

LAND OF WONDERS.

CURIOUS CUSTOMS AND RARE SIGHTS IN SIAM.

Giving the Dead to the Vultures—An Expensive Cremation—Beautiful Temples—Curious Features of the City of Bangkok.

Hon. Jacob T. Child, United States Minister to Siam, who recently passed through San Francisco on his way to Bangkok, Siam, in conversation with a...



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and thrown into the water. The boatsmen, sixty in number, awaited a requisition as they plied the oars. They were all dressed in brilliant red.

"While speaking of temples and ceremonies I may as well say that while I have seen most of the grand architecture of the Old World I never saw anything to compare with the temple in Bangkok. The River at Bangkok, built to honor the spirits of the water. It is a hand-some spiral dome of purest white, with two wings, which are crystal palaces.

The system of jurisprudence in Siam strikes one as crude. There are not many lawyers, and while they go through the form of a trial and have juries, who receive petty salaries, they seldom give a case the thorough ventilating it would get in an American court.

The Chinese are the upper business class there. They keep the stores and conduct the great business interests of Siam. The Siamese lower classes are usually peddlers and boatmen, and they are in a great measure slaves to the Chinese.

Whether he would be allowed the privilege of freedom of the press, the jolly King replied in a joking manner: "Yes, but if you say what does not please me I'll hang you." Of course the King did not mean that he would carry out his word.

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jasminine wreath, which they habitually wear on their heads. The present Siamese King, Somdech Phra Phromraj Maha, known as Chulalongkorn, is a handsome man, thirty-two years old. He has absolute power, but is a council of nobles.

The season's close he doth deplore And thinks it is a shame That he can sit upon a fence No more and watch the game.

Proprietor of a glove store (just returned from a trip) "How is this? I hear no customer has been in the store for a week."

Head Clerk (helplessly) "I know it. After you left I did my best to boom business. I even put a big card in the window saying we could fit the biggest hands going, but not a lady has entered."

Earnest Christian—"Does your husband go to church regularly, Mrs. Sprig?" "Every day, he goes every day."

A genuine Chinese horse has been discovered by a New York World reporter in a small stable near Astoria, Ore.

Chicago Citizen—"Great Scott! What is this I have found on the doorstep?" "It is my wife."

Old Gentleman—"How does my son get on?" "School Teacher—"He's one of the best students in the school. I've no complaint to make on that score."

Old Gentleman—"That was the way with me when I went to school. I'm glad he's taking after his father."

Old Gentleman—"Well, I suppose it's natural that he should have some of his mother's striking characteristics."

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THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

The Lazy Man—Lacked the Art of Flattery—A Steady Churchgoer—Cleverly Shocked off a Bore, Etc.

But winter days have come at last When arctic breezes blow. And he can catch his wife while she Is shoveling off the snow.

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A Wonderful Child. Mr. Oldboy (admiring the baby)—"Can he talk, my dear madam?" "Fond Mother—"No, he can't talk yet, but he's a wonderful child; he understands everything one says to him, don't you, my darling little pinky winky, tooty pooty dicky picky dot?"

Society Youth—"Say, Jack, can you lend me \$5? I've got to take a lady to the opera to-night."

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The New York Tribune, referring to the illegally licensed liquor shops of Alaska, says: "The result of the immunity to these gross shops is a great spread of immorality among the natives who will sell their spring or wives for whisky."

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If You Are Sick

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