

THE CORNER-STONE OF TRUTH.

When sunset rays have touched the earth with gold... I've had dreamed and built my castles fair...

A COLLEGE HERO.

AMES MAXWELL and his old classmate, Herbert Boynton, met by appointment and proceeded to the Pierson train...

Maxwell, from leading his class, had swept, run errands, copied and served papers for an attorney...

The Pierson train was that paradox called an "accommodation," and a crowded one at that, consisting of a "smoker" and an ordinary coach...

"Say," said one who was standing by the rear seat, "what's the matter with me and Bill playin' you and Tom a game of cessen'?"

"What! be yer lookin' for a scrap?" And the man squared off while his companions crowded about threateningly.

"Not at all, not at all," said Boynton calmly. "I'm no pugilist, and you could do me up in a two-second round, I'm sure. But I know you men are members of the Nonpareils (professional) Baseball Club. Now, just look at my card and see whether I couldn't reciprocate."

god to Johnnie. We are on our way to their commencement exercises. Perhaps you gentlemen are also bound thither?"

"Are you interested in athletics?" asked the young lady. "Not especially," replied Boynton. "In my day they were a pastime, not a passion."

"I don't know what you mean," she retorted. "Of course they merely furnish a diversion from mental labor, and I should think would keep young men straight, and make them courageous and gallant and constant."

"George Ruggles is my brother's friend," said Grace, loftily. "and of course I shall not discuss him."

"I'm sure I envy him," remarked Boynton, inconsequentially; yet the simple words seemed to promote amity, and for the rest of the journey this couple were engaged in making agreeable discoveries about each other.

"You will have an escort, Grace, for Commencement Week, which will make you the envy of all the girls," said the unappreciative brother.

"Really, my son," began the matron, but here Ruggles sauntered back, his hands in his side pockets, his hat on the back of his head.

"What!" exclaimed the girl, "I, attentive to a young man, and such a conceited young man as Mr. Ruggles? Remember, please, that relationship does not sever me from the respect due a lady. Really, I think your college friendships have made you daft."

and yet, the first thing I know you are talking with that stiff sprig of a Boynton."

"Oh! of course, he is apt to be called away for a moment. One who occupies his position is a sort of public character. You ought to be proud—" "To await my lord's leisure with folded hands and then listen to an incomprehensible jargon about 'records' and 'springs,' and 'training,' with rap-ture?"

"He is clever enough to hold all these positions and to get anything else he wants in the college. You ought to see him toss the tabor just once."

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the upper side there came sounds of song. A man lurched around the corner and staggered heavily against Grace. Ah, here was a change! George shook off the girl's entreating grasp. He sprang toward the intruder.

"What, old rocks, don't you know me!" mumbled the man. "Spoonin' hey, with young bag-o-bone's gallus sister?" "Bill's right."

"On the outskirts of the crowd, two young men were enjoying their cigars. "This reminds me of old times, hey, Herbert?" said one.

"My dear Miss Grenville," exclaimed Boynton, "this is no place for you. Permit me to escort you."

"There you go! What a fool a man is to ever argue with a girl. Her only point is to have the last word, and Thomas Grenville flung himself out of the room in a passion quite incompatible with his dignity as a senior."

"The chance did occur. There was a Glee Club concert and the Grenville party attended. After it was over, in the press of coming out, Ruggles and Grace were separated from the others.

"I think college songs are jolly," replied the young man simply. "These were lines to Rogers on discharging the shield of Achilles."

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SIAM AND ITS PEOPLE.

FACTS ABOUT THE LAND OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT.

Causes of the Difficulty Between France and Siam—Extent of the Siamese Empire—Its Great Natural Wealth—Its Capital the Oriental Venice.

Coveted by the French. The trouble between Siam and France, is only another phase of the ever-recurring and never-ending Eastern question, the difference between this and our former appearances being that in this case the trouble broke out a little further east than usual.

In the time of Louis XIV. the dream of empire seemed about to be realized, and but for the almost accidental formation of a company of English traders the Empire of India might have been French instead of English.

The King of Siam is, comparatively speaking, a rich monarch, having an annual revenue somewhat exceeding £2,000,000, of which sum £257,000 come from the land taxes, £685,000 from the taxes on fruit trees, £100,000 from the spirit tax, £120,000 from the opium tax, £100,000 from the gambling tax, £143,000 from the customs duties, £90,000 from the tin tax, £23,000 from the tax on edible birds' nests, and about the same amount from the fisheries tax.

There is more shame in silk than in cotton. Money is the best slave and the worst master. A broken heart will always show in the face. Splendid misery is the most difficult to cure.

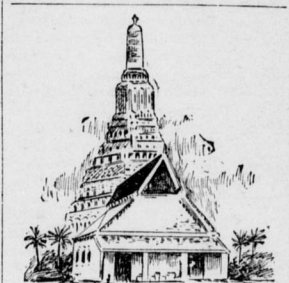
Three's a crowd except when Cupid is the third. Men of motley minds often have motley morals. Most of the most beautiful things in nature are silent. A dollar will go a long way if you only encourage it. The worst people in the world are the richest and the poorest. What you do, take a hearty interest in it, or be assured you will certainly fail.

Garner up pleasant thoughts in your mind; for pleasant thoughts make pleasant lives. The most delicate, the most sensible of all pleasures consists in promoting the pleasures of others. A sound discretion is not so much indicated by never making a mistake as by never repeating it. Men of the noblest disposition think themselves happiest when others share their happiness with them. The best teachers are those who learn something new themselves every day, and are not ashamed to own it. Keep your eye on that young man who would rather wear a \$50 suit of clothes with \$10 in his pocket than to wear a \$10 suit of clothes with \$50 in the pocket.

Pay of Parliamentarians. The British Parliament has not always been filled by unpaid members. In 1327, knights of the shires were paid four shilling (\$1) and burgiers two shillings (50c.) per day. Special bargains were sometimes made. Ipswich beat down its representative from a shilling to nothing at all. Sir John Strange, of Dunwich, served for a stipulated number of herring. For nearly a century no member was sent from Lancashire on account of the expense. Payment gradually became obsolete. The British colonies usually pay their members, Canada allowing \$10 a day, with a \$1000 limit; New South Wales and Victoria paying \$1500 a year; Cape Colony, \$5 a day. Continental deputies are generally paid, except those of Spain and Italy, who travel free on cars and boats. France pays the highest, \$3000 and \$1750; Dutch members get \$350 and expenses; Swedish and Grecian, \$350; Portugal, \$5 a day; Norway, \$3.30; German States, from \$1.50 to \$3.75; Belgium pays by the month, \$84. Japan pays about \$675 per annum. The United States members, with \$5000 a year, are almost at the top of the ladder. The Argentine Republic is supposed to pay \$8000, but things are mighty uncertain down there now.—New York Recorder.

width, or very nearly one-third the size of the United States. That, however, was before the English conquests in Burmah, which considerably reduced the nominal size of the empire. Its present area is estimated at 250,000 square miles, while it has a population of 2,000,000 Siamese, 2,000,000 Laosians, and 1,000,000 each of Chinese or Malays.

The Government of Siam is in some respects much like that of other countries having a limited monarchy, while in one particular it is curiously different. There are two Kings, a first and a second, each of whom has a state establishment, but only one is acting as a sort of Prime Minister. The whole country is divided into districts, the government of each being administered by a local official who is Siamese, or Laosian, or Malay, according to the prominence of people of these nationalities in the population. The reigning King is Chulalong Kom I., known also as Somdet Phra Paramide Maha, who ascended the throne in 1868, and who governs by means of a council of six Princes and from ten to twenty members appointed by himself.



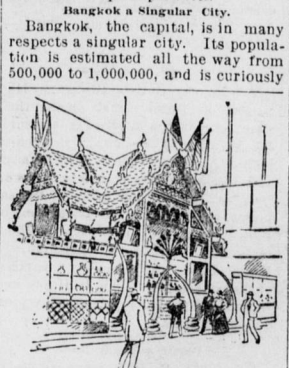
THE MOST FAMOUS TEMPLE IN SIAM.

Formerly all its houses were built on the land, but the prevalence of cholera many years ago so alarmed the Government that it ordered the houses on the banks to be abandoned and directed the people to live on the river itself. Thousands upon thousands of houses were consequently built on rafts and moored to the banks of the river, and although the policy of river houses has been to some extent modified by the Government, no inconsiderable part of the capital is still on the waters of the Menam. The houses are of slight materials, constructed on bamboo rafts, each attended by a canoe, for to the river resident of Bangkok a skiff is as indispensable as a street car to the suburban resident in an American city. Formerly the right to build on the banks was reserved to the king, nobility, clergy and privileged characters. This right has been greatly extended and now Bangkok has spread its limits on both sides of the Menam. The most striking features of the city are the palaces and the temples. The former are located in a citadel, securely fortified against sudden attacks or prolonged siege, and comprise the palaces of the two kings and a variety of temples and other structures pertaining to the court. As the first king has about 5,000 women attached to the court in one capacity or another, the palaces are, as may be conjectured, very roomy. Prominent among the attendants are the amazon guards of the harems. They are women trained to the use of arms and employed to guard the king's wives, and whenever a lady of the harem appears in public, she is attended by a retinue of these female soldiers, who answer with their lives

ended the throne in 1868, and who governs by means of a council of six Princes and from ten to twenty members appointed by himself. Nominally a limited monarchy, there are so many ways of setting aside the established laws of the kingdom that, although the Siamese call themselves the Thal, "the free," and their kingdom the Muang Thai, "the free kingdom," they are practically under the same kind of government as most other Asiatics.

A similar state of things prevails in regard to military service, all the inhabitants being required to render it, exceptions, however, being made in favor of the priests; of the Chinese, who are taxed instead; of slaves; of government officials, and of those who are willing and able to purchase exemption by hiring a substitute. The whole kingdom is practically, therefore, at the King's command both in time of peace and of war, and although it is, in some respects, one of the richest countries on the globe, its natural advantages lie unimproved, and a territory almost the size of Texas has thus an annual export of only about \$12,000,000 a year, consisting mostly of rice, tea, pepper, and other tropical products.

Bangkok a Singular City. Bangkok, the capital, is in many respects a singular city. Its population is estimated all the way from 500,000 to 1,000,000, and is curiously mixed and cosmopolitan. Siamese and Chinese predominate in its streets, though the Malays are also very numerous, and frequent Europeans in its streets demonstrate the presence of Western civilization and interest. They are, in fact, the heaven of Siam, and to their influence and the spread of Western ideas are due the various improvements noticeable in the great city, from which political power proceeds to the utmost boundaries of



SIAM'S PAVILION AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

for her seclusion. Several very magnificent temples are within the limits of the palace walls, the most remarkable being that of the "Sleeping Idol" and that of the "Emerald Idol." The Sleeping Idol is a statue 150 feet long, overlaid from head to foot with plate gold, in many places covered with inscriptions and representations of the transmigrations of Buddha. Not far away is the palace of the White Elephant, who is really a deity, and throughout Siam is revered as such. He has his court, his attendants, his throngs of servants, and is treated like a prince. The White Elephant is an albino, not completely white, but here and there having spots of cream color over his otherwise dusky hide. The Emerald Idol's temple is a wonderful structure, of the utmost magnificence, the doors and much of the wall being plated with gold. The idol itself is said to be a solid emerald 12 inches high by 8 wide, the hair and dress of the rude figure being made of gold studded with precious gems. In spite of their barbarous magnificence, however, the pagodas of Bangkok present a wonderfully impressive appearance, as situated in large parks and covered with porcelain plates and decorated with bells which sway to and fro chiming with every breeze, they gleam through the tropical foliage and suggest that a people which could build such shrines as these should not be designated as savages; for, although their civilization may be different from ours, it is nevertheless of a kind that perhaps suits them quite as well.

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KING OF SIAM.

Compositions have been found in the tombs of Egyptian ladies, whose mummies have lain in their catacombs upward of 3,000 years, which, when subjected to analysis, reveal, it is said, some mysterious beautifying properties. Among other things an artificial eye-brightener was discovered, which imparted to the iris a beautiful verdant sheen. The use of this artifice may possibly have given rise to that famous classical expression—perhaps first used by Egyptian belles to their maids upon the completion of their toilet—"Do you see any green in my eye?"

Do you see any green in my eye?"