

THE WOMEN OF BURMAH.

Their Fashions and Personal Habits --The Burmese Girls.

The Burmese women before they become mothers are noted for their well-proportioned though small figures. To one accustomed to seeing the regular features so prevalent among the many pretty Indian girls, the Mongol-like features of their Burmese sisters look ugly and repellent, but after a while this impression wears off; the women of the country have many pretty little ways and they are very cleanly. Their hands and feet are small and well shaped, arms symmetrical, the head well put on the neck; their carriage is erect; they allow no hair to grow anywhere except on their heads, where it is most luxuriant, and is taken the greatest care of, tied up a la chinoise, with a wreath or garland of flowers entwined; they disfigure their ears which are naturally small and pretty, by boring huge holes in the lobes, and wear in them either gold or amber cylindrical-shaped earrings; they cover themselves over with necklets, bracelets, rings, etc., and the Burmese gold and silversmiths are nearly as good as those in Cutchak, Trichinopoly, or Delhi.

A Burmese girl who wishes to kiss presses her nose up against a face and sniffs! She is a born coquette, and will spend hours in adorning her person. Their dress consists of a tight under-jacket to support the bust, and a loose and flowing jacket over for show; a gaudy scarf hangs down over the shoulders; from the waist they wear either a many-colored silk thammie, which exposes the inside of one leg half way up to the thigh, or a "loongie," which is more decent, being a sort of petticoat fastened round the waist and exposing no part of the person. All the women smoke and chew betel nut, but have nice white, even teeth; they can swim as a rule, and delight in dabbling in water, and invariably bathe once, perhaps oftener, during the day.

The Burmese seldom have more than one wife, and she reigns supreme in the house, and conducts the purchase or sale of all necessities. A girl's great ambition is to keep a stall in a bazaar; it is her introduction into society, and is equivalent to our own girls being brought out. They are a merry, pleasant race, and many of the fabled seikis, when they returned to the Punjab, took back with them Burmese girls, preferring them as wives to their own fair comelier women.

Every Burmese girl is a born actress and delights in taking a part in a poey or national drama. There is no shyness attached to women who take part in these performances, as there is to dancing girls in India, and they are invariably well conducted, modest girls. Like the men, the women are inveterate gamblers; at a boat or pony race the men and women bet together freely, and often a girl, after losing all she possesses, will stake herself against what she considers her value, and if she loses she follows the winner, and becomes his wife or concubine, for the two are nearly synonymous in Burmah. On the slightest provocation a woman will commit suicide, generally by means of opium, which, thanks to paternal government, can be purchased without restriction in every bazaar.

The Tall Man at the Dining Table.

There is nothing more melancholy than a tall man standing at a dining-table on an occasion of a solemn feast, like that closely following a marriage ceremony. Eating is solemn; it is serious, and the tall man who stands and looks down at the table, which strikes him just above the knees, envies his short neighbor, who seems to have been fashioned expressly for such work. The tall man reaches down and takes up a piece of bread, and as he lifts it to his mouth, he feels that the distance is very great, and that the action of lifting bread to such a height must present a picture extremely ludicrous, not to say distressing. He chews the bread and looks around while to note the effect she is having on the company. Then he takes a piece of pickle and another piece of bread, and looks around.

Some more of the ham," says he, and he passes his plate. He humps himself over like a pig, and feels like a fool. The other guests are enjoying themselves, and the tall man has told a story that amuses ladies very much. He takes a handful of mashed potatoes and when he fits up a forkful, he lets the mass in his embarrassment he upsets a cup of coffee, which the hostess tells makes no difference whatever, but she knows does make a difference. He finishes the meal in such an unsatisfactory manner that he suffers from indigestion during the entire evening.

A Race of Sailors.

Talking of ships, it is wonderful to know the hereditary proclivity to get a boat and sail somewhere; to depend among the Norwegian youth at what an early age. You see the faces of small boys in boats that are miniature reproductions of the old Viking ship, rowing and sailing about and carrying oars and sails like veteran little fellows, apparently 9 or 10 years old, will sit in the stern sheets and handle his tiller and order his crew, consisting of three or four urchins of the same year or two younger than himself, with all the sang-froid and self-possession of an old pilot. Sometimes he gets into grief and gets drowned.

Very Respectfully, J. W. Deane.

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MY THOUGHT.

(Clara M. Green in The Continent.) There came a thought, one day, Unbidden to my mind, Then quickly vanished, leaving but Its memory behind.

A second time there came— A thought! I cannot say; Something I stopped to recognize, But quickly thrust away.

It came again—this time Entered with gentle tread, Just passed to let me know it, then All trembling turned and fled.

A presence thrilled my sense; A flame my spirit caught; I raised my eyes to his, and there— Ah! there I read my thought!

Barton Key.

A theatre is going up here opposite the front of the Victoria hotel, which is, I think, at Twenty-seventh street. It is said to be the theatre of Mr. James Barton, otherwise Mr. James Barton Key. This gentleman is the son of Philip Barton Key, once district attorney of Washington City, whose tragical fate is remembered by every person. I asked a friend of Mr. Barton during the week how the son was building the theatre.

Said this person: "It is being built by subscription, such persons as Pierre Lorillard subscribing a fixed amount. The subscriptions amount to enough money to finish the theatre. But there is said to be some fuss now about the title of the ground, which has been leased for a certain number of years."

Said I: "What sort of a man is this Mr. Barton?" "He is a first class manager of opera bouffe companies," said my acquaintance. "He is not an ignoramus, like many of those theatre managers, he can take up a scale in music and read it right through. Most of the New York managers are plain, common chaps, who can hardly read English and never can read music."

I said: "This Mr. Barton is, of course, the son of Philip Barton Key, who was killed by Dan Sickles." "Yes, I read," said my friend, "in some low print, not long ago, that Dan Sickles, young Key and young Richardson were all sitting together at Delmonico's, hardly conscious of each other, and yet they were all interested parties in tragedies of a scandalous sort."

"What do you make out of this young Mr. Barton?" said I.

"He is a good manager. He had a splendid business in the west, but he was in love with a young actress in New York and, being a man of southern temperament, his affections were much stronger than his business feelings. He came back to New York and let his company slide to be near the lady; and yet he tells me," said this person, "that he is now a bachelor."

Jefferson Davis' Book.

From what I hear Jefferson Davis' book has not had a very remunerative sale, at least nothing like the stories spread abroad about it. Some of the southern historians intimate that the northern publishers do not press their books equally over the country, but rely upon their writers to be quasi book agents, and make sales. Davis' book should have been made up of his cheerful reminiscences, his childhood, his West Point days, his early friends in the army, the Mexican war, etc., and then it would have become a universal book. Intimate friends suggested that he deal in that light and agreeable matter. On the contrary, he thought it necessary to reargue the southern case. Instead of making a compact argument Calhoun, he diffused Calhounism throughout the book, and therefore when the people took it up and found a broad dissertation, tedious and diffuse, on an exploded fallacy they laid the book down and said: "When it gets cheap and second-hand we may pick it up, but not now."

Mr. Davis' friends say that, while he is accused of favoritism, he was not necessarily fond of his favorites. For instance, Gen. Bragg was praised by Davis for his method of war, while he did not like Bragg much. Davis admired both men, and often had to curb his taste to put them into places where other qualities than bravery were more requisite. Mr. Davis is not rich, but fairly comfortable. He has the plantation his brother "Joe" Davis left him below Vicksburg, which brings him something, and he has the cottage property at the seaside which a lady left him. He is out of dependence, but has not much money.

Glass for Bridges.

It is said that glass is gradually beginning to take the place of wood and iron in the construction of bridges in England. The inventor makes blocks of glass, which he hardens by a special process. In solidity it is said to leave nothing to be desired. The experiments already made have given surprising results, and the cost is below that of bridges of wood or iron. Moreover, the glass cannot be injured by insects like wood, nor rusted like iron.

Settling South America.

European immigration to the Argentine Republic is increasing. Last year the arrivals numbered over 51,000. There is an opportunity in South America for an immense number of colonization schemes. Millions of Europeans could find homes there. Hardships would need to be encountered, but they would be no more severe than fell to the lot of the first settlers of Illinois and contiguous states. Many portions of South America are healthy, and rich in natural resources.

One Cent a Kiss.

Miss Mary Ann Miller, having sued when Beck in Northampton county, a breach of promise, testified that the defendant had kissed her "a little more than one hundred thousand times."

During the last thirty years the church of England has raised \$250,000 for the building and repairing of churches and cathedrals, and \$800,000 for endowments.

COMFORT WITH BUSINESS.

The Inviting Luxury by Which Customers Are Attracted to Some Wall Street Offices.

(New York Times.)

The visitor paused on the threshold and gazed inquiringly within. The room was large and nearly square, its walls and ceilings delicately tinted with various shades of green. On the floor was a velvety carpet, with lines of drab and gold, which was perfectly matched by the upholstery patterns of several easy chairs and two inviting sofas. The silk plush window curtains were of a slightly darker shade. Foot-rests covered with raw silk were scattered about, and a silken screen stood near a diminutive fire-place. A mass of glowing coals in the brass-enclosed grate imparted a cheerful warmth to the rich furnishings of the room. The mahogany library table was littered with newspapers, but from the disordered mass peeped a bouquet of fresh flowers, and lying on the floor underneath, just as it had fallen, was the latest number of a popular magazine. Two pretty bronze figures ornamented the little plush-covered mantel, and on carved brackets here and there were quaint statuettes in bisque and porcelain. Two or three oil-paintings adorned the walls, and in one corner was a mahogany book-case with several volumes behind its beveled glass doors.

The general appearance of the apartment was that of a drawing-room in a private residence, and a puzzled look came over the visitor's face as he looked about him. He had come to transact some business with a Wall street broker, and was beginning to fear that he had made a mistake in the place, when he observed that the occupants of the room wore their hats, smoked cigars, and bustled eagerly around a glass-covered apparatus which emitted a ticking sound and a long and narrow band of paper with letters and figures printed thereon.

A momentary lull in the operations of the "ticker" enabled the visitor to put an inquiry which satisfied him that he had not made a mistake. He was in the office of the broker he had come to see, and the unusual elegance of his surroundings was simply an element of the adroit broker's enterprise. It is customary with most all of the stock brokers to fit up a room at their places of business for the accommodation of their patrons. This custom is an old one, but the degree of liberality in the fitting up of such rooms has advanced wonderfully in a few years. According to the old-fashioned notion a dingy room, with a long table, several chairs, and perhaps a carpet-covered lounge, was thought to be good enough for the customers of any firm. The modern idea takes into consideration not only personal comfort but the natural human appreciation of beautiful things.

There are scores of brokers' offices in the vicinity of Wall street so elegantly fitted up that they would not be out of place in Fifth avenue mansions. Some of the prosperous brokerage firms take as much pride in the appearance of their reception-rooms as a lady does in that of her drawing-room. Mr. Henry Clews was one of the first of the Wall street men to see the advantage of making his office attractive and luxurious. "I can't do business without customers," said he, "and I must make my place of business so bright and cheerful that they will like to come here." Mr. Clews has spent a great deal of money in furnishing his reception-room. It is carpeted with a light-colored body Brussels, and decorated in bright and harmonious colors. The furniture is an assortment of tempting easy-chairs and sofas. Some of the chairs are upholstered and others are of elaborately woven willow. Most of them are with rockers. The walls are thickly covered with pictures selected with artistic discrimination. There are portraits and landscapes in oil, two or three fine engravings. A large mirror reaches from ceiling to floor on one side of the room. Numerous plaques, images and brackets are scattered here and there. The "tickers" are placed on shelves covered with olive-green velvet. A grate fire is usually kept burning in this office when the weather permits it.

A Relic of the Vikings.

There is not a great deal to see in Christiana, and every stranger is taken in the very first place to visit the Viking ship that was dug up a few years ago from the clay, in which it had lain 1,000 years, and is shown the bones of the hardy old northern sea king who owned it and to whom his boat served as a mausoleum when he had died, as learned doctors declare from an inspection of what remains of him, of rheumatism. A fine craft she must have been in her time, seventy-six feet long by sixteen beam, with high raised stem and stern-post and with lines that modern boat-builders pronounce to be admirable. One is tempted to make a polite bow to the venerable relic and say as one does to some old lady or gentleman who is proclaiming the number of her or his years: "You look very young for your age." For the frames and planking of this man-of-war of the olden time look as if they might date from the eighteenth instead of the ninth century, and the majority of her iron bolts show hardly a sign of rust. I suppose it is all right and that there is nothing of the Cardiff giant about this Viking ship, but it requires a strong faith in archeological discernment and in the preservative properties of blue clay to take in the whole story.

A Historical Door Sill.

Slaughter Bassett, of Lexington, Ky., paid \$5 for the front door sill of the old court house at that place when the building was torn down. It is of stone, and is prized by Bassett because Henry Clay and Aaron Burr stood upon it when the latter asked Clay to defend him, and he pledged his honor that he was innocent of an attempt at a western conspiracy. Receiving the pledge, Clay appeared in Burr's defense, but afterward declined to speak to him when he found out that Burr had lied.

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