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**BUYING BEAUTIES.**  
**CRUEL TRADE PRACTICES IN NEW GUINEA.**

Pretty Maidens of that Strange Land Sold for an Ax Apiece—An Authentic Story of Traffic in Papuan Girls.



"SUCH OPPORTUNITIES for matrimony as were offered me in New Guinea, a few years ago, I never expect to enjoy again," said Artist Sherman F. Denton, of the United States Fish Commission, to a Washington reporter. "My journey through the land of the Papuans was made for the purpose of collecting specimens of all sorts, such as naturalists seek to gather, but the people themselves are the most interesting savages I have ever met. The men and children go about entirely naked, while the women wear only short grass petticoats. I employed a young black fellow named Roboor to help me in my work. His hair was a bush of kinky fuzz, and stood up on his head in a mass as big as a half-bushel measure. I found out that he was in love, but he admitted with a sigh that he was too poor to marry the girl of his choice.

"You are young and strong," said I. "Why do you not go to work and earn enough to support yourself and your sweetheart?" "You do not understand," he replied. "I have a good garden that would supply what food we wanted; besides, I can throw the spear farther and truer to the mark than any other man in the district, so that I can get plenty of kangaroos and pigs. But they will not buy the girl. Her mother wants an ax for her, and that I cannot grow in my garden or hunt in the forest with my spear."

"The poor fellow groaned, made several despairing remarks on his prospective mother-in-law, and finally said that if he did not love the young woman so dearly he would go away and never come back again. "But, my boy, you need not despair," said I. "If the possession of an ax will secure your happiness I will give you one. I want many paradise birds, for in my country people think more of them than of axes. If you will help me get as many birds with the long plumes as you have fingers on both hands you shall have the ax on the day we get the last one."

"He accepted the proposition delightfully. At length, with his assistance, the ten good birds were procured and the ax earned. I was present when Roboor married his wife with it. They were married the following morning, the ceremony being concluded with a wild dance and singing by a chorus of girls. "Papuan girls are sometimes very pretty. Once, when out shooting, I met a strikingly handsome young woman. She was frightened at first and turned to run away, but I quieted her fears with a small offering of beads. I should judge that she was sixteen or seventeen years old, rather tall, of fine figure, and as supple and graceful as a swan. She was very light, and the warm blood glowed through the brown color of her skin. Her hair was brown and curly, and clustered about her face in the most attractive manner. Her eyes were dark, with a mischievous twinkle; her nose was straight, and her mouth, handsome enough for a Venus, had a dimple at each corner when she laughed. Altogether she was a beauty.

"One day, after we had been in the country a good while, and were able to talk pretty well in the Papuan lan-



**A PAPAUN GIRL.**  
 guage, a friendly native, named Lohier, came to us with something important to say. After receiving assurance from us that we liked the people and the region, considering the latter as beautiful and as fertile as any we had ever seen, he asked: "Do you possess wives in America?" "No," we replied. "Have you sweethearts?" "No; we have had, but they are all married." "How do you like the Papuan girls?" "Some of them are very handsome and pleasing." "Would you like to get married in New Guinea?" "That depends on circumstances." "How much do you pay for a wife in America?" "Some are very expensive, and others very cheap. Usually the expense comes after the marriage."

dispose of their daughters that they buy husbands for them. "Would you like to marry any that you have seen here?" "Hardly. You see, Lohier, we came a long, long distance to get to New Guinea, and, as we are rich and very good-looking, we ought to have the best your country affords." "At that Lohier started up with a whoop and a yell, and was off. We went on with our work, thinking nothing more about the matter. "As we were preparing our dinner one afternoon a titter and a giggle were wafted to our ears. Looking around, we beheld Lohier in the midst of fifteen or twenty girls, many of them of superior beauty, who were laughing and peering at us over each other's shoulders. They all wore flowers in their hair, and bands of green leaves adorned their ankles. Each maiden had on her best striped petticoat, and some wore necklaces of dogs' teeth. "At length Lohier, stepping forward, said that he had been a long way, had visited the biggest town of his country, and had brought back with him the most beautiful women of his nation. He hoped we would each select one that would please us, marry her and settle down in New Guinea. The parents of some of the girls had come also, and were standing in the background.



**TYPE OF PAPAUN BEAUTY.**  
 Our friend explained to us that the prices were high, as they were the finest girls in the land. He arranged them all in a giggling line, that they might be seen to best advantage. Beginning with the first, he gave their names and accomplishments.

"This young lady's name is Mime. She can sing, dance, work in the garden, cook kangaroo, and is good-tempered. The price for her is a knife and a looking-glass. What do you say to her?" "What about the next?" we asked. "This one's name is Bimena. She is handsome, very shapely, and has nice hair and eyes. Her father is rich, and she can make earthen pots and fish nets. Her father is the chief man in the village. He wants two axes for her, but if you will live in this town he will give you part of his big house and garden."

"Tell us about the next," we said. "Here is a nice little girl. Her name is Kioto. She is very affectionate, is kind to her aged mother, knows how to make brooms, can cook a pig without burning it, and is economical. Her garden has no weeds in it, and she raises excellent bananas. She wants to get married, and her mother will let her go for a piece of calico large enough for a petticoat."

"I noticed the beautiful girl whom I had met while out shooting among the number of the maidens, and I was anxious to hear what Lohier would say of her. She still wore the string of beads I had given her, and looked as pretty and modest as a violet. When he came to her he said: "This is Lucena. Is she not lovely? Her arms are round as bamboo; her form is supple as the climbing vine, her skin is smooth as a young banana leaf, her hair is soft as spider's webs, her eyes are as bright as the dew in the morning. She can sing like a bird and run fast like a kangaroo; she is a good housekeeper, an affectionate daughter, and comes from a good family."

"The value set upon the beauty was an ax, a knife, a piece of calico and a string of beads. We stood admiring her and Lohier thought he had made a bargain. We realized that the affair might turn out seriously, perhaps, but we turned the matter off by declaring that we were unable to make a choice among so many lovely creatures, and proceeded to distribute presents liberally. To most of the girls we gave gay-colored handkerchiefs, with a brass ring and a brass button in each. To Lucina we offered a looking glass, and the young women danced for our amusement while we ate our dinner, and sang a song which they composed as they went along, describing the scene and complimenting us upon our generosity. "Toward evening they bade us good-night and started for their homes."

**A Loathsome Caterpillar.**  
 A very large caterpillar stretched itself from the foliage of a tree which I was examining, and startled me by its resemblance to a small snake. The first three segments behind the head were dilatate at the will of the insect, and had on each side a large black pupillated spot, which resembled the eye of the snake. It was a poisonous or viperine species mimicked, and not an innocuous snake. This was proved by the imitation of keeled scales on the crown, which was produced by the recumbent feet as the caterpillar threw its body back. I stepped off the caterpillar, and the insect came after me. Usually the expense comes after the marriage."

**TOO COOL FOR THE WEATHER.**  
**WASHINGTON, July 7.**—The weather crop bulletin for the last week, sent out by the Agricultural department, says that the week has been cooler than usual throughout the districts east of the Rocky mountains. The seasonal conditions of moisture remain substantially the same as reported last week, except in the Lower lake region and on the Atlantic coast, where there has been a marked increase. The following report shows the condition of crops in the States named:  
**Iowa.**—Haying and winter grain harvests have begun. Corn is two weeks late but generally clean, and needs warmer weather to mature.  
**Michigan.**—The weather continues too wet for crops and farming operations. Corn is suffering for want of cultivation. Wheat is improving. Oats, and barley are in good condition on well-drained lands.  
**Wisconsin.**—Corn is being cultivated first time and is backward. Wheat and rye have headed and oats are beginning to head. Tobacco planting is unfinished.  
**Illinois.**—Harvesting is completed in the southern portion and is progressing rapidly in the central. Some wheat was damaged by high wind and rain.  
**Indiana.**—The weather was favorable to harvesting, but too cool for corn. Wheat is in shock in the southern portion. Harvest continues in the central and has commenced in the northern portions.

**ONE KILLED, A DOZEN HURT.**  
**Disastrous Wreck of a Ploie Train Near Louisville.**  
**LOUISVILLE, Ky., July 7.**—A wreck, causing the loss of one life, serious injury of three passengers and the wounding of eight others, occurred on the Louisville Southern railroad, twenty-two miles out of Louisville, at 7 o'clock last evening. Besides the loss of life and injuries to passengers, \$80,000 damage was done to the coaches which were wrecked and burned. The dead and injured are as follows:  
**GEORGE NELSON,** section boss, Jefferson-town, killed.  
**H. H. BURBANK,** engineer, fracture of left hip.  
**J. A. ROBERTS,** fireman, badly lacerated left shoulder and on the side of the waist and on the back of left arm to the wrist.  
**JESSE KELLY,** compound fracture of the right forearm; will require amputation.  
 The train was returning from a picnic at Louisville Southern Park and had on board 250 people, who had gone out in the morning with the Louisville Bookbinders' and Paper Cutters' union. The wreck is thought to have been caused by the spreading of the track.

**IS CHOSEN CHAIRMAN.**  
**Taubehack to Direct the People's Party Campaign.**  
**OMAHA, Neb., July 7.**—The National committee of the People's party met yesterday afternoon and organized by electing the following executive committee: H. E. Taubehack of Illinois, chairman; J. H. Turner of Georgia, secretary; J. H. Davis of Texas, George Washburne of Massachusetts, V. O. Strickler of Nebraska, Ignatius Donnelly of Minnesota, G. F. Gaither of Alabama, Lawrence McFarland of New York and M. C. Rankin of Indiana, secretaries. The committee has under consideration a proposition to make its headquarters at Omaha.

**Cut Down and Trampled the Flag.**  
**PHILADELPHIA, Pa., July 7.**—Great indignation is expressed in the northwestern section of the city, where a large American flag raised the Fourth of July morning was cut down, torn up, and pieces found in the street. Greble Council of the Order of Junior American Mechanics presented the flag, and during the exercises the preacher who spoke referred to the anarchists and socialists. There were some hisses and groans. Last night the flag was cut down and disgraced. The pole was located at the entrance to Fairmont Park at Columbia avenue. The residents will hold a mass-meeting and denounce the authorities for their negligence.

**Senator Sawyer for Chairman.**  
**MILWAUKEE, Wis., July 7.**—H. C. Payne wants Senator Sawyer elected chairman of the National Republican committee, which position is now made vacant by the declination of W. J. Campbell. To accomplish this it is necessary that the senator should be a member of the national committee, and to cause this Mr. Payne has announced that he is willing to resign. Efforts are still being made to induce Mr. Payne to accept the position, but he refuses, saying that his private business now demands all his time.

**Illinois Farms Inundated.**  
**LEWISTOWN, Ill., July 7.**—The Illinois and Spoon rivers have again invaded thousands of acres of farming land, utterly destroying this year's crops, many of them laboriously planted a second time. It is a serious blow to scores of people all down the Spoon and Illinois valleys. It is too late now to plant anew. The year is one of hopeless disaster to most of them. All the repairs made on the narrow guage near Havana have been destroyed. Fully a half-million feet of timber is included in the loss. It will yet be some days before the traffic to Havana can be restored.

**Going to the Adirondacks.**  
**WASHINGTON, July 5.**—The President and Mrs. Harrison, Lieutenant and Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Dimmick will leave Washington at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, in a special car over the Pennsylvania railroad for Loon Lake, Adirondack mountains. The train is due at Loon Lake about 3 o'clock today afternoon. The President's trip is his first since he returned from his vacation trip to the Adirondacks.