

SIAM AND ITS KING.

SOME EVIDENCES OF SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS.

King Chulalongkorn's Personality, Intelligence, and Methods of Life—Wonderful Temple in the Grounds of the Royal Palace at Bangkok.

Marvel of the East.
The King of Siam, who has been making an extensive tour of America and Europe, in order to more thoroughly familiarize himself with the languages, customs and institutions of the great nations of the world, is an absolute ruler in his own country, and has wielded his autocratic powers to the benefit of his people.

King Chulalongkorn's personality, intelligence and methods of life do the utmost violence to the traditional notions of what an Oriental potentate is and should be. The historical portrait of the king, decked out in headgear that resembles a Chinese pagoda, is all wrong. He wears no Chinese pagoda, but a modern silk hat, which becomes him as well as any other gentleman. To Oriental silks and brocades and



THE QUEEN OF SIAM.

fantastic shoes with long turned-up toes, and all sorts of sashes and bands and diamonds and collars of gold, he prefers a modern gentleman's frock coat, waistcoat, trousers, linen collar and four-in-hand tie. And he dresses his sons in the same sensible sort of costume.

This latest photograph of the king was taken not long ago at Geneva by the well-known artist Pricani. It shows his majesty seated, with the crown prince standing at the right hand and the prince's younger brother at the left.

There is nothing Oriental in the portraits except the features of the sitters. Chulalongkorn's manly and intelligent features are a fine index to his character. One would hardly look for monstrous cruelty or black ignorance in a man of his appearance, and none is found. It is all the more surprising, for Chulalongkorn was not born and reared in an environment out of which one would expect to see arise a prod-

and of his fathers, and he is an adept in its intricate and refined subtleties. But he is far more liberal in his ideas of toleration than most European rulers, and perfect religious liberty, thanks to him, prevails in Siam to-day. In him the Christians especially have found a friend and protector. He no sooner became master of the government than he decreed that the Christians should not be interfered with in their work or worship, and he has seen that this law has been enforced. To a man so far advanced as to insist upon religious liberty human slavery was by no means a pleasant matter, and the king set to work to reform his people in this respect. He has practically abolished slavery in Siam. He set to work, too, to reform taxation, and he greatly diminished all internal taxes that were burdensome or unnecessary. These reforms were but the beginning of his work. He had an ambition to lift his country out of the depths of degradation and ignorance in which he found it. He had a mighty task before him, but he had mighty power, and he has given an excellent account of it to the world.

The reign of Chulalongkorn has been the most peaceful and prosperous in the history of Siam. He gave new life to the fettered industries of the country by cutting new canals for purposes of irrigation and distribution, he built railroads, steam and electric, in many parts of his domain, constructed telegraph lines that opened up communication with the western world and with the Chinese Empire, improved the coast with lighthouses and harbor signals, improved the big rivers of the country, thus adding largely to the facilities of commerce, and instituted numberless other reforms connected with the commercial activities of the people.

In moral reform the king has been no less active. How he has accomplished so much in so short a time is indeed a wonder. Among other radical changes he has made is the introduction of an entirely new code of laws and a judicial system modeled after the best Western fashion. He has instituted a fine system of public instruction, built hospitals, and has even gone so far as to found and open an art museum that compares favorably with many institutions of its kind in Europe and America. Indeed, there is nothing in the history of the world that can compare with the tremendous changes from a purely barbarous—not to say savage—system to a regime of civilization which Chulalongkorn has accomplished.

Why did not the king follow in the steps of his predecessors? The answer is simple. In his youth he was a diligent student. He learned to speak and read French and English and he was supplied with books, magazines and newspapers from Europe and America. This literature told him what the Western world was like. The contrast between that and what he saw around him was enough to fire him with ambition to lift up his people and his country. He turned to the West for light

dom that can be called "her majesty." The eldest son of this woman shall be crown prince, according to Chulalongkorn's decree. His present queen is his second wife, and the present crown prince is the eldest son of the present queen.

Chulalongkorn ascended the throne in 1873, but not until about ten years later, at the death of the regent during the king's minority, did he have an altogether free hand in government. He has advanced agriculture, increased the exports from his country, granted charters to companies that have laid steam and electric railways, built a State railroad, cut canals, improved the roads in all parts of his domain, and caused justice to be impartially and speedily administered.

The favorite palace of the king stands on an island in the river Menam. He has several other palaces, all of great magnificence, but the greatest of all is the royal palace in Bangkok, the capital. Part of the court yard of the temple within the grounds of this palace is shown in accompanying picture. On the left are seen, in perspective, three gateways opening into the space occupied by the principal building, in which is enshrined the so-called Emerald Buddha of Siam. At each of the gateways stand two gigantic figures of the mythical demons known to the Siamese under the name of "Yuek," and corresponding pretty closely to the djinn or genii of the "Arabian Nights." A few small statues of gray marble, carved by Siamese artists in imitation of European sculpture, stand near, forming inconspicuous features in an otherwise typically Oriental scene. Behind, and to the right, is seen the praclade, a huge conical mass of brick and mortar, covered with glass tiles gilded on the inner surface, and so maintaining their brilliancy with no other aid than an occasional washing. This great palace at Bangkok, or rather group of structures, is one of the sights of the East. The buildings were put in hand early in this century, and although one Siamese sovereign after another added to them, it was reserved for the present king to complete them.

Siam occupies a territory about the size of Germany. That its area has not been cut down to half that size is no fault of the sly statesmen of France and England, who have been grabbing the king's land on either side under the pretense of "protecting" him. These two States were about to absorb all of Siam except a small parcel of land not much more than enough for a royal garden when Chulalongkorn showed them that he could be a diplomat as well as a patriot. He "played" his power against the other, and thus stopped further encroachments. There is now no longer any danger that the land grabbers will hurt him. In the navy of twenty-two powerful ships he has created and in his reorganized army he has furnished himself with a protection that needs no increase from without.

MAKING A FLYING-MACHINE.

Silas Conyne and His Preliminary Experiments at Chicago.

Chicago is just now interested in a remarkable kite. Recently 30,000 people stood on the street corners watching the machine as it soared in the air 1,000 feet above their heads. Some thought that the flyer was a flying-machine and indulged in all sorts of speculations. But the majority soon found out that the aerial contrivance was nothing more than an immense kite.

The kite is the invention of Silas Conyne. Mr. Conyne claims to have discovered the principle necessary to make an airship manageable, and his experiment was made to determine the effect of the wind. The kite is a combination of the Hargrave kite, modified from a square to a triangle, with the addition of the wings of the Malay kite on each side. The one flown was 39 inches in height and 33 inches in breadth, being of a diamond shape, with the longer points cut off, making it six-cornered. The front or wind surface of the kite is formed of two triangles, and at the sides are silk wings six inches wide at the top and tapering to a point. The silk is stretched loosely over the framework and fills with air when the kite is flying.

Mr. Conyne expects to construct a large kite on the same principle and will try to fly with it by jumping off a high building or hill. His previous experiments have been conducted in the vicinity of Humboldt Park. But he will doubtless look for a more extended field in order that his experiments may be more satisfactory.

Napoleon's Check.
Fully half of the grown-up people of France believe the old story that Napoleon Bonaparte put a check for 100,000 francs in a silver 5-franc piece and that the coin is yet in circulation. They say that the people did not want the 5-franc piece, and that in order to create a demand for it Napoleon resorted to the device mentioned. The check or treasury order, it is said, was written upon asbestos paper and inclosed in the metal at the time the coin was made. Thousands of 5-franc pieces are annually broken open and have been so inspected since the story of the check was first circulated.

The Guilty Party.
Grigson—What clergyman was it that solemnized your marriage?
Flippard—It wasn't a clergyman at all. It was Mrs. F.'s mother.—Boston Transcript.

If a man takes good care of his health, his life may be brightened here and there by an opportunity to attend some doctor's funeral.

CHICAGO'S VETERAN POSTMAN.

Abram D. Jones Thirty Years a Letter Carrier in the Windy City.

Letter carriers are now wearing their service stripes. Each stripe is indicative of five years of service. The greatest honor to be conferred, that of six stripes, was awarded to Abram D.



CHICAGO'S OLDEST LETTER CARRIER.

Jones, the veteran letter carrier of Chicago. It was in 1847 that Jones received his appointment. At that time General Frank S. Sherman was postmaster. Jones had come here from New York a mere lad and gained his position through the influence of Judge Henry Fuller. He has remained in continuous service ever since, a period of thirty years, in which the veteran letter carrier has never paid the penalty of a single day's suspension for blunders. He has served at the central station, says the Times-Herald, since the day of his appointment, and has passed through all the various vicissitudes of the growth of the post-office. In May, 1895, he was transferred at his own request to the Englewood station, where he is now in active service. Of fifty-one carriers appointed simultaneously with him in 1847, he is the only one who still remains. He is the only man among 1,500 postal clerks who wears six stripes.

GOLF POPULAR IN ENGLAND.

Game Has Proved to Be Something More than a Pastime.

The popularity of golf grows yearly in England. This fact is plainly shown by the immense increase in the quantity and variety of the literature of the subject. The "Golfing Annual," which has just been issued in London, is a weighty volume containing 600 pages. It is the tenth of its kind, and as it has grown in size and circulation every year since its first issue it would seem that the prophecies of ill omen were not correct in their prognosis. Ten years ago, when the game first began to be popular in England, there was no end to the people who predicted that it



MISS E. C. ORR.

was only a craze, a fad, and would pass. The same prediction, it will be recalled, was made about cycling. But golf, like cycling, has grown, especially in England despite denunciation of the pulpit and of heroic sportsmen who say that only old men and weak young men who cannot play football and cricket favor it. Besides the annual, hundreds of books and pamphlets on golf are published every summer and the supply seems to be wholly inadequate to the demand. The new annual is illustrated with a very pretty picture of Miss E. C. Orr, the champion of England.

INHERITS A MILLION.

Euphemia McKay, a Cook of Long Island, Gets a Big Fortune.

Here is a portrait of Miss Euphemia McKay, the cook who has fallen heir to a large fortune. She has gone to her old home in Scotland to receive \$1,000,000 left to her under the will of her uncle, who went away to Africa years ago while she was a child to seek his fortune.

In time the child, growing into a woman, came across the ocean and settled in Canada. Twenty years of the drudgery of domestic service made but a little change in her. In the course of these years her father and mother died, and the uncle returned to Scotland with his fortune. Of late Miss McKay has been employed by Mr. Lawrence, of Bayside, L. I., as a cook. She says she has no higher ambition than to make her home in Flushing and help the poor.

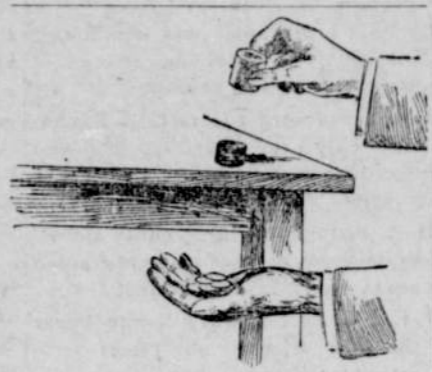
When a man shoots another man, in a moment of frenzy, and spends a long time in jail, how often he must accuse himself of being a fool.

HOW TO MANIPULATE COINS.

You Must Be Quick, and Be Prepared to Deceive.

The art of conjuring is to puzzle people. With nothing more expensive than a cent, a dime, or a quarter, and a little art in the cutting and boring of metal, the amateur will find that some very effective tricks are within his power. The conjurer may flaunt a coin before the eyes of the company and then, like a flash of lightning, cause it to disappear and show both of his hands empty. Then the coin will suddenly reappear between the tips of the conjurer's fingers. The coin has two little holes bored through it, and a piece of silk is looped through these. When commanding the coin to disappear the performer slips the loop of silk over his thumb, and, keeping the front of his hand toward the audience, allows the coin to quickly drop between his fingers and rest on the back of his hand. When he wishes it to reappear he pulls the silk, and presto! it is again between his finger-tips.

The wonderful "electrified" coin is easily made, and is warranted to cause some fun. The conjurer throws it in the air. "Behold!" he cries, "it will always return to me. See how affectionate it is." The coin, falling, touches the lapel of his coat and remains there.



THE MAGIC PENNIES.

This is not surprising, since about a quarter of an inch of a pin projects from each side of it.

The six magic pennies pass through a table, or appear to do so. As a preliminary step, the conjurer takes six pennies of his own, and fastens them together by running a rivet through them. He then obtains a little cap that will fit neatly over the coins. Having done this, he proceeds to borrow six cents from the audience, which he places unobserved in his left hand. In his right hand he holds his prepared pennies, so that all may see them. These he places on the table, and covering them with the cap, commands them to drop through to the other side. After a moment he withdraws the cap, and incidentally, with the cap, the pennies—an easy enough matter, as they are joined together—and it is seen that they are no longer on the table. He puts his left hand under the table, and apparently catches the cents as they drop through into his palm. He returns them to the audience, who find that they are unaffected by their journey through the deal board.

To be able to throw half a dozen coins through a silk hat in such a way that they will clearly be heard to drop on the inside, leaving, however, no trace behind them, is a trick of which any one might be proud. The conjurer borrows a hat, conceals six cents in his left hand, and shows six cents in his right. He then picks up the hat in his left



THE VANISHING CENT.

hand and holds the cents at the same time in such a way that he may easily drop them in when required.

Taking a coin from his right hand he shows it to the audience, and pretends to throw it at the hat. A click of a coin dropping on the inside is heard, and on examination a coin will be found in the hat. As a matter of fact, however, no penny left the conjurer's right hand. He merely put it through the process known as "palming," and at the same time allowed a penny to drop from his left hand.

A very effective addition may be made to the trick in this way. A penny is fastened in a lathe, and a little groove is cut round its edge. It is then divided into two pieces, one being a little larger than the other, and these are joined loosely together by a small elastic band which is placed in the groove. A needle is brazed into the larger portion of the penny at right angles to the edge, a recess being cut into the smaller portion to accommodate it.

Having made this penny or bought it, the conjurer, when performing his trick of throwing the pennies through a hat, takes the trick penny in his right hand, and bending back one half, swiftly inserts the needle in the hat. This gives it the appearance of having passed half way through; it looks, in fact, as though



THE HAT TRICK.

the conjurer had not thrown it hard enough. He apologizes, draws out the trick penny, and pretends to throw it again, this time allowing a penny from his left hand to drop into the hat.

A penny that will pass through the

narrow neck of a bottle is made in the same way. It is divided into three pieces, which are held together by elastic. It is folded up, and put into the bottle, and so soon as it has passed the neck the sides spring out and make it look like an ordinary penny.

Granted a small amount of skill in



THE ELASTIC COIN.

copper-cutting, tools, with the aid of a lathe and suitable tools is a simple trick, any number of very effective trick-pennies may be constructed.

PRINCESS OF THE KAFFIRS.

Barney Barnato's Little Daughter Who Will Inherit Millions.

Barney Barnato left a little "princess of the Kaffirs" to inherit his great wealth. If the noted financier and promoter really possessed all the money he was said to have been worth this little lady will come into one of the biggest private fortunes in the world. Barney left another and an elder child, if Mrs. W. W. Blackman, of Cleveland, is right in her claim, for she says that she, too, is the daughter of the diamond king of Africa. Mrs. Blackman's mother has gone to England to contest Barnato's will. The mother is a Russian, and she says that Barnato married her in Russia twenty-seven years ago. The Kaffir king was known at that time as Barney Brolobjitschy, and he disap-



PRINCESS OF THE KAFFIRS.

peared in a most mysterious manner many years ago. Mrs. Blackman says that, although she was very young when her father disappeared, she remembers him very well and readily recognizes him from his latest photographs. Her mother is now at work with her lawyers in England, making arrangements to go into court and contest the will, in which Barnato left the bulk of his hundreds of millions to his widow and his little daughter. The case promises a big fight.

FRENCH LITERARY CRITIC.

Jules Lemaitre is Recognized as One of the Best.

Jules Lemaitre is recognized as one of the best of French literary critics. He has done good work in a half-dozen departments of literature, but he is primarily a critic, who has made literary criticism as great an art as Saint-Beuve did in his day or Brunetiere does in our time. It is a pity that some of his best critical work has not been put into English. Though French to



JULES LEMAITRE.

the core, Lemaitre is singularly cosmopolitan, and he is one of the few Frenchmen who have comprehended Shakespeare. He loves the classical writers, but his most delights in the moderns, and he has keen analysis of Renan, Zola, Daudet, Ohnet, Scribe and other writers is a liberal education in contemporary French literature.

Natural Selection.
"I don't know what's going to become of that boy of mine. He was never known to get anything right."
"Make a weather prophet of him."—Exchange.

A rich man's wife has a better time than a poor man's wife, but the richest man is always the hardest working man in every community.

THE KING OF SIAM AND TWO OF HIS SONS.

net such as he is. When, in 1873, he came into the full possession of his kingly power—for there was a regency in Siam during the King's boyhood—he proceeded to turn the country inside out. He abolished, by decree, many of the barbarous customs of the people, and under his wise and enlightened and liberal rule Siam became conscious of the great blessings of modern civilization. The King had always a great admiration for Occidental manners and ideas and the extravagant hyperbole and nauseating adulation of the Orient disgusted him. Before he ascended the throne the Siamese monarch was regarded as semi-divine. Subjects, when saluting the king, were required to prostrate themselves on all fours, and to emphasize their boundless homage were accustomed to grovel at the feet of royalty. All this disgusted the young and progressive king. He bade his ministers, his friends and his visitors to arise, walk upon their feet and shake hands with him like men. The conservative (i. e. the groveling) party opposed this reform, but Chulalongkorn allowed them to see that he was not to be trifled with and, willy-nilly, the grovelers were compelled to act like human beings.

His majesty is a firm believer in Buddhism, the ancient religion of his race

and the result has amazed those Americans and Europeans who know what has been done in Siam of late years. As a prince he was tutored by an American gentleman, Mr. Chandler, who was delighted with the rapid progress his pupil made. When the prince became king in 1868 he continued his studies and nursed his ambitions, and when, in 1873, he became absolute in power he began to turn into realities the dreams of his boyhood and his youth. He surrounded himself with a number of Europeans and Americans and with their aid and advice reorganized the army and the navy and established a modern police system in Bangkok. He has by his precept and example encouraged his people in the practice of temperance, truthfulness, industry and humanity.

This real reformer is a little man, just 45 years old, and as full of restless energy as his liquid, black eyes are full of gentleness. Without his official crown, which he seldom cares to use, he measures 5 feet 4 inches in height. His color is that indescribable color of the Orient that is called orange for want of a better descriptive word. He has a large harem, but only one wife. The succession of primogeniture was not a law of Siam until he made it so. There is but one woman in the king-

