

THE POINT NEAREST HEAVEN

Among the Cloud Capped Peaks of the Himalayas.

A LAND OF FEMALE SAMSONS. One of Them Carried a Cottage Piano For Twelve Miles Up a Mountain—The Wonders of India.

Mountain Climbing in Asia. (Copyright 1889 by Frank G. Carpenter.)

Mountain Climbing in Asia. (Copyright 1889 by Frank G. Carpenter.) DARBJEELING, March 21. (Special Correspondence of THE BEE.)—In the heart of the Himalayas, in the midst of mountains whose perpetual snows give to the peaks and ridges the rays of the tropical sea, with oceans of clouds below me, 7,000 feet above the jungle where the tiger bides, and almost within the sound of the gun of the English troops, who are fighting on the borders of Tibet, I write this letter for my American readers. From my window I can see the snow on Kanchenjunga, 28,000 above the sea, and upon a Tibetan pony I galloped this morning twelve miles higher up the mountain to Tiger Hill, and saw the sun glid the snowy summit of Mount Everest, which is a full thousand feet higher. The top of Mount Everest is of all the world, the nearest point towards heaven. Puriyama, the sacred, snow-capped mountain of Japan, is not half as high as Mount Everest, and if my memory serves me the snows of Mount Everest are at least 10,000 feet lower. Go to the top of Mount Blanc, ascend in a balloon straight up about for two miles, and you have about reached the altitude of this highest of the Himalaya mountains. It dwarfs everything in the Andes and the Alps, and it is a fitting king to this noblest range of mountains in the world. Himalaya means the abode of snow and thousands of the peaks are crowned with eternal frost. If you could, by rubbing the miracle lamp of nature, have her genius construct a mountain range from New York to Denver, Col., and make this range as wide as the distance between New York and Washington, extending it points to do what with you would have a base somewhat like that of the Himalayas. On this base there is a series of high ranges of mountains with vast valleys between them making a double wall between the north and the south. You must throughout the distance have the mean elevation of your hills about as high as Mount Blanc, and forty of them must extend more than one mile higher. Every one of these forty will kiss the sky above any summit of the Andes and in many of these vast valleys you

find the whole of the alpine range, and at a distance of ten miles from the place where they fell there would be no perceptible change in the face of nature. Talk about the glaciers of Switzerland! There are glaciers in the Himalayas which are from thirty to sixty miles in length and there is one thirty-three miles long which is flanked on either side by two giant peaks over twenty-seven thousand feet high.

Has any one ever reached the top of the highest of these mountains? I should say not. An American attempted it a few months ago and he left Darjeeling with a staff as long as himself and enough provisions to last him a month. He had four oxen and a mule and a pack of mules that he had spent the night in Kanchanjunga.

"It was as easy," said he, "as falling off a log. It takes an American to do a thing that you English fear to attempt." And he then went on to describe the glaciers in spread-eagle colors. He told of mountain bears and polar wolves and discoursed for hours in the language of James Verne. The English residents of Darjeeling cocked their one-eye glasses at him, and some believed and some did not. About a week after he had left the Himalayas a wealthy English tea planter came to the station and asked the people there if they had heard anything of an American named Jones. The English residents of Darjeeling said that they had heard that Jones was the wonderful man who had ascended Kanchanjunga and they described his tour. Upon comparison it was found that the date of his ascent was a month before he came to visit this tea planter. The planter said he talked with Jones and that he stayed with me for a good few weeks. We played poker three-fourths of the time, drank whisky the rest of the time, and the remainder of the time Jones spent in reading up my library of mountain literature. He was at this time doubtless thinking how he would like to go to Darjeeling and was making up the Munchausen story which he told you.

Most Americans are familiar with Darjeeling. It is one mile and a half straight up in the air above the sea, and if you could pile seven towers like the one just built at Paris, one on top of the other, or fasten the same number of mountain monuments into one long, iron cage and run an elevator through the whole you would not about reach this altitude. I doubt whether there is a village on earth so high as Darjeeling, and I am certain there is nothing in the Alps to compare with the grandeur of its surroundings. The plain of India sends up moisture to the Himalayas which gives them a thousand clouds where the Alps have one, and here you see clouds of all shapes and sizes chasing each other over the hills below you. You see them crawling up the steep sides of the valleys and climbing to your very feet when they envelope you for ten minutes the mist is so thick that you cannot see the horse on which you are riding. A moment later the clouds have passed and it floats upward toward the snows above. At times there are clouds above and below you. You see ghostly masses of vapor resting in little hollows in the sides of the mountains as though they had squatted down there for a siesta. At times they take the form of mass another and in single file seem to chase one another up the mountain. In the morning the sun glids them so that they are masses of fire and at night the amount of light which they give is as if you were surrounded them. The cloud effects and the snow effects of the Himalaya mountains are indescribably grand. They are different from anything I have seen elsewhere. Hundreds of miles through the Alps and they are in many respects more interesting. From where you write this letter a semi-circle about me and there are twelve mighty peaks of snow, each of which is more than twenty thousand feet high. As for mountains of two miles in height I can see dozens of them. I am in the very midst of the Himalayas and at what the world says is the best point to view them.

Man here is fully as interesting as nature and he has servants and guides who are more like the people of Tibet than India. There is no seclusion of women here and GREAT STRENGTHENING GIBBS

are dressed in the gayest of colors go about with flat plates of gold on their heads, each of which is as big as a trade dollar. They have gold on their ankles and bracelets of silver running over their forearms and wrists to their elbows. Their complexions are originally as yellow as those of the Chinese, are bronzed by the crisp mountain air which they have now the complexion of an American Indian. Both men and women look not unlike our Indians. They have the same high cheek bones, the same semi-flat noses and long, straight black hair. If you will take the prettiest square you have ever seen you may have a fair type of the average male of the people of Tibet. She wears two pounds of jewelry to the ounce of the square, however, and her eyes are brighter, and she is far more intelligent. She works just as hard as the woman of the Himalayas does much of the work of the mountains. I see women digging in the fields, working on the roads, and carrying immense baskets, each of which holds from two to three bushels, full of dirt and produce on their backs. Just above the foot of the mountain is being cut away. The dirt is carried for about a quarter of a mile and used in filling up a hole in the hillside.

all done by women. Two women are digging down the dirt with pick-axes, and a half dozen are shoveling this into the baskets of the girls who carry it from one place to another. They stand with the baskets on their backs while they are loaded, and one of the women who is doing the shoveling has a baby a year old tied to her back, and as they go up and down as she throws the dirt from the ground into the basket. These girls carry easily 100 pounds, and I was told that one had carried a cottage piano a distance of twelve miles up the mountain upon her back. This is hard to believe, but after seeing the mighty shoulders, the well-knit frames, and the great calves and ankles of the strongest of them, I can believe it.

The men are fully as strong as the women. They are not so tall as the American Indians and they are more heavily muscled. Each wears a great scymer-like knife in his belt and they are just like the Tibetans whom I saw in Pokhara. The women of the Himalayas as a rule, a very hard time. Many of the men wear ear-rings and the women, both before and after marriage, carry the same upon their persons. They wear strings of silver coins of the size of 50 and 10 cents silver pieces in rows about their necks so that when the whole weight of a woman's bust is centered with them and

has her ear-rings of gold and her anklets of silver. It is strange to see a woman whose whole waist is covered with ruyees and who has enough jewelry upon her to keep her for at least three years brooking stone upon her back, and to see a man whose neck is at least a thousand bare feet and half bare calves around which were silver and gold bands which would not form unhandy bracelets for our American boys. Many of them are fond of stone jewelry, and a great many torques are brought from Tibet and the mountains. One of the men carried my trunk for a 5-cent consideration upon her back from the station to the hotel and I see them plodding up the mountains with their loads of wood and iron. One of two of which would form a good load for a mule.

They work all day for what would be the price of a drink in America, and their mountain backs would be considered hard lines for the establishment of an American pig. Little loads that would be considered heavy to us are carried in store boxes. They do most of their cooking out of doors, sleep upon the floor, eat with their fingers, and worship Buddha in a half-civilized way. Some of them use a prayer wheel and this seems to be the only invention they have. The prayer wheel consists of a metal box about as big around as another which has a handle on top and is turned twice as deep. Through it a wire is stuck and this is fastened into a handle a foot long. Inside the box are written the names of the worshiper and the words of the prayer, and the worshiper rattles off prayers at the rate of a hundred a minute by giving the handle a turn. The prayer wheel is used in the same way as a prayer wheel and this seems to be the only invention they have. The prayer wheel consists of a metal box about as big around as another which has a handle on top and is turned twice as deep. Through it a wire is stuck and this is fastened into a handle a foot long. Inside the box are written the names of the worshiper and the words of the prayer, and the worshiper rattles off prayers at the rate of a hundred a minute by giving the handle a turn. The prayer wheel is used in the same way as a prayer wheel and this seems to be the only invention they have.

I wish I could give you this ride UP THROUGH THE CLOUDS from Calcutta to Darjeeling. The trip to the foot of the Himalayas, takes half a day and the rest of the night and the rest of the day. The journey is like a carriage drive fifty miles up the mountain. You are pulled by steam and a dainty little engine not more than ten feet long hauls over a track above the road that a street car, over a two-foot narrow gauge in and out among the trees in certain places. Some of the tracks are at the rate of sixteen feet a minute and go more than a thousand feet upward every hour. The train winds in and out like a snake, and the cars are so small that they look like the links of a chain. Now the engine and the tail of the train seem to touch. There are a dozen horse-shoe curves every mile and the cars are so small that climbing the hills three times during the journey. As you rise you see the little road in towers of clouds, and you see the snow shoot under a hill and come out in a loop and cross your own track by a bridge overhead. The system of going up one hill to use the highest of the mountain is a number of double Y's which elevate you from one plain to another. You skirt precipices covered with green, down which you can look and see the feet and that of the side of the valleys, which fade away into the broad plains of Bengal. This rail along a wagon road led up to Darjeeling, and the speed made upon it is so slow that you can see as well as though you were riding in a carriage. There are many villages on the way and the train stops and gives you time to pick flowers and ferns.

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KNOWS TO HAVE KILLED 108 persons in three years, and another killed eighty persons per annum. One of the agents of the department to which I refer is that about two thousand tigers are killed in India every year, and in 1882, 805 men were killed by tigers. The English government gives a reward for the killing of tigers, and in 1882, \$7,000 was paid for the killing of 1,700 tigers. In a few weeks there will be an immense tiger hunt in India. The victory will probably attend it. The party will go out upon elephants, and will spend some weeks in the jungle.

As you go up the Himalayas this jungle gives you to huge forest trees, but the branches have long roots and creepers shooting from them down to the ground, and the trees are often a hundred feet high. These trees are clothed with a luxuriant growth of mosses and ferns and you see many varieties of orchids fastened to trunks and hanging from their branches. As you go up you note the tree fern, a tall, round trunk from ten to twenty feet high with fern leaves jutting out to look like a fan. The underbrush becomes more sparse and as you rise the color of the moss on the trees changes from green to silver. This hue from the branches of many ferns and their limbs like a coat, and makes them look at a distance like a forest of green instead of silver. As you near Darjeeling you find many of the hard woods of the American mountains; the rose begins to bloom and there are tea plantations by the hundreds.

THE TEA OF THE HIMALAYAS is the best in the world and I would advise American housekeepers to try Indian tea. There is a tea in Tibet which has the flavor of milk to such a degree that when used it has the properties of a good tea mixed with the most delicious of Jersey cream. This Himalaya tea has the flavor of flowers. It is pure and clean and it is supplanting the Chinese tea in the English markets. The tea plant grows wild through the Himalaya hills and in some of the regions near here it attains a dimension of a large tree, and was probably introduced from here into China. Still it is not only about half a century since tea culture was commenced in India and now their leaves are many Indian tea men who profess that India tea will eventually push Chinese tea out of the markets of the world. Last year our exports of Indian tea amounted to \$5,000,000 pounds. Five years later they had risen to \$8,000,000 pounds, and a tea planter whom I met here in Darjeeling says that in a year or two now making 100,000,000 pounds of tea a year in India. The exports of Indian tea to the United States have steadily increased and we now take over a million pounds of Indian tea every year. The lower hills of these Himalayas are covered with tea, and it is usually raised a foot or so toward one end, which enables you to take a graceful attitude, leaning on your elbow. Cooking is done in a little hut outside, or sometimes there is a great fireplace on the floor, confined by four logs, the smoke finding its way out through the lofty roof. As you enter the house, you find the mats being swept, or fresh ones unrolled and laid down. Your traps are brought up from the boat, and if this happens to have grounded, the boat is pulled up and you have perhaps yourself been carried to land by these willing giants. A few words are exchanged with the village

old Himalayan. Many of the rude huts, which are of the same style as they have been for a thousand years or more, are roofed with galvanized iron and the sides of some of them are paneled with boards. The houses of the other tribes are made of mud and brick. This is the case with the houses of the natives and many of the idols upon being inverted are found to have sunken into their bottoms the trade marks of the Birmingham manufacturer.

THE SLAVE MARCH.

Terrific Trials of Captives in the African East Coast Trade.

"Yes, I have seen the terrible slave march," said Mr. H. F. Moir, who for many years has traveled abroad, spending more or less time in Africa. He was speaking of the sufferings of those captives who carry great burdens across the deserts in the African East Coast Trade. Mr. Moir is a resident of New York State, and last night in the lobby at the Grand hotel entertained a few friends with a recital of some of his adventures. "When the slaves are captured," he said, "they are taken to the quarters of the east coast traders. There a yoke is placed about their neck, and is allowed to remain night and day without being once taken off. The constant rubbing upon the neck chafes the skin, and gradually they become so used to the burning African sun, that they are able to bear it without flinching. The men who appear the strongest, and whose escape is feared, have their hands tied, and sometimes their feet, in such fashion that walking becomes a torture. The yokes are placed about their necks and are made of iron or taming-sticks. The yoke is a young tree with forked branches. It is generally about five or six feet long, and from three to four inches in diameter. One with which I examined not long ago was about twenty-eight pounds in weight, but I was told that refractory slaves are often placed in yokes weighing fifty pounds or more. Through each prong of the fork a hole is bored for the reception of an iron pin, which, after the neck of the slave has been placed in the fork is secured by a blacksmith. The opposite end is lashed to the corresponding end of another slave. A man with such a yoke is unable to march, carrying besides this intolerable weight, a load of provisions or ivory slung across the center of the pole. Other slaves are in iron collars let into a long chain. "Are males alone of these captives?" asked a Cincinnati Enquirer reporter, who was one of the party. "No, indeed," said Mr. Moir. "Women slaves are placed in yokes, and their spirit can scarcely trust himself to look at the starting of one of the caravans. I accompanied one which contained many women. They are all fastened to chains or thick bark ropes. Very many of the women are perfectly naked. I refer, in addition to their heavy weight of grain or ivory, carried their little brown babies. The double weight was almost too much, and still they struggled wearily on, knowing too well that should they show any sign of fatigue, not the slave's woe, but the living child, would be torn from them and thrown aside to die. One poor old woman I could not help noticing. She was carrying a baby boy who should have been walking in the company of his weak legs had evidently given way; she was tottering already; it was the supreme effort of a mother's love—and all in vain, for the child, easily recognizable, was brought into camp a couple of hours later by another who had found him on the path. We had him cared for, but his poor mother would never know. During three days journey out from Liendwe death freed many of the captives. It was well for them; still we shudder to think of the howling of the hyenas along the track, and realized only too fully the reason why. The attachment of the children to their mothers, and the mothers' determination not to part with their children," continued the traveler, "combine to carry them along with the slave caravan—that is, so long as their poor little legs can bear them."

"How do the slaves keep up under their burdens?" we inquired. "They do not do it long," was the answer. "They march all day, and at night, when they stop, a few handfuls of raw sorgho are distributed among them, and this is their food. As they begin to fail, the conductors approach those who appear to be most exhausted and deal them a terrible blow on the nape of the neck. A single cry, and the victims fall to the ground in the convulsions of death. As the morning inspires the weakest with new strength, but each time one breaks down the terrible scene is repeated. A friend of mine told me that once when traveling in Central Africa he was obliged to attend to a party of captives, and that the drivers deliberately cut the throats of those who could not march. I have also been informed," said Mr. Moir, "that in Central Africa these slave-drivers have been known to cut off an arm of a man with one blow from their swords."

BROAD A CLUBS.

One Formed by Ladies in "an Intellectually Inclined City."

In an intellectually inclined city (not in the remotest of the West) has been formed the cultivation of the broad "A" in speech, says Charles Dudley Warner in the "Editor's Drawer" of Harper's Magazine. Sporadic efforts have hitherto been made for the proper teaching of the English language, with individual success, especially with those who have been in England or have known English men and women of the broad-gauge variety. Discerning travelers have made the broad "A" a subject of study, and the letter a reproach to the public—that is to say, a means of distinguishing a native of this country. The true American aspires to be cosmopolitan, and does not want to be "spotted"—if that is the meaning of the word. It is a peculiarity of speech, that is, by an American peculiarity. Why, at the bottom of the matter, a narrow A should be a disgrace, it is not easy to see, but it needs no reason if fashion or custom, and this is the case, is so spread out, without any social or literary center universally recognized as such, and the narrow A has become so prevalent that even fashion finds it difficult to reform it. The best people who are determined to broaden all their A's will forget in moments of excitement and fall back into old habits. It requires constant vigilance to keep the letter a flattened out. It is in the letter of this letter, however, that the difference between our country and the American speech; either Americans generally do not care if this is the fact, or fashion only work a reform in the limited number of people. It seems therefore necessary that there should be an organized effort to deal with this pronunciation, and clubs will no doubt be formed all over the country in imitation of the one mentioned until the broad A will become as common as flies in summer. When this result is attained it will be time to attack the sound of a with clubs and make universal the French sound. In time the American pronunciation will become as distinct from all others as the American sewing machines and reapers. In the Broad A club every member who misbehaves—that is, mispronounces—is fined a nickel for each offense. Of course, in the beginning there is a good deal of revenue from this source, but the revenue diminishes as the club improves, so that we have the anomaly of its failure to be self-supporting in proportion to its excellence. Just now if these clubs could suddenly become universal and their principles be enforced we could have the means of paying off the national debt in a year.

Use Angostura Bitters to stimulate the appetite and to digest the organs in order. Dr. J. G. B. Siegert & Sons, sole manufacturers. At all drug-gists.

FILIAN HOUSES The ordinary Filian house looks outside like a great oblong hay stack, standing on a mound raised some few feet above the surrounding level, with a long ridge-pole extending beyond the roof at either gable, its ends sometimes ornamented with finials. The roof is made of reeds, and is usually raised a foot or so toward one end, which enables you to take a graceful attitude, leaning on your elbow. Cooking is done in a little hut outside, or sometimes there is a great fireplace on the floor, confined by four logs, the smoke finding its way out through the lofty roof. As you enter the house, you find the mats being swept, or fresh ones unrolled and laid down. Your traps are brought up from the boat, and if this happens to have grounded, the boat is pulled up and you have perhaps yourself been carried to land by these willing giants. A few words are exchanged with the village

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or your host for the time being—far too few, to my mind, even for politeness. I am told they do not expect it.

CRIME IN BRAZIL.

The Lax View Taken of it by the Masses of the People.

It will throw some light upon the character of the inhabitants of Fernando de Noronha, to know how crime is looked upon by the common people in Brazil, and I can not better show this than by relating a bit of personal experience, says a writer in the Popular Science Monthly.

I had the misfortune at one time to wound a Brazilian laborer—in his dignity. He thereupon threatened to take my life, and was by no means careful to keep his resolution to himself. As the carrying out of such a determination upon his part would have caused me much inconvenience I called upon him in person, with the purpose, if possible, of dissuading him. I found that he did not look upon the commission of a criminal with dread at all. He told me frankly that if he should succeed in carrying out his designs he knew perfectly well what his career would be. "At present," said he, "I am obliged to work for a living; if I am sent to jail my living will be furnished me and I shall have nothing to do. If you are dead there will be no one to appear against me in the courts as my accuser, and in the course of a year or less I shall be free. I am a man of good reputation in the community of being a man of courage."

In this case I saw to it that he had the opportunity of enjoying the coveted plum cum dignitate jail without having to commit a crime. But in a country where wrong-doing sets so lightly upon the conscience, and where it so frequently goes altogether unpunished, the criminal class is large, as we should expect. Many of the prisoners on the convict island were known among themselves by what seemed to be very odd names, and I learned that they were nicknames taken from some circumstance connected with the crimes they were committing. Sometimes there was a ghastly sort of humor about these names. One, who had murdered a priest, was called "O Padre," the priest; another, who had murdered a man for his money and had treated the body as a piece of meat, was called "Meia Pataca," half a pataca, about sixteen cents; another, for a similar reason, was called "Quatro Vintens," four cents.

These are simply instances of how the men of that island are not constantly upon crime, how they admired crime, and consequently gravitated toward it. About their work in shop or field, the daily bread of their minds was to think and talk of crime in every shape that diseased minds and perverted natures can conjure it up. One would entertain his companions by detailing to them the story of some crime committed by himself or of which he had knowledge, while every one listened attentively, and with interest. The story ended, criticism ended, and each one would indicate what he considered the weak points in the plan and its execution, and would suggest improvements here and there. The story of another, and, as might be expected, many accustomed to this highly seasoned food soon rejected all other.

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In this department we are especially successful. Our claims of superiority over all others are based upon the fact that this is the only medical establishment manufacturing surgical braces and appliances for each individual case. We have three skilled instrument makers in our employ, with improved machinery, and have all the latest inventions, as well as our own patents and improvements, the result of twenty years' experience.

ELECTRICAL TREATMENT.

The treatment of diseases by electricity has undergone great changes within the past few years, and electricity is now acknowledged by all schools of medicine as the great remedy in all chronic, special and nerve diseases, for nervous debility, paralysis, rheumatism, diseases of women, etc., and in many eye and ear diseases it is the most valuable of all remedies.

PRIVATE, SPECIAL, NERVOUS AND BLOOD DISEASES.

We claim to be the only reliable, responsible establishment in the west making a specialty of this class of diseases. Dr. McMenemy was one of the first thoroughly educated physicians to make a special study of this class of diseases, and his methods and inventions have been adopted by specialists in Europe and America. He is the inventor of the Clamp Compressor, acknowledged the best in use. All others are copied after his invention. By means of a simple operation, painless and safe, recently brought into use, we cure many cases that have been given up as incurable by medical treatment. (Read our book to men, sent free to any address.)

DISEASES OF THE EYE AND EAR.

We have had wonderful success in this department in the past year, and have made many improvements in our facilities for treatment, operations, artificial eyes, etc.

We have greatly improved our facilities and methods of treating cases by correspondence, and are having better success in this department than ever before.

We are fully up to the times in all the latest inventions in medical and surgical operations, appliances and instruments. Our institution is open for investigation to any persons, patients or physicians. We invite all to correspond with or visit us before taking treatment elsewhere, believing that a visit or consultation will convince any intelligent person that it is to their advantage to place themselves under our care.

Since this advertisement first appeared, many boasting pretenders and frauds have come and gone and many more will come and go, remembered only by their unfortunate and foolish victims.

"A wise man investigates first and decides afterwards, A fool decides first, then investigates."

The Omaha Medical and Surgical Institute is endorsed by the people and the press. More capital invested, more skilled physicians employed, more modern appliances, instruments and apparatus in use, more cases treated and cured, more successful surgical operations performed, than in all other medical establishments in the West combined.

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