

THE HEAD-HUNTERS.

THE GREAT SAVAGE CANNIBALS OF BRITISH INDIA.

Ferocious Tribes Who Slay Men and Preserve Their Heads as Trophies of the Chase—Ghastly Ceremonies of the Nagas and Was.



HERE are many persons besides anthropologists who will be interested to learn that one of the wild tribes of India, the Nagas, of the Assam border, is giving up its most distinguishing pursuit—that of head-hunting. Scientific India has been put into a ferment over the fact, which comes assured on the authority of Prof. Peal, the well-known English ethnologist. The mere Anglo-Indian will rejoice to think that his head will for the future be all the safer on his shoulders, and will probably bless the spirit of progress for having touched the Nagas and led them into paths of virtue. The anthropologist, on the other hand, will be glad to learn that, though the Indian first-cousins of the ferocious head-hunters of Borneo are conforming to the more peaceful pursuits of civilization, they have not been emancipated entirely, but still go about when the spirit moves them and cut off each other's heads with all the cheerful bloodthirstiness that has characterized them and their ancestors during untold generations.

subjugated them and cut them all to pieces. Since that time the Wa Hal have had an unenviable reputation for their ferocity, their masses of pure gold, their depravity, their fairy lake, and especially their nakedness and their cannibalism.

This reputation is borne out by the experience of Mr. Scott. He tells that outside every village, though not necessarily at any special point of the compass, is an avenue of skulls referred to in the euphonious language of the people as the On Gau Pong Kau. These groves are conspicuous from a long distance. They consist of strips of the primeval jungle, huge forest trees left standing where all the remaining country is cleared for cultivation. The undergrowth is rank, and these avenues are usually in deep shade. Here there are rows of posts, all in one line—not on both sides of the path—decked with human skulls. A niche is cut in the back of the post with a ledge on which the skull can rest.

There is a round hole in front, through which sometimes only the teeth and empty eye-sockets show, and at other times the whole skull grins a horrible ghastly smile. These head posts are very trippingly called "Tak Heng," or "Krawing Ngal," and there is never a village so poor that it has not a dozen of them, while some that Mr. Scott encountered numbered a round hundred.

One purpose which they fulfill is to drive away the timid shans, but the primary purposes is sacrificial. The harvest god of the Was still demands human heads, and it is necessary to add some skulls to the pathway every year if the crops are to be good. February and March are the busiest months, but there is no "close season." The heads of distinguished and pious men and strangers are the most efficacious, and bearing this in mind, it is no wonder that no traveler prior to Mr. Scott ever contrived to return.

the Was. Perhaps the most notorious head-hunters are those of Borneo, whose general practice of disposing them around the village is identical with that of the Was. Among the Nagas, too, much the same incentive exists—that is, the heads are offered to the gods, but feminine caprice is said to be one of the prime incentives. If the young women of the tribe did not chaff the young men because they had not earned their tattoo marks, then the young men would probably not get wild and go out and cut off a few heads just to show they have grit in them. It looks as if the young women were not particularly critical, for something like half the number of heads taken are those of their own sex and of children. Among the Djaks the head is more of a personal trophy than among the Was, and in addition to the disposal of important skulls in a conspicuous line at the entrance of the village, every self-respecting native has a choice collection ranged round his own hut.

The custom is found among the cannibal tribes of the South Seas. In some of the islands it is not the heads of strangers but only those of defunct chiefs that are allowed the distinction of being placed on a pedestal. Here, however, strange heads being only good enough to gratify the individual owner and make his friends envious—the object has nothing to do with the propitiation of any particular god, but only the manes of the dead chief himself, who is supposed to stand guard from his coign of vantage over the destinies of the tribe, and who is prevented from going asleep and allowing these same destinies to look after themselves by liberal libations of roast hog and poccepoce.

Among some of the more advanced Kachin tribes inhabiting the country round about the wild Was, the offering of human heads and human bodies to the gods has ceased, and the god of harvest has to content himself with the ornaments and garments of the females—to whom possibly they eventually return. The transition from heads to ornaments is more simple than it looks. First men's heads are indispensable. Then with the growth of a spirit of scepticism women's heads are considered good enough. Finally, when women are too scarce to be, as it were, an unfailing source of supply, it is not considered a reflection on a warrior's courage or skill if he goes out and purchases heads for himself. The head is the main thing. It is preferable to be obtained in war—but obtained it must be.

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The Bloomers Failed.

Bloomers as an aid to smuggling were tried by two San Francisco girls in an experiment that failed. The girls took passage to Honolulu on one of the mail steamers, and excited the suspicion of the Hawaiian customs officers by going ashore clad in voluminous bloomers. They were followed to a house in Honolulu, where the discarded bloomers and sixty tins of smuggled opium were found. The girls were arrested and convicted of smuggling, but on appeal to the Supreme Court the case against them was dismissed because their guilt was not proven clearly. The girls returned to San Francisco a few days ago in the steamer, wearing skirts.

CHEAP RATES.

Via Missouri Pacific Railway and Iron Mountain Route.

To the South and Southwest—to Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, South-west Missouri, Kansas and Arizona. On March 10th, April 7th and 21st, also May 5th, tickets will be sold at one fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip, good for 21 days, with stop-over privileges. For particulars address Bissell Wilson, D. P. A., 111 Adams street, Chicago.

Where Kings Are Buried.

All the members of the royal family of England who have died during the century are buried at Windsor, with the exception of six. The Duke of Sussex and his sister, the Princess Sophia, were buried in Kendal Green cemetery, in accordance with their explicit orders. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are interred at Kew. Princess Alexander of Wales was buried at Sandringham. The remains of the Grand Duchess Alice of Hesse are in the vault of her husband's family, near Darmstadt.

How's This!

We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by HENRY'S Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

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WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price, 50c per bottle. Sold by all druggists.

Hall's Family Pills, 50c.

A Juvenile Diagnosis.

Children are, after all, your true impressionists, with undimmed perceptivity in taking original views of things. Small and hungry Julia climbed to her seat at the tea table the other evening and exclaimed in most eager, delighted, caressing tones: "Oh, gelatine! We are going to have gelatine—I just love gelatine—but, mamma, what makes it so nervous?"—Indianapolis Journal.

A Spring Trip South.

On April 21, and May 5, tickets will be sold from principal cities, towns and villages of the north, to all points on the Louisville & Nashville railroad in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and a portion of Kentucky, at one single fare for the round trip. Tickets will be good to return within twenty-one days, on payment of \$2 to agent at destination, and will allow stop-over at any point on the south bound trip. Ask your ticket agent about it, and if he cannot sell you excursion tickets write to C. P. Atmore, General Passenger Agent, Louisville, Ky., or J. K. Ridgely, N. W. P. A., Chicago, Ill.

Cheap Excursions to the West and Northwest.

On April 21 and May 5, 1896, the North-Western line (Chicago & North-Western Ry.) will sell Home Seekers' excursion tickets at very low rates to a large number of points in Northern Wisconsin, Michigan, Northwestern Iowa, Western Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, including the famous Black Hills district. For full information apply to ticket agents of connecting lines or address W. B. Kniskern, G. P. & T. A., Chicago, Ill.

All About Western Farm Lands.

The "Corn Belt" is the name of an illustrated monthly newspaper published by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R. It aims to give information in an interesting way about the farm lands of the west. Send 25 cents in postage stamps to the "Corn Belt," 209 Adams St., Chicago, and the paper will be sent to your address for one year.

Home-seekers' Excursions.

On April 21st and May 5th, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway company will sell tickets at very low rates to points in Missouri, Kansas and Texas. For particulars address, H. A. Cherrier, 316 Marquette Building, Chicago, Ill., or T. B. Cookley, 603 Locust street, Des Moines, Iowa.

Teles Idea.

Teles says it is unnecessary to construct a geometrical figure to attract the attention of the inhabitants of Mars. It is possible now to generate artificial thunder and lightning and great electric sparks with a gap of a mile.

There are Dictionaries and Dictionaries, but the noblest Roman of them all seems to be Webster. It is still easily in the lead in the great race for popularity.

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We are not in the senseless combine to charge two prices for Planet, Jr. tools. It is all nonsense in these hard times to ask for fancy prices for garden cultivators and drills when iron and wages are so cheap. Show our prices to your hardware merchants. Show them to everybody! Planet, Jr., combined drills, other seedmen's price \$9.00, our price \$6.75; Planet, Jr. double-wheel hoe \$8.00, our price \$4.50, and so on! Potatoes, \$1.50 a barrel. All prices for seeds low.

Cut This Out and Send Money

Cut this out and send money along with order to the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., to insure getting above low prices. Mammoth catalogue, 5c postage. w.n.

Snakes for Ballast.

The accidental arrival in New Zealand of two poisonous snakes among ballast from Queensland and South America alarmed the colonists, for the islands contain no venomous reptiles, though the climate is in places well fitted for them. The result of the alarm was that parliament passed an act subjecting to heavy penalties anyone importing dangerous serpents.

When Traveling.

Whether on pleasure bent, or business, take on every trip a bottle of Syrup of Figs, as it acts most pleasantly and effectively on the kidneys, liver and bowels, preventing fevers, headaches, and other forms of sickness. For sale in 50 cent and \$1 bottles by all leading druggists. Manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Company only.

Lord Byron's Statue.

The statue of Lord Byron, which has just been unveiled by King George at Athens, represents the poet advancing with outstretched arms to meet Greece, who holds out to him a laurel crown.

W. N. U. CHICAGO, VOL. XI, NO. 10

Pilo's Cure for Consumption is our only medicine for coughs and colds.

Not for thirty years has the Birmingham tinplate trade been in so prosperous a state.

If the Baby is Cutting Teeth, Pilo's Cure will soothe the little sufferer and induce a healthy condition of the gums. It is always reliable. Try it.

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CELEBRATING THE RETURN FROM A SUCCESSFUL MAN HUNT.

ders for the sake of the trophies. Any devoted scientist contemplating the study of the head-hunters in situ can do so under favorable auspices on a group located slightly north of Patkali, between the Disang and Dikhu rivers, and extending through the hill country as far as the boundaries of Manipur and Cachar. In the group there are something like forty-six villages divided into eight or ten distinct sub-tribes, who are on the let-brotherly-love continue principle generally at war with each other. The facial tattoo marks are identical, though the dialects vary slightly. In the matter of dress, arms, houses, customs, etc., the Nagas appear to be identified with the Battaks in Sumatra, with the better known hunters of the human head in Formosa and Borneo, with the African skull-taker and with their now extinguished brethren of Australia. It is said they still preserve their totems or tribal marks.

Not very far away from the Naga country, dwell the wild Was, another people given to the hobby of head-collecting. Not much was known about the Was until a year ago, when Mr. Scott superintendent of the Northern Shan States under the Burmese government, made the journey to their territory as a diversion to the pursuit of a deposed Tsawha, who had been giving trouble in Moughat. Some very strange stories have been floating about India and Burmah for many years regarding the Was. The country has been, to Burmah especially, a land of mystery and fable and romance, and it is on record in the annals of the kingdom of Ava, that the Burmese, attracted by rumors of wonderful gold mines, once sent a regiment of 3,000 men to subjugate the Was, who instead

When he came to know all about the tribe it was a matter of wonder to that gentleman that he and his party contrived to do so.

The acquisition of a head is sufficient justification for widespread rejoicing, and the ceremonial attached to the "placing" of the prize is quite elaborate. It is first of all put in a basket or hatched cover and is then hung up in a tree or perched on the top of a bamboo until it ripens and bleaches.

Then comes the dedication day, when, to the accompaniment of the village gong—a huge log of wood hollowed out with a narrow slit in the side and beaten with wooden mallets—the skull is carried away and set up in the fatal grove.

Naturally most honor is accorded to those skulls which are acquired by the prowess of individual members of the tribe, but travelers in the region being scarce and luck being occasionally against the young warriors, it is sometimes a difficult matter to add the requisite number to the grove by the most honored mode of acquisition, and then it is permitted to purchase the article from neighboring tribes, who have to resort to measures which betray a certain lack of commercial confidence in the Was in order to retain their own heads on their shoulders, and at the same time to insure the equivalent in silver. The prices run from two rupees weight of silver for the head of a lemm to a couple of hundred for unusual or fashionable heads; and judging from the whole range of prices there would seem to be a good chance for an enterprising man to make a fortune out of the business.

The practice of offering human heads as a propitiatory sacrifice to the harvest god is, of course, not peculiar to

SOUTHWEST BREEZES.

The best preacher on earth can spoil a sermon by preaching too long. There is no higher praise for a friend than to say that he is faithful. Some people seem to have no ambition beyond making a collection of diseases.

The trouble with cute children is, they soon outgrow it, and become impudent.

No man is really unlucky unless he can make a train late by going to the depot to wait for it.

Thousands of people would appreciate sympathy and help who never ask for it, and never get it.

Some barber is losing the chance to make a great hit by not inventing a Paderewski Hair Tonic.

When there is a snow storm the fancy of very young men lightly turns to thoughts of tracking rabbits.

Most people's crowning proof that they regard a man as a good friend, is that they abuse their kin to him.

The martyrs among women are nearly always women who are treated particularly well by their men folk.

The women can always depend upon this: that a man at his meals will ask for something that is not on the table.

It would be pleasant living in the world if there were not so many fools in it, but more difficult to make a living.

There never was a man who would die for a woman, and never a man who has not said he would do it cheerfully.

When the average woman attends a play, she wants to see a noble youth triumph over a lot of unprincipled old married men.

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