

## ESTHER GOULD'S TRAVEL CORNER

Dear W:

"I hope I never have to see another grapefruit-headed child," someone remarks behind me on the train. It is true. These Javanese children have heads exactly the shape of grapefruit, bulging on the sides and slightly flattened on top. In the short time since leaving Ceylon we seem to have crossed some race boundary; these people are much more aboriginal than the Hindu and Cingalese types.

We have certainly had a good time in Java. A party of about fifty of us travelled up into the center of the island to see the famous Borboedoer Temple—one of the great Buddhist monuments of the East. We were there yesterday afternoon. It is a vast grey stone pile—built in terraces and capping a hill. It was built in the ninth century and, later, at a time when the population feared persecutions, they covered it with earth, and it was not discovered again until the nineteenth century.

We climbed up the huge steps, walking around the terraces to study the huge figures of the Buddha—a thousand of them, we were told, though we didn't count them—and study some of the seven miles of excellent carved frescoes. It is a strange and impressive pile there in the center of this huge melancholy plain.

Our first night in Java was spent in a hotel that could scarcely be equalled in Europe. Imagine our joy at piling, hot and dusty, out of our trains and being confronted with those wide shady verandahs, and the tinkle of ice-cooled drinks. Our rooms were palatial in extent with baths as large as ordinary hotel bedrooms. You can see the hardships to which Raymond and Whitcomb subjects us.

There is a truly tropic heat over everything. Friendly lizards crawl over the walls, and faithfully, according to orders, we shake out our shoes in the mornings for the possibly less friendly scorpions. None yet!

Last night we had an extraordinary motor ride through the Jungle at midnight. It was very impressive, tearing at reckless speed along the winding road, our headlights boring ahead into that impenetrable darkness, throwing strange lights upward on the trunks of the majestic trees. As we rounded curves we often came upon—too abruptly for safety—groups of natives carrying their produce down to the morning market in the town. Their small dark shapes bent under great bulky loads and lit by the vivid flaring torches they carried, made them seem more gnomes from under the ground than human figures.

The country is very interesting. Principally rice fields in terraces, and flooded with water most of the time. The people literally live with their feet in water and their heads exposed to the merciless burning sun. It must often make them long to stand on their heads. Tonight we will be back in Batavia, the very Dutch

JAVA

capitol, with its many Dutch canals. Then to the good Columbus again!

### HEADING SOUTH

As north winds howl on lonely greens and the temperature of upper latitudes drops with sickening thud, America is scudding southward to cover.

Among the rail routes which have Florida for their Mecca, one of the swiftest as well as one which teems with most historic associations is that which starts at Chicago or St. Louis, and embraces in direct line the cities of Evansville, Nashville, Atlanta and Jacksonville and includes the famous battlefields of the Civil War.

Though unusually direct, this route, first to be traversed by a through train from Chicago to Florida, permits the traveler to see more of the intervening territory made memorable by circumstance and story than possibly any other itinerary.

Not only does the train offer a trip as free from personal responsibility as that enjoyed by the riders of Baghdad's magic carpet, but it affords a view of unrivaled beauty and historic background.

From Nashville to Macon, Ga., it traverses a mountain country of breath-catching vistas which reach their climax at Chattanooga, lying in the crook of Moccasin Bend of the Tennessee river.

Within a stone's throw are such heroic spots as Lookout Mountain, on whose flanks was fought the Battle among the Clouds; Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. From Chattanooga to Atlanta and beyond the name of almost every wayside hamlet is connected with some episode of Sherman's grim march to the sea, 137 miles which now present a bright stretch of valley, forest and orchard alternating with happy plantations.

For parents whose children are

struggling with the mysteries of American history, or for grown-ups whose text-book days are turning misty, a trip through this section is full of first-hand riches.

Along the way lie also the home of Uncle Remus and the famous briar patches of Brer Rabbit as well as some of the greatest cotton, peach, and pine producing lands of the world.

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