present King, by an edict, decreed that no person born after his accession to the throne labor in the south, especially in the mills and mines. In the north forest work is confined almost entirely to

tives, to forced labor, have settled in the country. The foreign trade cen-ters in Bangkok. In 1891 the exports from Bangkok amounted to about \$8, 000,000, the imports to about \$7,000, 000. Teakwood and rice comprise a large part of the exports. Machinery, iron, hardware and cotton goods comprise a large part of the imports.

Railway building began seven or eight years ago. There is one com pleted railroad from Bangkok to Paknam, fourteen miles, and another one in construction from Bangkok to Ban Mai, on the Patriew River, and an other one from Bangkok to Korat, 165 miles through a very rich unc veloped rice growing plateau. Another rail road has been surveyed across the mountains connecting Bangkok with the Burmese cities. Telegraph lines aggregating 1780 miles are in opera tion. There is a postal service in Bangkok, and in 1885 Sam joined the International Postal Union.

ern frontier of Siam is territory either absolutely annexed to France, acknowlwhich French influence predominates. French intervention in the affairs of a French protectorate. Annum main-tains an army of 23,230 soldiers, of whom about half are natives. Cambodia recognized the French protectorate in 1863. France has 300 soldiers In Cochin China France has contribution of 5,200,000 francs toward the military expenditures of Annam and Tonquin.

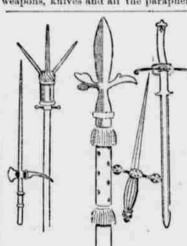
Tonquin, with a population of 8,000, 000, of whom 400,000 are Roman Catholics, was annexed to France in In 1889 there were 11,475 Freuch troops here, besides 6500 na-

tive soldiers.

Old War Weapons at the Fair.

Different from the other "side shows' located on Midway Plaisance -though among the latter are some of surpassing interest—the German village, in a certain sense and to a When a woman ladles a few spoonfuls certain extent, forms part of the Ger-of rice into his bowl he hides his face man official exhibit at the World's For in two of the buildings that compose this so-called village are housed thousands of objects of priceless value, which in their aggregate may fittingly be described as a museum of inestimable worth and of unparalleled completeness

The most wonderful, and by far the costliest, exhibit, is that of armor, weapons, knives and all the parapher-



nalia of chivalry. That in itself is valued at \$700,000, and there are single pieces in it that are worth from \$5000 to \$10,000 each. This partieular collection, filling three large and high halls up to the ceiling, is themost perfect and complete of its kind in the world, and to every person of education, to every artist and litteratenr, to every student, and to every lover of history, archeology and ethnology, this collection will appeal with particular force. It has been arranged with consummate skill, partly in large cases of solid walnut, having glass doors, so that a day's study may be pursued with the greatest ease and in-dividual profit.—Chicago Herald.



"Why weepest thou, dear mamma?" "Alas, my son! in this alligator valise, left here by the thoughtless tourist, I have discovered the last rehe

English farmers who have any grass to sell are masters of the situation. ant At a recent grass sale in Flintshire, the one meadow of fourteen acres brought \$400; another of eleven acres \$365; several six-acre fields \$245 each, and others from \$20 to \$25 each.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

SCARECROWS,

Scarcerows should have long sleeves of some light material, and the "bones" should stop at the elbows. The lower sleeve will then wave in the wind. It takes a crow longer to acquire a feeling of security in the presence of a gentleman who is constantly waving his arms. - [New York World.

GROWING MILLEY.

A good crop of millet may be grown from a late seeding, but often extra eare will be needed to procure a good stand. It will sometimes be slow to germinate, especially if the sowing be followed by a heavy rain, and thus by scalding sun. Then the soil is apt to crust, and as no air can penetrate it the germs will perish. Even if the seeds sprout the crust is so hard that the little plantlets cannot penetrate it. If such a crust forms after sowing it will be best to harrow the field with a light, sharp implement. The millet hay should be cut before the seed forms, or else the feeding value concentrates in the grain, and the straw becomes hard, woody, and unpalatable, - | Chicago Times.

CLEANLINESS IN THE DAIRY.

Cleanliness is absolutely necessary in the dairy business-alike for milk, butter and choese. Much attention is needed to maintain the cleanliness of the milk receptieles, such as pails, pans, caus, and churns. In the first place, there should be a sufficient supply of pans, that those emptied and washed in the morning need not be used until evening of the next day. After washing, they should be placed in the sunlight until used. On cloudy days they can be thoroughly dried about the stove. If put together when they are wet, and allowed to thus remain for several hours, they cannot dry, and when separated at night they will give off a disagreeable odor, and warm milk placed in them is certain to be contaminated. All tindairy utensils should be first washed in boiling water, then thoroughly rinsed in cold water and turned bottom side up to drain and dry until again used. All vessels about the dairy should be cleaned as soon as emptied. The shelves, benches and racks upon which the pans are set should be washed with soap and water every time they are cleared. -[New York World.

CHICKEN CHOLERA A RARE DISEASE,

The so-called chicken cholera is a disease seldom found to attack flocks, although it has been supposed to be always present in some sections. That it is a disease and that it is occasionally met with is true; but as nearly all ailments of poultry are attributed to cholera, the supposition that it prevails extensively is due to lack of knowledge of the disease rather than to the fact of its being present. We have spent many years in the investigation of cholera, and only four times in over a hundred instances have we met with it. Last season we were called upon to visit a farm where the fowls were dying rapidly, and all attempts at a cure had failed. Investigation showed that every square inch of the poultry house, the cattle sheds, woodpile, and every place accessible to the heas were covered with lice, the bodies of the hens literally swarming with the posts. Roup is often denominated cholera, and indigestion, due to overfeeding, is also mistaken for cholera. In the summer season, should the hens become droopy, the best thing to do is to look for lice. Cholera kills in a few hours. Roup, indigestion and other ailments may allow the hen to linger for a week or more be foredeath, but cholera may be known by its fatal work in a few hours' time, -(Mirror and Farmer.

ROOTS FOR FEED.

The cheapest winter feed for swine is roots. They may not have so much nutriment in themselves, but they cause the hog to get more out of his other feed, just as good clover pasture causes the hog to get more out of grain. Turnips and rutabagas may be grown on the land from which early potatoes or sweet corn has been removed, or a piece of clover sod may be broken up after the hay is harvest-

Don't lean over the fence to pour the slop in the pigs' trough. The fighting pigs will cause you to spill a good part of the slop, and resting your weight, supported by the rail, is not healthful exercise. Pass a trough through the pen into the other trough. And if you nail a board over the first trough the pigs cannot stop it with their noses and waste the slop

The old-fashioned way is to dip the

them out with a hard, high lift, all dripping and overflowing with the greasy stuff, and so carry them. Of course the man that does that gets greasy, dirty clothes. The new way is to set the barrel upon blocks and dish out a place for the bucket to sit, and then put a big faucet in the barrel. This way there is no hard lifting, no buckets greasy on the outside, no drip or overflow.

A little pains to sun scald the troughs if they get sour under cover will pay. If it be damp and cloudy scald them out with boiling water and feed a few handfuls of powdered charcoal to correct acidity of the hogs' stomachs .-[Farm Journal.

BAISING PLOWER SEEDS.

When plants are grown for seed, a

few of the first flowers should always be removed. This is particularly necessary to the propagation of double flowers, as the first blossoms are usually semi-double, and will give seeds that will, in their turn, produce plants with single flowers. Double flowers are the result of high cultivation, and it is only by such that good seed can be obtained. Consequently, have the stock-seed bed as rich as possible, and when the flowers are in their greatest perfection, remove all buds except the few that are partly opened, and at the same time nip the seeds of the branches, in order that new buds can form, which will, usually, cause the flowers already opened, and those opening, to yield seed which they would not otherwise do. When a plant produces a flower which is considered perfect, take off all the other flowers from the plant, and carefully protect this from all harm. In most species a single capsule will contain all the seed necessary for next erop. The bed in which plants are grown for stock-seed, is the very soul of the garden, possessing no attractions for any but the happy owner, who sees in it a sure promise of reward, in the splendor of his garden in future years. This is a work that can be made profitable as well as pleasant. There is not a seedsman in the country who would not be glad to secure stocks of any variety of flowers or vegetables that have been greatly improved by careful selections and cultivation. -American Agriculturist.

PARM AND GARDEN NOTES. Sell whenev r you can get a fair

price. Plenty of road work makes muscle

and endurance. There are 23 distinct breeds of

sheep in Great Britain. Be very careful of your horses when

they become overheated.

Good drainage is necessary to the stecessful raising of grain.

The quality of the manure depends

mon the food of the stock. A strong constitution is as desirable

in a horse as in a human being.

Select your best mares and breed them to the best horses you can get.

Have a good bull in your herd if you want cows for milk and butter.

Too much care cannot be exercised in keeping cream or butter from all

Teach the colt the use of the halter while very young, both to lead and to stand tied.

Choose the dairy salt with care, for on it depends the appearance and keeping qualities of your product.

If the pastures are eaten very close at the beginning of the season, they are not apt to give a good growth la-

It is said that sheep are excellent for keeping down the grass in the apiary. The bees rarely trouble them and the combination is a profitable

If you have dogs or cats about the place have water where they can get at it handily these days. Many a dog is driven mad because of lack of water to

drink. Fact. It is said that the secret of the success of the British farming is the combination of sheep and turnips. The turnips make the sheep and the sheep make the wheat.

The breeder who aims to secure quality, beauty, style, size and good road gait, as well as speed, will find a profit in the business provided he works intelligently.

The quince is a gross feeder. No other fruit requires so much manure or such thorough cultivation. It is because it is neglected that no better results are secured.

Don't make poor butter. It is not wanted. Oleomargarine is preferred and is often cheaper. Good butter at a fair price will drive oleomargarine out of the market quicker than conbuckets in the slop barrel, then lift gress "regulations."



between Siam and the Pacific Ocean. | tastes and aspirations natural to a man

The boundary line between Siam and Annam, according to the maps, and as it actually existed until the French put forth their present claims, was a range of hills running parallel with the sea coast and forming the watershed between the sea coast and the valley of the Mekong River. The extensive tracts of country between the river and these hills, like much of Siam, is largely jungle and waste, and like all of Siam is without roads or means of traversing it. Siam's hold he was fifteen years old and is now three months a year. There are, howon this territory has always been forty. He has a multitude of wives, ever, a good many exemptions from weak, and France has long desired according to the custom of the counthis rule. These include members of

THE KING OF SIAM IN STATE ATTIRE.

her Indo-Chinese possessions to extend to the east bank of the Mekong. It is this territory, then, 100 to 150 miles wide, between the Mekong and the coast range of hills, which has been the casus belli.

England is interested in the question because the disputed territory touches her Burmese possessions on the her hereditary north; because of hatred of the French, and because of her jealousy of territorial acquisition in the east by any other Nation. Russia, as the ally of France in Europe and the rival of England in Asia, has a double motive for taking the part of

of culture, and ambitions growing out of his royal position and his evident desire for his country's prosperity, he is utterly powerless to do the half he would for his people, because he is locked up in his palace and can see the people's needs only through the eyes of others and can hear only the voice of flattery, or, what is yet worse, the voice of self-seeking and too often dishonest ambition.

The King ascended the throne when try, and upward of thirty children. the priesthood, the Chinese settlers one ranks as Queen.

The population of Siam is a very mixed one. Only about a third of it consists of pure Siamese. There are from \$3 to \$4 a month or by furnishabout 1,000,000 Chinese, most of ing a slave or some other person not of the population is made up of mixed races—Burmese, Indians, Malays, and Cambodians.

The Sismese are essentially peaceful and indolent. They are social, vain, and fond of bright dresses and jewelry, and are inveterate gamblers. The dress, both for men and women, is a cloth called "panoong," about two feet wide, wrapped around the waist, with one corner drawn up and caught in a girdle at the waist. This makes a sort of flowing trouser falling to the

Well-to-do-people wear, in addition, a white jucket, shoes, and stockings. The women are distinguished by a gaudy scarf thrown across the body.

Bangkok, the capital and largest city, has a population variously estimated from 800,000 to 700,000. peaceably disposed are the people that Colonel David B. Sickles, for many years United States Consulthere. says the murders did not average one a year. Bangkok is situated on both banks of the Menam River. Aside from the pagodas, temples and Government buildings nearly all structures are of bamboo, with thatched roofs. Many of these float on pontoons or bundles of bamboo in the river, or in the canals, which form an intricate

network of waterways about the city.

The religion of the people is Buddhism. Nearly all men of the upper classes enter the priesthood for a short time, and by custom no one can ascend the throne who has not been a mendicant priest.

The temples are very striking objects seen from afar, and some of them are beautiful, but generally, as is the case with most things Oriental, distance lends enchantment to the view. Upon near inspection it is found that industry. Gold exists in some of the there is a great deal of tinsel about rivers, and for the working of it conthem, and their gaudy, cheap ornamentation does not favorably impress and French companies. Gem mining

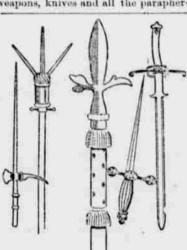
Domestic slavery is in gradual abo-

exist. can be held as a slave beyond the age of twenty-one. Chinese coolies do most of both the skilled and unskilled

the Burmese, Karens and Khamus.

Nearly the whole of the trade is in
the hands of foreigners. In late years
many Chinese, not subject, like the na-

Along the entire southern and eastedging a French protectorate, or in Annam began in 1787, and was terminated by a treaty in 1881, establishing 1830 French soldiers and requires a





of your lamented father."-Judge.

when it is poured in.