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 customs of Siamese and their country. shocking to us, and yet the people are highly civilized. But the civilization of all Oriental lands differs in so many ways from ours, at first one is likely to



SIAM'S LITTLE QUEEN, AGED 28 YEARS. look upon any variation from our Western customs as barbaric. One of their most shocking practices is the way they dispose of the bodies of poor people and criminals after death. Every Siamere whose friends pay the cremation fee of about \$1 is cremated, but there are many poor people who cannot secure even this! small amount. The bodies of those for which no fees are rased are taken to what is called a wat, or temple, for the poor. This is a large structure without a roof, and it is usually built in some great city, as at Rangkok. Trop cal trees grow with a the walls of the dismal inclosure, and sometimes the trees are fairly black with savage vultures. The body is laid upon the floor, which is merely a to gh piece of ground, and within an hour the vultures have torn every particle of flesh from the corpse.

"The wat for the poor at Bangkok is upon a high hil, called Gold Hill, because of the enormous sum of money which was required to get a proper foundation for the temple. The people do not seem to care what becomes of their bodies, if they are poor, and instend of regarding the 'poor wats' as horrible places, I believe they regard them as wise provisions made by the King, and they are thankful for such a favor as having even the wat as a final resting place.

"The cremation ceremonies over royal personages are the most expensive and ciaborate forms of doing honor to the dead that the world has ever seen, Last May three children of the King were cremated. The bodies were first embalmed in oils, gums and spices, then placed in a casket and left for six or seven months. In the meantime many high priests called at the palace to offer up prayers for the dead. Provisions were then set out in the open air to propitate the spirits of evil. Then for months the best bands of music that could be hired were procured to give open air concerts free. Samese lacons Japanese jugglers and Chinese actors were employed to give daily entertainments for the amusement of the people. Folla water, ice cream, cake, fruits and more sub-tantial articles of diet were given away for months, to all who called to pay respects to the dead. These ceremonies were all prop tiatory to the spirits and to please the departed, who were supposed to hover nigh and partake in the general joy.

"When the time arrived for the cremation of the bodies of the princes, a premian, or palace, was built at enormous expense and gorgecusly decorated. The emains were conveyed to the premain on a golden chariot, surrounded by priests, and when the altar was reached the embalmed bodies were carefully put above the high altar. In the altar was built a great furnace. The funeral ser-



CROWN PRINCE OF SIAM, AGED 11 YEARS. vices then began and lasted for three and mourning aloud, by groaning, by the upper classes gold buttons, very invitors and wives were dressed in white, while the high priests were clothed in brilliant yellow robes. At the end of the third day the King and one of the high priests brought from the palace the sacred fire in a lamp containing palm oil. The fire was then applied to the mass of combustibles in the fornace, and the King retired. The princes, nobles and all the invited guests, who had been supplied with scandal wood flowers, and sticks a fact long, then advanced slowl, to the furnace and threw the offerings into the sacred flames. The fire was kept up until after sunrise of the next day, when the urn was opened. The white ashes and a few selected bones were placed in another golden urn and carefully conveyed to a porcelain vault, which is used as a receptory of the crematory urns of the royal dead of the Kingdom. The remainder

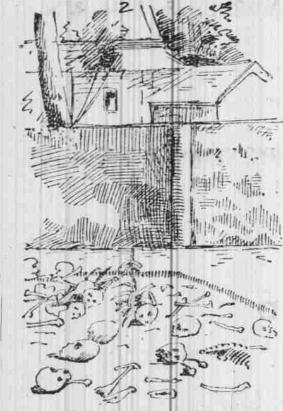
LAND OF WONDERS. and thrown into the water. "The boatmen, sixty in number, chanted a requiem as they plied the oars. They were all dressed in brilliant red. The cost of this cremation alone ran up to \$1,000,-000, while each invited guest received a valua le present drawn on a number

the fashion of our American lotteries. "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 a temple in the Menam Chopen River at Bangkok, built to honor the spirits of the water. It is a handsome spiral dome of purest white, with Chr ni de representative related to him a two wings, which are crystal palacos. great many interesting facts about the The temple standing there in the picturesque mother of waters is a poem in Mr. Child said: "Siam is a land of itself. The combination of handsome about among his guests with perfect wonders. Many of the customs seem architecture and striking ratural scenery freedom. His crown is worn only on was never surpassed.

"The system of jurisprudence in Siam a criminal escapes his family is at once 'chain gang' until he is apprehended. handsome pumba to keep him cool.

The criminal usually comes in and surrenders himself rather than have his misdeed.

respect the Chinese and encourage them. | into closer union with us." I remember that a young Siamese, a relative of the King, who got his education in London, asked permission to start a newspaper. He was allowed to run it, and when he asked the King

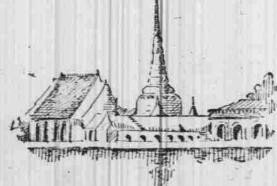


whether he would be allowed the privilege of freedom of the press, the jolly king replied in a joking manner: 'Yes, but if you say what does not please me I'll bamboo you.' Of course the King did not mean that he would carry out his threat. However, the young man began a vigorous attack upon the Chinese, and he advocated restriction of Chinese immigration. The King noti- stall and trotted him around the stable newspaper and to report to his palace, where he would be detailed a position

in the Foreign Office. "But the King and Cueen are usually quite liberal with their subjects, and of late years they have been very charitable, recently endowing and giving large sums to well known charities. The Bangkok Times, a semi-weekly newspaper edited and owned by a remarkable Englishman named William Ese, who speaks seventeen languages, has never been molested by the Covernment. There are a great many English speaking people to patronize his paper, but by far the greater part of the foreign population is German. The city itself is healthful for a place of 600,000 population. We have daily monsoons, and a daily rise of ten feet in the tide water river Menam Chopea. A large part of the city is built on the river, and boating is the chief occupation of the

lower classes. "The Siamese people resemble more closely the better tribes of American Inin a golden urn, which was suspended | dians than any of the neighboring Oriental nations, although their resemblance is very faint. The full blooded Siamese is copper colored and not usually more than five feet live inches in height. They are alert and active, reasonably muscular, and decidedly a handsome people. Nothing of the Chinese cast of feature is to be found among them. The popula-tion of the Empire is about 10,000,000, but this is mere guesswork, for no census has ever been taken.

"The costrime of the people is simple and graceful. The climate is warm, not hot like that of Singapore, but about like that of Jacksonville, Fla., with less severe winters. No very heavy clothing is required, and the garments are therefore light and flowing. Men and women dress about alike. They wear the penang or pantaloons, made out of silk, linen or cotton, as the taste or fortune of the wearer may determine. Under the penang they wear a very curious pair of drawers, the legs not being more than a foot long, and in some instances very handsomely embroidered, the Siamese dudes, of whom there are not a few, pay particular attention to this part of their attire. But one upper garment is worn, a sort of acket made of silk, velvet or linen. The jackets worn by the nobles and richer merchants are handsomely embroidered, great attention being paid days. They consisted of readings from to the buttons. Few are so poor as not the works of Buddha by the high priests, to be able to afford silver, while among.



TEMPLE ON MENAM RIVER. tricately worked in a beautiful filigree pattern, are worn. The nobles use diamonds as buttons, some of them very large and valuable. Around the waist is a gold embroidered belt, which in the case of the nobles is a belt of flexible gold fastened with a large diamondof the bones-for some were not taken to studded clasp. This dress is very picthe vault-were then taken and blessed turesque and exceedingly becoming. by the high priest, after which they were Over the jacket and across the shoulders conveyed in a royal barge down the the women wear a gay scarf. A peculiar seems at present to yield its due propor- delphia Record. Menam River to where the tides meet and graceful feature of their attire is the tion of increa, -Scribner's,

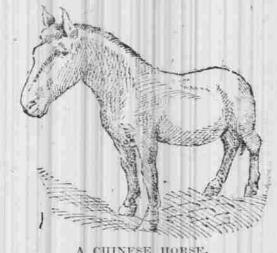
ressamine wreath, which they habitually

wear on their heads. "The present Siamese King, Somdech Phra Pharamindr Maha, known as Chulalengkorn, is a handsome man, thirtytwo years old. He has absolute power, but avails himself of a council of nobles. marked on his ticket, somewhat after He is of a kind disposition, easily approachable, and is very popular among his subjects. I once attended a grand garden party given by him, at which more than 5000 guests, were present. There were not more than 500 foreign res dents in Bangkok, but the most elaborate preparations were made for their entertainment. English and French cooks were employed, and European wines flowed like water, the champagne especially being received with great rare occasions, as it is a very uncomfortable headgear. It is of solid gold, about strikes one as crude. There are not eighteen inches high, and runs to a many lawyers, and while they go through point. It is thickly studded with jewels the form of a trial and have judges, who of the largest size and first water, and is receive petty salaries, they seldom give of great value. It is so heavy that the a case the thorough ventilating it would monarch is ill at ease while it is get in an American court. There are upoa his head. The King's bedsome English and German lawyers there | chamber, boths and other apartments who are beginning to make money. are worthy the abode of royalty. His Their system of capturing criminals couch is made of rare wood and carved works well, although it strikes one as in the most artistic designs, draped with very unfair to innocent persons. When | rare lace fringed with gold; a gold-emroidered spread covers the bed; the arrested, put in chains and made to work pillows and bolsters are also hemmed on the streets or elsewhere with the with lace, and above the couch swings a

"The army is well organized, the officers being trained in a cadet s hool unwife, parents or sister tortured for his der charge of Major Walker, an officer of the Bombay militia. Bangkok has a "The Chinese are the upper business large and efficient police force, which class there. They keep the stores and has little work to do, as the people are conduct the great business interests of neither inclined to theft or idleness. Siam. The Siamese lower classes are They readily adopt European ideas and usually peddlers and boatmen, and are particularly cordial to Americans. they are in a great measure slaves to There is a great field for American trade the Chinese. I believe that the people in Siam, and I hope to see them brought

An Equine Curiosity.

A genuine (hinese horse has been discovered by a New York World reporter in a small stable near Abingdon Square. This curious animal as the only one of its species in the United States, and has certain peculiarities which make it an interesting curiosity. This remarkable animal has the head, neck and body of a full-sized and rather large horse. His legs, however, although correspondingly stout and strong, are very short and every one of them double-jointed. His coat is very sleek and black. The only spot of white upon him is a pretty diamond upon his foreheal. His tail is long and si'ky, but strange to say his main refuses to grow longer than two inches. He:e it stops and remains as coarse and stubby as a scrubbing brush.



A CHINESE HORSE. "Old Tony," the keeper of this remarkable horse, has christened his charge "Yum Yum." At the reporter's request Tony brought the horse from the fied him to let some one else print the | yard. The gait of the horse is very peculiar and cannot be compared with that of any other animal. Being doublejointed, when he turns a corner his legs | the marks." swing around like pivots, giving the appearance of being hung on hinges.

The double joints of Yum Yum's knees are so large that the reporter laid his foreinger almost out of sight between them. So peculiarly are they formed that they do not figure as a deformity. The horse is very strong and makes a beautiful saddle horse, although it is a very funny sight to see a tall man upon his back. The reporter then asked Tony to measure the different parts of the horse.

Yum Yum's head is 28 inches long. It is very full and well formed. The neck is 11 luches long and 16 inches thick. His height is 46 inches. His front legs measure just 20 inches, while the hind legs are one inch higher. His body is just a feet, of 60 inches long. This concludes a set of measurements which, for being in direct opposition to the laws of

nature, have never yet been equaled. The head, according to the measurements, is that of a perfectly-developed horse. His body is just a little behind, while the legs are the length of those of a small pony. His feet are in keeping with | don't want no bookkeeper to kick his legs, as he wears a very dainty shoe. Mr. Taggert, Yum Yum's owner, gave the porter a very interesting history of the horse. He said that Yum Yum was born in Hong Kong in 1883. About a year and a half later a sea captain bought him and took him to Boston, where he was

After a short stay at the "Hub" he was transferred to New York, where the late General Lee Yu Doo fell in love with him and bought him at a big price. The General had him kept in Orange, N. J., and used to go out once or twice a week and spend a day in hor eback riding. The General also took a liking to the farmer that kept Yum Yum for him, and said that if he ever died the farmer should have the horse. The man was pleased at the offer and prevailed upon the General to put the nature of his gift upon paper. When the General died, therefore, an effort was made by his friends to get possession of the Chinese horse, but the farmer held Yum Yum under the General's signature.

Finally Mr. Taggert, who resides in Orange, saw the horse one day and bought him from the farmer at a considerable sum.

He brought him to New York, and when occasion requires it, uses him on one of his wagons. Mr. Taggert has also had a light sulkey made for his curious horse and affirms that on a good country Yum Yum has frequently made a mile in 2.40 or less. His double joints allow his legs a very wide stretch and his speed is surprising.

Railroad Revenues.

Desides their receipts from freight and passenger traffic railroads derive revenue also from the transportation of mails and express freight on passenger trains, from the sleeping-car companies, and from news companies for the privilege of selling upon trains. Of the total revenue about 70 per cent. is usually derived from freight, 25 per cent. from passengers, and 5 per cent. from mail, express, sleeping cars, and privileges. When it is considered that high speed involves great risks and necessitates a far more perfect roadway, more costly machinery and appliances, and a higher grade and greater number of employes, the fast passenger, mail and express traffic hardly

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

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

The Lazy Man-Lacked the Art of Flattery-A Steady Churchgoer -Cleverly Shook off a Bore, Etc, The baseball season's at an end. The small boys' nine disbands, And now the lazy man finds time Hangs heavy on his hands.

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.

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

Lacked the Art of Flattery.

turned from a trip) - "How is this? I hear not a customer has been in the store for a week." Head Clerk (helplessly)-"I know it. After you left I did my best to boom

-Philadelphia Record. A Steady Churchgoer.

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?" "Yes, sir; he goes every day." "Every day! You mean every Sunday, don't you?"

"No, I mean every day; he's shing-

Nebraska Journal. Cleverly Shook off a Bore. "Do let me have your photograph;" said a dashing belle to a gentleman who had been annoying her with his atten-

ling the roof of the Methodist church."-

The gentleman was delighted, and in short time the lady received the picture. She gave it to her servant with the question: "Would you know | yours?" the original if he should call?" The servant replied in the all rmative. "Well, when he comes, tell him I am engaged."

He Feared the Worst.

Chicago Citizen-"Great Scott! What is this I have found on the doorstep?" His Wile-"It looks like a dynamite bomb, made out of a piece of gaspipe. See, here is a fuse attached to it." Citizen-"Oh, is that all? I was afraid that the plumber had been here." - Chicago Nows.

Construed the Words Literally. Scene: A Toronto household. Mamma (to I die, aged three and a half years, just home from her first morning at the kindergarten)-"Well, Edie, how did you like it?" Fdie-'I didn't like it a bit. The

teacher put me on a chair and told me to sit there for the present. And I sat and sat, and she never gave me the

Tedious Waiting.

"You would be sorry to lose your sister, wouldn't you, Johnnie?" asked the visitor suggestively to the little boy who was entertaining him in the draw-"Nope," replied Johnnie. "I guess I

could stand it, Mr. Hankinsen. Maw says I've got to wear short pants till after frene's married." - Kinderhook Rough Notes:

Pleasant for Mamma.

Little Johnny (looking curiously at

the visitor)-"Where did the chicken bite you, Mr. Billus! I don't see any of Visitor-"Why, Johnny, I haven't been bitten by any chicken."

Johnny—"Mamma, didn't you tell
papa Mr. Billus was dreadfully hen-

pecked? Why, mamma, how funny you ook! Your face is all red."- Chicago Touched a Sympathetic Chord.

Experienced Tramp-"Hello, we're in uck. I hear a husband and wife quarreling in this house. I'll wait until he Fresh Tramp-"Wot good 'll that

Experienced Tramp-"I'll tell him I'm a wanderer over the face of the earth because I can't live with my wife, and he'll give me a dollar."-Philadelphia Record.

Couldn't Attend to Such Details. "I've got a complaint to make," said an office boy to his employer. "What is it:" "The bookkeeper kicked me, sir. I

"Of course he kicked you. You don't expect me to attend to everything, do

you? I can't look after all the little details of the business myself." Changing the Rule. "How did you come to convict that man?" asked a traveling man of a friend

who had been serving on the jury. "The one who was tried for assaulting his mother-in-law?" "Yes; it was contrary to all pre

"So it was. But the jury concluded that it was about time the old lady had a little show."- Merchant Traveler.

Siffleurs Are All the Rage. "What a beautiful girl!" exclaimed young Alexander NcMash when he saw-Miss Galleywest in a box at the theatre. "Yes, poor thing," said his sister, pity ngly, "but she can never have any standing whatever in society.' "Why!" inquired Alexander in sur-

"Because she can't whistle a little bit," replied his charming sister, puckering her lips unconsciously. - Chicago

Sickness Unheard Of. Prospective Real Fstate Buyer-"How is your town for health?" Western Real Estate Agent-"Splendid! Supbro! I tell you what, there is not another town in the world that will

compare with this for health." "I notice you have a large cemetery."
"Yes, but none of 'em died natural deaths. They were mostly shot, hung or pisoned. No, sir; no sickness here. Why, it is a regular health resort!"-Time.

American Slang Mystified Him. Philadelphia Girl-"Have you ever noticed how ignorant of this country even our most distinguished foreign visitors are?"

Kansas City Girl-"Well, I should smile. Why, only last week I was talking to an English lord who didn't know what a boom was. When I told himthat my friend, Mr. Dugout, tried to work up a boom, but "fell in the soup," he looked positively perplexed."-PhilaA 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 too, you darling 'ittle pinksy winksy, tootsy pootsy dicksy picksy dot?"
Mr. Oldboy—"Does he remember all

Fond Mother-"Oh, yes." Mr. Oldboy-"Well, he is a wenderful child."-Bazar.

High and Low Life. Society Youih-"Say, Jack, can't you lend me \$5? I've got to take a lady to the opera to-night.

Poor Clerk-"Yes, George, I can; but you received a check from your father this morning. Where's that?" S. Y .- "Well, the fact is, I stepped into my tailor's to get a necktie and hadn't anything but the check with me, and the rascal instead of handing me Proprietor of a glove store (just re- the change gave me a receipt for balance due."-New York Weekly.

In a railroad passenger car:

Conductor-"Gentlemen, you have been making an awful sight of noise ever since you came into this car, and the other passengers complain of it. What are you mad about, anyway?"

Imaginary Heat.

"Mad! We are not mad, but your old car is so cold that we thought if we got up a 'heated' discussion, mebbe it might warm it up a little. Don't you want to join us, it will save the company's coal if successful, and there's no danger of setting the car on fire in case of a smashup."-Dansville Breeze.

Acknowledged Relationship. A jolly Englishman, now a clergyman in this country, shortly after his marriage to a country girl in old England, was visiting with her on the streets of Liverpool when suddenly a large donkey stepped up on the pavement in front of them. Mr. B. stopped, threw up his hand, and exclaimed

"My dear, is that any relative of

"Oh, yes," she said, with a merry twinkle in her eye, "but only since my marriage."

Subject dropped. - Montreal Witness. Inherited His Bellicose Traits.

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."

School Teacher-"But he's unruly at times, Mr. Hardcastle, and frequently has to be reprimanded for fighting." Old Gentleman-"Well, I suppose it's natural that he should have some of his | Piso's Cure for Consumption. mother's striking characteristics."

Hamlet Lacked Realism.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said the manager, stepping up to the footlights just after the curtain had gone up, "I have to claim your indulgence this evening. The drama which will be presented to you to-night has neither a tank, a variety show, live pigs, ducks, geese, nor even horses to recommend it. To le brief, it is play written by an oldfashioned person named Shakespeare, and I have procured, not without employing detectives to find them, several actors who can act to present this play to you. I hope that its novelty, if nothing else, will secure a respectful hearing for 'Hamlet.'"—Pittsburg Dispatch.

An Old Acquaintance Rehabilitated. This is a new version of an old story, but it happened. It was in a country courtroom and a case was proceeding, when two dogs began fighting in the very sacred precincts of law and justice.

The Judge stopped the case:
"Constable," he said, "the decorum of this court must be preserved. Throw those dogs out. The Constable got hold of them and was struggling out of the door when the Judge added, "and, Constable, when you get outside I'll bet you \$10 that my brindle pup will knock the spunk out of that black cur of "I'll take the bet, your Honor," said

the Constable. And the Judge won. - San Francisco Ohronicle.

He Struck A Bargain. Old Mrs. Bentley-"Josiah, there comes a shabby-looking old man with a bundle on his back, and I think we ought to do something for him." Old Mr. Bentley - "I'm willing, Mariar."

Old Mrs. Bentley - "I say, old man, if you'll come into the house I may be able to find some decent clothing for you." Old Man (gratefully)-"Thank you,

Old Mrs. Bentley (in the house)-"Now, there's a lot of cast-off clothing that my husband doesn't want." Old Man (examining the lot very carefully)-"Tell, I gif you tree dollar fur, the lot und, so help me, not von cent

more."

Old Mrs. Bentley - "But, sir, I want to give you the clothing." Old Man (looks over the lot again, very, very carefully)-"Vell, I tell you vot Ido: I dake em."-Life.

Why Prescriptions are Mysterious. "Why do you write prescriptions in those hieroglyphics." I asked a doctor. "To save the patients a lot of worry. If I were to write this in plain terms so that you could read it, you'd be scared to death. You don't know what it is and you take it with a certain curiosity. If you knew all about it you would perhaps throw it away or think it couldn's

do you any good or something,"

"Or find out that I'm paying seventy-five cents for five cents worth of drugs." "Sometimes. But druggists have got to keep these things; they cost a good deal of money sometimes, and some of Animal? How to Shoe a Horse Properly? All this then don't keep long and have to be thrown away. Some of them are very rarely used, but they have to be kept in stock. Besides if I wrote the prescription out in ordinary terms some people would be afraid the drug-store clerk would know what's the matter with them, and they think the hieroglyphics keep it secret. Yes, there are many reasons for not writing prescriptions nlain. - San Francisco Chronicle.

Homes of the Paraguayans.

The homes of the Paraguayans would seem comfortless to us, but meet their simple requirements. The partors, or "company rooms," of the best houses are never carpeted, and have only a few chear chairs and a sofa, which is always the seat of honor for guests. No member of the family would think of occupying it if strangers were present. The rest of the house is furnished simply, and in most cases rudely. The people sleep on cots or in hammocks; and the cooking is done with charcoal, the fumes of which, mingled with the fragrance of frying oniors, are always discernible.-American Magazine,

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

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