Woman's Rights in a Country Where Women Do All the Business

(Copyright, 1910, by Frank C. Carpenter.) ANDALAY, 1910.—(Special Correspondence to The Bee.)-Come with me to the bazars and have a look at the girls. We are in the old capital of Burms, walking through immense buildings filled with stalls, in which hundreds of laughing women are sitting upon platforms with goods piled around them. Here is one selling silks. She has the most delicate

pinks, blues, yellows and greens, all striped with some other may color. They are intended for skirts, and will be wrapped tight around the person and fastened with a knot at the waist. See, a girl has come up and is making a purchase. The fair merchant takes a cigar as big as my wrist out of her mouth and lays it aside while she measures the goods with a yardstick. A half dozen girls are sitting on their heels nearby watching the sale. Their backs are turned, and I observe their silk skirts gived to their plump bodies. The Burmere maid wears neither corset nor bustle. The skirt falls straight to the feet, inclosing the legs sothat they look like double pipes wrapped in slik. The upper part of the body is clad in jacket and shawl.

Now look at the ears of those girls. They are shaped like beautiful shells, except at the lobes, which are clongated and plugged with cylinders of gold, silver or amber. They are hare-headed and their long black locks are done up in a knot on the crown. Every girl wears two or more bracelets, and a diamond ring sparkles on the hand of the merchant as she measures the cloth.

Women Do the Business.

Now turn about and look through the bazars. There are thousands of women buying and seiling, and hundreds of peddiers moving about with trays on their heads. Here comes one with fresh fruits. She has a howl of cocoanuts and bananas and cries out her wares as she goes. Behind her is a flower peddler, and further on are maidens with vegetables, fish, fruit and all sorts of things, A fish woman is selling a trout from which she has chopped off the head. The fish bleeds as she handles it. She has plugs in her ears and her lips are wrapped around a mighty cigar at which she puffs as she weighs out the fish.

We go to the street of the tailors. Here, girls are sewing on machines worked by hand. They will make you a dress while you wait. We stop before a pretty silk seller and a buy a yellow striped skirt to send home. The girl sits on her feet, her little brown toes peeping out of the pink

Belle of the Bazars.

This girl was one of the belies of the love smokes in turn bazar, and typical of the fair maidens of Burma. She was as straight as a post and as plump as a partridge, and her rich Burmese dress was well fitted to show all her beauties. The women here are clad in two garments. One of these is a jacket of silk, cotton or gauze, which reaches to the hips, and another has a bright silken skirt which is wrapped around the waist and

This skirt is square; it is about five feet in width and is fastened by a half hitchwith an opening down at the front. The skirt is so tight that when the girl walks rapidly she shows her bare legs to the knee, but by throwing out the heels and going pigeon-toed the folds are prevented from parting to an immodest degree. In lower Burma many of the skirts are now sewn together at the front on account of the comments which foreigners have made about the costume.

The dresses are of different lengths, and the purse. the richer women often have skirts which trail upon the ground. The colors are those of the rainbow, the most delicate hues being used. My fair merchant wore a tacket of gauge, and her skirt reached as high as the armpits. The jacket was so thin that the brown skin could be seen through the meshes, exposing the neck. shoulders and arms. She had a beautiful face. Her eyes were large, soft and brown, with cyclids just a trifle oblique and higharching, delicate brows. Her hair, which was glossy black, was rolled up in a pyramid on the crown, and fastened there with a bright golden comb. She wore a necklace of pearls, to which were hung pendants of amber, and a double string of pearls fell as low as her waist. She had seven gold bracelets on each of her wrists, a diamond ring on her finger and diamond plugs in her ears. She was, I judge, about 15 years of age, but girls mature here at 13, and she was a woman grown.

Ear Plugs and Womanhood.

All the girls here wear ear plugs. They cannot enter society without them. As a and said: maiden approaches the age of coming out, which is usually at 12 or 13, her ears are ought to have prayer." bored, and the ceremony is as important to The dying man crossed his hands on her as the first long dress is to her Amer- his breast and half closed his eyes. There Ican sister. The ceremony is formal, and was a beautiful smile on his countenance, it must be done when the stars are propi- The surgeons bowed their heads. Tears tious. The family cosults the fortune- streamed from the eyes of the white clad teller for this occasion, and a big feast is nurses on either side of the bed. The yelprepared. All the relatives and friends low radiance of the sun shone softly in the attend in their best clothes to witness the room. earborer, who uses needles of pure gold the president in a clear, steady voice, for the rich and silver ones for the poor.

When the exact moment has arrived the girl is laid down upon a mat in the back come. Thy will be doneof the room and her relatives hold her. The sobbing of a nurse disturbed the umbus, O., a policeman tapped me on the there while the ear-borer thrusts the still air. The president opened his eyes golden needle through the lobe and twists and closed them again. it around into a ring. This he leaves in the ear. The other ear is treated like- Heaven."

and after it there is a feast. It takes the ear some time to heal. When it is quite well the process of enlarging the hole begins. The needle is pulled back and forth until the sore heals. It is then taken out and a little cylinder of finely rolled gold is pressed in. This is gradually opened from week to week, stretching the hole larger and larger, the cylinder being kept in until it grows to the proper size Such people as cannot afford gold or allver put stems of elephant grass in their ears, inserting stem after stem, until at last the hole in the lobe will contain a bunch as big around as your thumb. After the curs are well healed the plugs or hollow pipes are inserted.

Some of the women stretch their ear holes until they grow to an inconceivable size. I have seen peasant girls with ear holes so large that a napkin ring could be thrust through one, and it is not uncommon to see a Burmese maid with a big cigar thrust through one ear. There was not a merchant in the bazar at Mandalay who could not have used her ears for elgarette holders, and but few who had ear plugs less than the size of their fin-

ekirt which is wraped tightly about her, smoke, and a girl learns to puff at a cigar turn gives him cigars and, perhaps, a tur- yet unborn. Such girls as I have seen are She looks innocent and I feel safe in mak- long before her ears are bored. Children ban or shawl knit by herself. ing the purchase at her own price. She are taught the habit as soon as they are. The marriage is little more than a festi- specting, but not independent nor forward. offers me a whiff from her cigar as I able to walk, and I see 4-year-old boys val at the house of the girl. Here the handle the goods and upon my refusing puffing cigarettes. The average cigar used young couple cat rice together, join hands gives it to her sister and then comes down by the women looks much like a long car and say they intend to live as man and to business. She pulls out one piece of of popular with the husk on. It is made wife. They are supposed to bill and coo, riage are well protected. The women are bright silk after another and explains the of other leaves in connection with tobacco; feeding one another as birds do; and they the chief workers and money-makers, and good points of each, laughing and chatting it is loosely rolled and is often tied with drink lea with their parents and parents- a woman can hold property distinct from the while. In the end I find that I have a string. All the girls are adept in making in-law. The groom makes the girl a pres- her husband. She manages her own money, paid three times what I should, but the girl cheroots, and at a party one girl may roll ent consisting of a silken skirt or piece of and has an equal right with her husband in was so charming it was worth twice the for the crowd, the big cigars being paded jewelry, and he is supposed to furnish all that they make together during their money.

about from one guest to another, each the wedding breakfast. After marriage the married life. She has a right to her own

The customs here are different from those time for his wife. of Japan, China, Korea or the other coun- I understand that there are many love before the elders and claim a separation, tries I have visited during this trip around matches in Burma, and that where par-the world. The Japanese girl has a hus- ents object the young people clope and There are also special parents, while the Chinese malden is often The marriage is a civil ceremony and it Malayan is shut up in a Mohammedan singes are entered into without any cereharem, as are the millions of women of mony at all. Among some people the any way. India, Egypt and Turkey. The Burmese wedding is kept secret for a time, for On the other hand, the husband has, girl goes about as she pleases, and marries the young people do not like to be stared also, plenty of grounds for divorce. If his whom she will burnes has all the started also, plenty of grounds for divorce. whom she will. During her childhood she at nor have stones thrown on their house- wife does not love him, if she visits places associates with the boys, and after mar- roofs, as is sometimes the custom. A girl to which he objects, and if she persistently riage she is looked upon as a comrade and does not change her name when she mar- disobeys him, he may claim his freedom. often rules the household. She is the bus- ries, and there is nothing about her to show. The same is also true if she gives him no iness man of the establishment. She usu- whether she is married or not. She wears boys. Notwithstanding all this divorces are

Marriage Ceremony Ensy.

old maid if not married before she is out make any kind of arrangements as to buy- to marry again. Indeed, marriage is conof the teens. During the courtship the ing or selling. young man brings presents of oranges or With all this the women do not mix in their proverbs being as follows:

taking a whiff. In courting, I doubt not, two go into seclusion for a honeymoon of earnings, and if divorced she takes back all the girl makes the cigar and the two take seven days, and they then take up their the money she has brought into the family sumptuous for them to set up their own since the wedding.

modest and lady-like. They are self-re-

Woman's Rights in Burms.

The rights of a woman after her marhome in the house of the bride. It is pre- and half of what has been accumulated

establishment immediately after marriage. As to divorces, these are not difficult of And this brings me to marriage in Burma, as the man is supposed to work a certain obtainment on either side of the family. Any discontented husband or wife may go

band picked out by a matchmaker, the go off to themselves. There are few mar-vorce. If the husband is idle or lazy the Korean takes one at the dictation of her riages for money. to support her, if he is always ailing, or her mother-in-law. The Slamese girl is social and business partnership rather becomes a cripple after his marriage, she nominally the property of the king, and the than a moral contract, and many mar- can demand that the marriage tie be broken

A BELLE OF THE BAZAARS

sidered the best state for woman, one of



they are married."

Easy Housekeeping. The Burmese marry early and one is an sign deeds, lend or borrow money and vorced woman is said to be always anxious wood or bamboo raised upon posts about forks.

A CLASS IN ARITHMETIC" when they are learned and women ween newse has no rurniture in our sense of the is contrary to the _ fidhlst religion to word. The people sleep upon mats and rest consume anything that has life, the chief their heads on bamboo pillows. There is exception being fish, which is eaten fresh,

The Burmose wife has fewer housekeep- cooking is on fires out of doors. The cook- the sand. A favorite dish is a fish curry ally makes the money, and always carries no marriage ring, and she still, as I have not much more common than in the United ing troubles than her American sister. If ing utenails usually consist of two or three with rice. The family usually sit around the said, keeps her own property. She can States. They are hardly respectable, and she belongs to the well-to-do classes she can states. They are hardly respectable, and she belongs to the well-to-do classes she can state. act for herself in a business way and she the man who enters a monastery to get rid has servants, and if not, she has but little jars for water and several cocoanut ladies curry and a larger one for rice. Everyone frequently acts for her husband. She can of a wife is called a runaway, while a di- hard work. The ordinary house is built of Most of the people use neither knives nor helps blusself taking from the rice platter

eight feet apart. It has a veranda in front, The staple food of the Burmese is rice. He conveys the food to his mouth in his with steps leading to the rooms overhead, which is boiled or steamed, and eaten with hands. At the close of the meal everyone The floors are of thin planking or bamboo fish paste and peppers. Nothing is drank is expected to wash his own dishes and candy; he writes verses in praise of his public affairs. They make no fuss about "Monk are beautiful when they are lean, canes, and the roof is of thatch or leaves, with the meals, and aften them only water, each goes to the water jar to rinse out his lady's beautiful ear plugs, and she in re- their rights, and the Burmese cat meat, for it mouth. The meals are more like picules to an extreme. The But few of the Burmese cat meat, for it mouth. The meals are more like picules

little sweeping to do, and the most of the dried and also when rotted by burying it in as much as he can squeeze in his hands.

Sunny Scenes and Memorable Events in Lives of Prominent People

N the afternoon of his last day gas let."

"It is useless, gentlemen; I think we

plereing. This is done by a professional "Our Father, which art in Heaven," said

The lips of the surgeons moved. "Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom visit:

"Thy will be done in earth as it is in

A long sigh. The sands of life were runraindrops dashed against the windows. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Another silence. The surgeons looked at the dying face and the friendly lips. and the glory, forever, Amen."

"Amen." whispered the surgeons

Dolliver and the Pickpocket. The most conspicuous opponent of Sen-Webster in this respect than any man now acouts. on the floor of the senate. The lowa boys always remember Jonathan P. Dolliver as

way," the president began to career; he had the old-fashioned way of ing been a tallor and his free admission of was a horrible wreck." realize that his life was slipping using ancedotes to illustrate his points, illiteracy are particularly interesing. whose cargo of cotton during the war of mother of the incident, she said; 1812 was confiscated by General Jackson; if "Did you really make the coat, gov- word for it." he had his grandson's eloquence it is prob- ernor?" able that he made some remarks that "I put some stitches in it,' he said; Pepwould have been worthy of preservation. When preaching on a large circuit in Virginia, and often riding 200 miles in a week, Mr. Dolliver's father met the lady who became his wife, and that is the reason that the senator halls from West Virginia, and was educated at the State university there. After his graduation, at the age of 17, the young man decided to migrate to Illinois. He tells thus of this first western

> shoulder, and with a warning glance said: "You have just been talking, my boy, with one of the most dangerous pickpockets in the United States."

'One of the most dangerous pickpockets ning swiftly. The sunlight died out, the in the United States has been talking to a country boy who has not a red cent to his name,' was my reply."

Retirement of Buffalo Bill.

Buffalo Bill's withdrawal from the arena, say the New York Times, will mark the passing of the most picturesque personality "For Thine is the kingdom, the power in public life-hunters of wildbecste and digdig not excepted. It's doubtful if any other man save George Washington has enjoyed in such degree the universal adoration of American youngsters and the nation-wide admiration of American grownator Aldrich is the tariff struggle, relates ups. Even today affection for Abraham the National Magazine, was Jonathan P. Lincoln, Usysses S. Grant and Robert E. Dolliver of Iowa, but despite that senator's Lee has its sectional limitations; that for wit, eloquence, and undisputed talent he Colonel Cody knows no boundaries. To the found himself outnumbered in the votes youth of the land he has been from his which carried the bill through to a bril- earliest fame, and always will be, the darliant finish. Senator Dolliver is a born ing, the dashing, the debonair Buffalo Bill, orator and seldom writes an address, pre- intrepid pursuer of the hearth-rocking ferring to deliver it straight from the bison, relentless and always triumphant congress on conservation, has reminded an shoulder in massive periods. He more redskin, breaker of bronchos, monarch of old friend of Chamberlain's own expericlosely approaches the giant stature of cowboys, king of horsemen and prince of ments in conservation.

Andrew Johnson's Education.

count of this uniquely remarkable man, that he had it.

away, and that the efforts of which was then considered effective. "About a year before the civil war Judge paign manager. science could not save him. He asked Dr., though he may have changed his style Pepper, who had been a blacksmith before. The story was looked up and was true. Bede dug up some new ones, but Barker of s or 9 years, and he there learns to read Rixey to bring the surgeons in. One by with the times. He is one of the orators he became a lawyer, sent Johnson a set of The pank had failed and there were alone the surgeons entered and approached who frankly admit that they "like to fire-irons, which he had made himself, says most no assets. the bedside. When they were gathered talk," a taste he thinks he may have in- the writer of the recollections, and the govabout him the president opened his eyes herited from his father and grandfather -- ernor presently sent the judge a coat which story when an old friend of Chamberlain's a fallen idol. They refused to vote for a therefore it is the exception to find a nuthe latter a Massachusetts scafaring man, he had made for him. When he told my came along and advised against it. Won't man who appeared to be trailing along tive girl outside the cities who is able to

> per shouldn't get ahead of me with the people. When I was a tailor I was a good

"He refused an invitation once to dine with A. V. Brown, a leader of the democratic said: party in Tennessee and afterward Buchanan's postmaster general, although all of the president of the bank when it falled. At the rear pews. The service continued with study diligently and recite well. I remember

youth, and once brought my mother a mag- personally paid all depositors. azine confaining a sketch of his life, in which it was stated that his wife, Flora started hunting for a new roorback, and and rushed to the door. The pastor was so McCardie, had taught him to read after when election day came the man whose perplexed at the strange occurrence that they were married, when he was twenty- bank had falled ingloriously was trione years of age. He said the statement umphantly elected senator. was inaccurate but substantially true; that when they were married his wife brought her achool books to their new home, and his study of them aided his education materially. After he rose to prominence his admirers used to point out that he had made few mistakes in grammar and that his English was pure, but he never learned to divide his words correctly in writing,

and sometimes made judicrous mistakes in

quotations. Once in a public speech he

spoke of the Lays of Ancient Rome as hav-

ing been translated in Macauley; and in

another speech he quoted: " 'And the stern joy that warriors feel In foemen worthy of their steel, as Shakespeare says!"!

Chamberlain's Bank Failure.

Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, who recently made his first extended speech in

"When Chamberlain was running for the senate," said this friend to a Washington was on. Times reporter, "the opposition went over Speaking of tobacco, all Burmess women his speeches "are written out in the agony personal recollections of Andrew Johnson something injurious to him. One day one Barker sent a stenographer down with in- dad."-Lippencott's,

ahead of Miller.

But the campaign managers had to do Today Miller occupies Bede's scat in the this, and there are now something like something, and so the story of the busted house of representatives. bank was given out and got due publicity in all the anti-Chamberlain papers. Next day the Chamberlain committee gave out. The pastor of a West Philadelphia church about 1,000 are in the secondary and high

oft is true that Mr. Chamberlain was that time he was a man of some property. the clergyman congratulating himself on a class in arithmetic which I heard in them know that on that day he had dired. He had never been actively connected with with his washer woman, off bacon and the bank management and when he learned suddenly the door opened and a man stuck mese girls of about 10 years of age. They that it was closed and hopelessly insolvent in his head. "He made no secret of his unlettered he turned over his entire property and

Whereupon the anti-Chamberlain people

Beaten by His Stories. Think of a man being defeated for con-

gress because somebody swiped all his best would like to."

time for just that reason.

It seems, according to the visitor's story, that a fellow by the name of Barker, who is a sort of boss of the Eighth Minnesota several boys, to whom the greatest freedom Now, as everybody knows, Bede was renational legislation. He would send his children outside. crowd home in a good humor and they

to defent Bede. One day at 3 o'clock an rington," he asked, "what is it?"

Beds started to make a few speeches

of toil, under the heat and glare of the which give a new and most interesting ac- of the strikers rushed in and announced structions to take down all Bede's funny on earth, writes James Creels. The son of a Methodist minister, Sen- who rose in a few years from a tailor's "Chamberlain was president of a bank Barker billed his friend Miller Just about the villages they seldom exist, and the man in his "On the Great High- ator Dolliver entered early upon a political bench to the presidency. His pride in hav- when he was a young man; it busted and one day shead of Bede in each town. When monks cannot teach the girls as they do "Dig it up quick," announced the cam- the crowd would act bored, for they had dhist religion, every boy must go into a

> do you any good," he insisted. "Take my about one block in the rear of the joke read. parade.

Pastor's Puzzle Made Plain.

statement signed by all the directors was very much surprised and pleased last schools. and a lot of depositors of the bank. It Sunday night when in the course of the During my stay in Burma I have visited

Instantly the late comers arose en masse for my edification. who had been standing by the door.

the vestryman, laughingly.

Making Father Give Proof.

A Washington scientist is the father of district, cares not at all for Adam Bede. is accorded. He was recently engaged in some computation, being at the time near garded as one of the chief wits of congress. He always had more stories to tell a shrill cry of 'Dad, dad'' from his youngthan any seven other men engaged in the est born, who was playing with neighbors'

Well, Barker thought and thought how his head out of the window, "Well, Har- fume, Miss Perfection or Miss Like-What-

a popular speaker, though he insists that In Harper's Magazine are published some his record with a fine-tooth comb to find in a remote corner of his district, and hadn't a hair on your head. That's all, candles made of red or yellow wax are

than anything else.

Education of Women.

Until the British came to Burma only the fewest of the women could read and write. There are not many who can do so now. The government has established stories. Then when the fight grew warmer schools for girls in the large towns, but in Bede arrived and began to tell his jokes the boys. According to the laws of the Budheard the same stories the night before. monastery. He usually does so at the age

The British officials are trying to remedy 70,000 girls in the government schools, although only one of every eleven girls of school age is being educated, and only

service a crowd of persons fully forty many of these. I find the little ones quite performed sums in addition and subtrac-"Here she comes," he announced in a loud tion at the command of their teacher, and recited the multiplication table in Burmese

How Girls Are Named.

after service he spoke to one of the vestry During my stay in the schools I was told the names of a number of the pupils, "Don't you know what happened" asked and the teacher referred to a queer custom the Burmeso have in selecting names for "No," answered the ciergyman, "but I their children A girl is named about two weeks after birth, and that at a meeting Why, a car broke down right in front of the relations and friends. The name is A visitor from Minnesota in Washington of the church. Everybody got out after a chosen by raio according to the day of the the other day told a little crowd at his few minutes, and, seeing a chance to sit week upon which the child was born, cerhotel that Adam Bede missed re-election down, they all came in here leaving one tain consonants being used for each week in the Eighth Minnesota district the last man on watch."-Philadelphia Telegraph. day and the vowels going for Burmese Sundays, or first day of the week. The little one's name must begin with a letter belonging to the day on which she was borth There are thus Sunday girls. Monday girls, Tuesday girls, and Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday girls, or whatever All the little Miss Wednesdays have names beginning with R or Y, the Pridays with Th and H. while the Miss Saturdays are "What a trial my children are!" mur. T's, D's and N's. The names are often mured the distinguished man, as he thrust Poetic, a girl may be called Miss Per-There-Is-Not. At the moment of a child's idea came. He made a deal with one C. Whereupon the lad, who was standing in birth the astrologers note its horoscope and B. Miller to oppose Bede and the fight the center of a group of youngeters, re- pick out the stars which are to go with it through life. At the same time birth "Willie Johnson wouldn't believe you hurnt before Buddha, and cothe same days similar candles are lighted at the shrines