

MALAY DRONES OF SOUTH ASIA

FRANK CARPENTER WRITES CONCERNING THE FILIPINOS' COUSINS, WHO ARE TOO LAZY TO WORK

SULTAN OF JOHORE.



MALAYSIA IS THE HOME OF THE TIGER.

SINGAPORE, Straits of Malacca, Nov. 25.—This is the land of the Malays. Singapore has a large number of them and the peninsula which here joins into the Indian Ocean forming the tail of Southeastern Asia is their home. The Siamese further up are almost altogether of Malay extraction and all the islands of this vast archipelago through which I have been traveling are more or less pure Malay. The purest of all, however, are those on the Straits of Malacca and about the Malay peninsula, and this is perhaps the best place in the world for the study of the race. It is just now an especially interesting study for us. The Malays are the cousins of our Filipinos, and their character today is not far different from that of the Tagalogs and the Visayans.

Drones of South Asia.

It may be that the Filipinos have become more industrious by their change of environment, but if not they will never be a great working race. The Malays are the drones of this part of the world. They originally came from Sumatra and owned Singapore when the English took possession of the island. As a result they should be the richest of the nations, whereas they are the poorest. The profits of the change of ownership have gone to the Chinese and East Indians and the Malays seem content that they should hold them.

I had a talk with the Sultan of Johore, the Malay ruler of the state on the mainland opposite Singapore. He has a rich country, which raises vast quantities of pepper and coffee, and which produces gold, silver and tin. He tells me that he has to get Chinese coolies to work his plantations and that his own people will not labor. The hotel where I am staying in Singapore recently lost two of its Chinese waiters. Among the applicants for their places were two young Malays. They offered to do the work for the same as the Chinese, but said they could not come earlier than 8 o'clock in the morning, that they should start from 11 until 1 for their noonday sleep and would want to close the day's work at about 7 o'clock in the evening. They were of course dismissed without further question.

Look Like Filipinos.

The Malays of this part of the world look much like our Filipinos. They are perhaps a little taller, but they have the same mulatto complexion and the same straight figures and independent walk. Their hands and feet are small. The most of them look well bred; they are very proud and haughty and are quick to resent an injury. They remember an insult a long time and revenge one after years of waiting. I was told in Manila that it was impossible to trust a Filipino. The English merchant said that they often made good servants, but that they required more watching than a mule. One man told me of a number of instances where Filipino bookkeepers and other clerks had been scrupulously honest for 10 years and upward, and then absconded with the property of their masters. The same is said to be the character of the Malays of the Straits.

Our Mohammedans are now confined to

the Sulu Islands and Mindanao, the inhabitants of which are Malayans. Born extraction. The tribes to the northward were converted by the Spaniards and their religion is a rude form of Catholic Christianity. The Malays here are Mohammedans. They use the Koran and worship in the mosques. They believe in polygamy, and the richer of them have a number of wives. They do not, however, keep their women in seclusion, as in Turkey, although I now and then see one going about with her face half hidden. The most of them are too poor to have separate apartments in their huts for the women and harem life is confined to the rich.

Malay Villages.

I have visited some of their villages. The ordinary houses are thatched huts about 15 feet square. The walls are of rude boards or of bamboo and a thatch of palm leaves. Many of the houses have but one room, the people eating and sleeping where the cooking is done. The kitchen furniture is an iron pan and a coconut ladle, with perhaps a pot for soups and stews. The bed is a mat spread on the floor, and the family squat on their heels or sprawl at full length when resting.

The dress of the poorer classes is as mean as their houses. They wear a sort of a bag-like skirt or sarong, much like that used in Java. Some of the men have jackets and some are bare to the waist. The women usually wear jackets and sarongs. The richer people wear trousers under their sarongs, but this is only in cities like Singapore or persons of authority like a sultan or rajah. Small children seldom have any clothes whatever and I have yet to see a baby which was not as naked as when it was born.

The lack of clothing, however, causes no suffering in this part of the world. We are here just 1.20 degrees from the equator and the thermometer stands at just about 80 Fahrenheit all the year around. The sun rises and sets at the same hour each day the year through, and the flowers always bloom and the trees are always green. The chief question is how to keep cool, rather than how to get warm, and so the naked babies thrive.

Smoke and Chew the Betel.

All the Malays of this part of Asia smoke and chew betel. I have seen little boys absolutely nude, with cigarettes in their mouths, and the girls learn to smoke as soon as they are able to crawl. The betel nut is even worse than the opium. It consists of the nut of the Areca palm mixed with tobacco and lime. This turns the teeth black, swells the tongue, puffs out the lips and makes them crack. As the people chew the spit, and their expectorations are the color of blood. If you have ever had a tooth pulled and tried to cleanse your mouth afterward, you have gone through a chew. When a man is mixed chewing as far as saliva is concerned.

The betel nut is about as large as a black walnut. It is of a soft, spongy nature and has a bitter astringent taste. It is sold here in all the markets and with red lime and tobacco. Every Malay gentleman and lady carries a betel box and it is only courteous to offer your guest a chew. When a man is mixed, out of his presents to the bride is a betel outfit, and I am told that babies are sometimes given betel before they are weaned.

The chewing is said to take away hunger and fatigue. The habit once acquired is seldom given up, and I see women chewing who are so old that they have to pound the nuts to a powder in order that they may masticate them with their toothless gums. I can imagine no more disgusting sight than one of these leathery old hags chewing the betel and expectorating. The chewing is done by young women also, and those of all classes. During a visit to Bangkok I bought a betel spittoon, such as is used by the ladies of the King's harem. It is just about as big as a tea cup, and the King's wives in using it lift it up to their lips. This chewing is also common in the Philippines, but not so disgusting as it is here on the edge of the equator.

Development of Malaysia.

I am surprised at the development going on in this part of the world. I have written of Singapore and the \$200,000,000 worth of exports and imports which come in and go out of the Straits every year. This is

only one of the things that is going on down here on the edge of the equator. There are now about a dozen newspapers published in this region. Singapore has two dailies in English, two dailies in Chinese, two in Malay and one or two papers in Tamil.

A little further up the Straits is Penang, with a population of over 100,000 and a trade of more than \$100,000,000 a year. Johore is doing considerable business, and there are half a dozen other states which are exporting coffee, tea and tin.

Penang is an island 15 miles long and 9 miles broad, with large nutmeg and pepper estates. It is now building a railway through the state of Perak, with which it will be connected by ferry. The railroad will be 27 miles long, and it is planned to extend it to Borneo. A railroad is proposed here in Singapore. It is to cross the island and then to begin again at Johore and extend on upward through the peninsula to Siam and possibly to China. A branch will go off to Borneo, and the probability is that some day Indo-China and East India will be

connected by iron tracks with Singapore. At present considerable railroad building is going on in Siam. The king there is very enterprising, and he is slowly but surely pushing railroads to the northward. He has just finished one 16 miles long to Korat, and will have another hundred-mile road completed this year. I have recently met some Americans, who have been selling electrical machinery in Bangkok, and according to their statements that city is now one of the liveliest of the far East. It has an electric lighting plant and electric street-cars. It is the center of two railroad systems, with machine shops and foundries, and it is thoroughly up to date in many of its equipments. It has 25 rice mills now, run by steam. Seven of these mills have electric light plants, some of which were shipped there from the United States. A number of the rice mills are Chinese, only four being European. The Chinese mills have large capital, and they are managed on as good business principles as any mills in the United States. Bangkok has three daily newspapers and about two score printing

houses. The railroads are well built, and some of them are paying dividends.

Bangkok is rapidly growing. It is said to have in the neighborhood of 500,000 people and to be the center of distribution for the products of at least 5,000,000 people. It has good hotels, large banks and importing and exporting houses with large capital. It is a town of telegraphs and telephones, clubs and libraries, business men and missionaries last, but not least. At present it is sandwiched between the possessions of the French in Indo-China and the English in Burmah and both nations would like to grab it. At the same time the Germans are slowly, but surely, working their way into its business and any attempt of the other powers to take possession of it will be resented by them. About two years ago Prince Henry of Prussia made a visit to Bangkok, and it is said that the Emperor of Germany keeps up a personal correspondence with Chulalongkorn, the King of Siam, which is much helping German interests. The Germans have recently bought the Scottish Oriental line of steamers sailing between Bangkok and China and other parts of the Far East, and they are busying their trade in every possible way.

Coffee Plantations.

There are a large number of Europeans who have recently engaged in coffee raising on the Malay peninsula. In the protected native state of Selangor there are 100 such estates, varying in size up to 200 acres each. Most of the planters are setting out rubber trees in addition to their coffee, and some are planting coconuts. They use Indian coolies as laborers. They are said to be making money.

There are other plantations in Johore, Pahang and the Negri Sembilan. Have you ever heard of the Negri Sembilan? They are all more or less governed by England, and they constitute a large part of the Malay peninsula. They raise pepper, coffee, gambier and tin, and they produce a large amount of tin. Some have sago plantations and some do a big business in tapioca, teak wood and rattan.

On a Sago Plantation.

There is a great deal of sago produced in this part of the world. It comes from one variety of palm tree which grows in the jungle and which is also set out in plantations. The sago is made from the pith, which is very large and porous. The trees are cut down in the woods and the trunks split open from one end to the other, so that the pith can be scooped out. After this it is carried to the factory and run through graters into a sort of pulp. The pulp is allowed to stand in water for some hours and the fiber leaves the sago and is thrown away. After this the water is changed until finally nothing but the sago is left. It is now in the form of a starch, which is dried in the sun. After drying it is broken up and ground into a flour, which is the sago flour of our markets.

Tapioca, which is also raised here, comes from the root of the tapioca tree. It is handled in much the same way as sago. The roots are cultivated, requiring about 18 months to grow the crop. After gathering the roots are cut into pieces, ground up and boiled to get out

the tapioca. A great deal of the product goes to the United States.

Nearly every one of these settlements on the Straits of Malacca has its botanical garden, and not a few have zoological accompaniments. I went out the other day to the garden in Singapore to look at the snakes. The country is full of them, and it has some of the deadliest known to man. The Government gives a reward for the poisonous varieties, paying from 50 cents to \$5 per head, according to size and character. I saw a man bring some to the officials in a bag in order to collect his fee. He had 25, and every one of them was venomous. He pulled the snakes out of the bag with his bare hands and cracked their heads against the stones as he showed them to the policeman, and I wondered that he was not bitten. The Government pays \$5 for snakes of 14 feet and upward.

The Malay peninsula is the home of the tiger. Every now and then a baby is eaten, and frequently men and women. Not long ago the statistics showed that 300 people were annually killed on this Singapore Island by tigers, and during a visit to the peninsula I saw the tracks of a tiger in the mud near a saw mill by which we drove. The tiger had been about the mill the preceding night, but had gone away without eating up any of the Malay babies in the village near it, and without playing with the quiet buzz saw. The Government reward for a full-grown tiger is \$50, and for a tiger cub \$15.

Cobras Which Spit Poison.

Speaking of snakes, the reward is 50 cents for the cobra, which is to be found everywhere. The cobra is a brownish-gray snake, about five feet in length. It is sluggish in its movements, and can easily be killed, but one must be very careful to keep out of the way of its venom. When attacked it raises its head and spreads it out in the shape of a hood, while it spits out poison with a noise like an angry cat. It can throw its spittle a distance of eight feet, and if a bit of it happens to fall upon a sore or upon the eye it is sure death. It is the cobra that the Indian snake-charmers use largely in their exhibitions. They do not seem to be afraid of it, and apparently handle it with impunity. Not long ago an Englishman looking at such a show told the Hindoo that he knew the poisonous glands and that he could not hurt him. The snake-charmer warned him to keep away, saying it was not so. The Englishman laughed and grasped the cobra in his hand. It bit him and he died in a few hours.

This is also the home of the python and other great snakes of many kinds, some of which are to be found in the water. One 25 feet long and 18 inches in circumference was caught the other day on the deck of a steamer lying at the wharf. It had probably come in with the cargo or it had climbed up the chains from the water. In my voyage to Singapore the captain showed me a snake swimming in the water some distance away from our vessel. It was about 30 feet long. The captain ran for his rifle but before he could shoot the monster had dived under the water and he saw it no more.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Women of America 50 Years Hence.

BY MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

Were I to assume the role of prophet I should predict no astonishing changes which are likely to overtake women in their business, political and home life within the next half century. Certainly the forecasting of the horoscope of the American woman reveals no sign of the coming of any startling innovation in her career for the next 50 years. Instead, that which will come to her will be the natural results of an evolution already so well established that no power can stay the tide of its oncoming. A half century ago the world rebelled at the approach of the changes which are now past history. The women who wished to own and manage their own property; the women who entered new vocations and boldly claimed their own wages; the women who demanded the right to speak in public, to pray in the prayer meeting and to organize clubs; in fact, the women who interpreted the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution to mean that women as well as men possessed an inalienable right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" took their reputations in their own hands. The test of Daniel entering the lion's den pales into insignificance compared with the heroism of the "woman's rights" women of that day. Indeed, nothing short of the same divine faith which supported Daniel could have inspired the pioneers who "blazed the way" for the women who were to come after them. Women of sensitive natures preferred to endure the threshold of limited freedom rather than face the contumacious which was the certain fate of her who diverged from the beaten path bounding the "sphere" of women. But heroines continued to do battle with the prejudices of mankind, until the boundaries of woman's sphere can no longer be located.

Recovered From Its Shock.

The great world has recovered from its shock, and now looks upon the "woman movement" with comparative resignation.

It has no more persecution, no more "mud throwing" to offer, and its delicate feelings are no longer disturbed when a respectable, well-to-do woman does something no woman has done before. It is because of these happy changes in public opinion that the further extension of woman's sphere in the next half century will contain no sensational features. Not an advance step will be made which will not be greeted by a practically unanimous "that is as it should be." Fifty years hence women will be much more important factors in the business world than they are today. It matters not at all whether men and women of our day think women should engage more largely in business or not. Women will become important factors in business in response to influences quite independent of public opinion. The ancient custom of bequeathing the bulk of the family fortune to the eldest son has been gradually but surely supplanted by the practice of "share and share alike." Since women have been permitted to receive and care for their own property, girls, like boys, receive by will, as well as by law, an equal share in the family estate. It will be readily seen that if the United States produces an equal number of boys and girls the wealth of any generation will, through inheritance, be held equally by the men and women of the next.

Why Women Seek Business.

It is within the memory of those now living that women were not permitted to control their property. When this privilege was extended to them it was quite natural that, in response to the restraining influences of public opinion, they should have been content merely to hold that which came to them, without effort to increase it. The majority either extended their inheritance for a home or placed it in investments which returned a sure interest. In this conservative fashion the half of the Nation's wealth which came through inheritance to women has been held as a silent and uncounted factor in the business world. Meantime, for a generation, the rate of interest has been gradually shrinking until money in passive investments yields but little.

Fifty years ago \$100,000 was considered

a handsome fortune, and an income of \$1000 could easily be earned from it through investments in mortgages and stocks. Now the same principal would scarcely guarantee a \$500 income. It is no longer possible for the woman to invest a modest patrimony and secure satisfactory returns. Her necessity drives her to the consideration of business ventures which promise to net her a larger per cent. In the meantime, the withdrawal of public condemnation has rendered women more self-reliant, more ambitious and venturesome and they are less afraid to risk their money. These factors will lead women more and more into the business world.

There the same "survival of the fittest" which controls the competition of men and women. In that struggle there will be victories and there will be defeats for women as there have been for men; but, utterly regardless of what the world thinks, necessity will drive women in increasing numbers to make business ventures.

Women's Vocations Taken by Men.

There may be some curious results, but they will develop so naturally no one will be surprised at them. Fifty years ago the most prosperous business enterprises for women was millinery, but men for a generation have been gradually etailing the trade until now the largest millinery houses are owned and managed by men. One man milliner in New York has recently built a million-dollar hotel with the profits of his trade. Fifty years ago thousands of women enjoyed a pleasant and local distinction for special skill in the construction of an American dainty known as the pie. In time men looked upon the appetite of the pie-loving American as a possible source of revenue, and immediately conspired to steal the art from women. The pie rapidly disappeared from the home to reappear in the factory. One factory in New York turns out 20,000 pies a day, each one guaranteed to be "as good as mother made." Whether in the 50 years to come women will reclaim these vocations which have always been considered essentially feminine, or whether men will possess them entirely and will make the bonnets and pies of the world is impossible to predict. If, however, these industries are forever lost to women, it is safe to prophesy that the sagacity, enterprise and originality of women will win compensating vocations from men. Who knows but it may be the manufacture of hammers and nails?

Fifty years hence women will long have been enfranchised in the United States. They will have taken their places in the

body politic so naturally, so quietly, so unobtrusively, that the event will scarce have made a ripple in the stream of human progress. There will be no one left to marvel at the claim of woman's political rights, and if the subject of woman's enfranchisement is mentioned at all as distinct from man's enfranchisement, it will be in wonder that great men and women once obstinately refused to perceive the justice of woman's claim to the ballot. An old man in the Alabama constitutional convention, a short time ago, after a bitter speech in opposition to

woman suffrage, exclaimed in that spirit of surrender which sometimes overtakes us when standing in the presence of the inevitable: "There are young men in this convention who will see every woman in Alabama a voter." That prophecy is echoed in the heart of the most active opponent of woman suffrage. Its coming will shock no one, and least of all the woman voter herself. It will serve as a seven days' wonder, and the papers will discuss it as a news item for a brief time. Then women, as women, will sink out of existence in the body politic, and will rise again as citizens.

There will be no more talking of the man vote and the woman vote, but the new classification which will be discussed by every political party will be the intelligent and the ignorant voter; the moral and the immoral voter. The time required for the actual process of voting is so infinitesimal it is not worth considering, but the labor necessary to organize voters, to educate them to win elections, especially for great principles of morality, requires time, brains and energy. These women will give, but how are they to secure the leisure, some overworked and some overburdened by the home itself, that they will have departed after having fully performed its important mission to women and the world, and in its place will have come the political woman, the woman who will discuss the moral and immoral voter. There men and women will debate those mighty questions, upon the correct solution of which depends the progress of civilization. There they will teach each other the need of personal responsibility for the affairs of state, and it will all come about so naturally, so unobtrusively, that it will be forgotten that it was once spoken of as a "dangerous revolution."

The Home Will Be Unchanged.

Fifty years hence the American home will still be the "bulwark of American liberty," the haven of husband and wife, and the happy shelter of the dear children. There may be changes in its material arrangement. The city flat perhaps will lead to co-operative dining-rooms. There doubtless will be an extension of the business now in its infancy which delivers by order, upon the family table, the most satisfactory and convenient meals. There will probably be a more wholesale buying of food at bakery and grocery, and even larger patronage of restaurants. But these are matters of detail, and the home itself, that retreat chosen, as birds build their nests, by the instinct of sweet and pure affection, will remain unchanged. To suppose it in danger because women are growing into a larger mental world and are learning to feel a sense of responsibility for the things outside the home is to base its usefulness upon the weak subjection of women to ancient conditions which no longer have cause to exist. Such fear is based upon the fanciful theory that "all men were designed to be oaks and all women clinging vines." We have already made the important discovery that there are oaks among women and the most clinging of vines among men. Fifty years hence it will be understood that "God and Nature" intended all men and women to be oaks, with full freedom to grow and to be. They will know in that day that the

clingers are those abnormal unfortunate of either sex who, through inheritance or environment, have not reached the stature set for them.

A Roseate View.

The present recognized inequality between parents will not blast the force of the mother's teaching in that day, and when the home is shown of this injustice it will shed a healthier and more stimulating influence on children. The far more disfigured position of the wife as political independent will bring with it the happiness and self-respect which are the inevitable accompaniments of liberty. Households, too, will love their wives with a higher and holier affection, for that love is safest and most reliable which is founded upon genuine respect. In fact, the further enlargement of women's sphere in business and politics will injure nothing which is good, and, least of all, the home, which to all women is and ever must be the dearest and most sacred spot in all the world. If in the line of their progress some ideal of today is shattered, we may be sure the ideal was built of flimsy sentiment and not designed to lead to the real good of women or men. Evolution compels the world to move onward, and it may always be safely trusted to aim at higher and better things for society.—Copyright, 1901, by Carrie Chapman Catt.

Literary Curios.

"The literary craze that is sweeping over the country is producing some queer results among those who are anxious to be considered 'literary,'" said the book-seller. "Yesterday a woman was in here looking for 'The Crescens,' and I sent her away satisfied with 'The Crisis.' The same day a gentleman asked if I had 'Dry Am I.' I gave him 'Dri and I,' and he departed with what he had been looking for." "But the other day I was fairly startled when a party came in and asked me if I had 'Walt a Minute.'" "Never heard of it," said I. "That is funny," he answered; "it is being talked about, and I am anxious to read it." "I looked over all my book lists and satisfied myself that there was no such book in existence, and he went away disappointed, and with the impression, I fear, that I was not keeping what I take pride in—a first-class book store." "The day following, however, he came back smiling and asked for 'Tarry, Thou, Till I Come.' He had taken the precaution, this time, to write the title down."—Atlanta Constitution.



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