

CAVES ABANDONED HERMITS

Pillars Stripped of Carving to Furnish Idols for Devout but Childless Brahmins

Temples Found in Weird Forest

Where Wind and Leaves Make Perpetual Noise

Describing a scene in the Ghat, a writer in the Times of India says: Five miles south of Vaishkhar is the village of Sonavie. From the main street of Sonavie, if the eye be turned to the south, right upon the face of the precipice and about a third of the way up, will be seen a row of caves with square cut mouths, looking for all the world like the stopping holes in some tin instrument. Thither lead us our way. At first the path leads through a dense forest of trees. But at last cultivation ends, and we are on the edge of one of the weird forests that the mind can conceive. All along the foot of this seven league precipice runs a belt of wood.

From a little way on a strange sound is heard, like a wild condor's sigh. One can almost imagine that he is on the floor of the primeval sea, and that the sigh is the heaving of the waves on the cliff. But as he enters the wood the cause becomes apparent. BIG LEAVES NEVER STILL.

In this mysterious wood there is no peace. On the sunlit plains which we have just quitted the air is cool and still. But in this wood, although shadowed from the sun by the trees, the air is close and stifling. It is always blowing, or rather whirling, up and down the deep cavern hollows, and into rugged ridges little whirlwinds such as the fallen leaves. They never rest. These little whirls that we are used to think of as a fallen leaf as something small, fallen from something large. But in the east, where everything is upside down, a fallen leaf is a teak leaf, two feet long, fallen from a puny-stunted tree on the cliff.

The last few hundred yards are a real climb, up steps worn in the hard baked clay by the feet of worshippers. And so to the ledge in front of the caves. Beneath is the wood, and above the rock. It is not a natural ledge, but carved out of the precipice, so that the doors of the caves are a little way withdrawn. The sides are a little higher in the form of a semicircle, that no ray of sun, even in the torrid days of May, can ever have fallen on the ledge. And in the wild monsoon weather the sheet of water running off the face of the cliff, and the noise of the water falling from the outer world.

CAVES MADE BY HINDS On each side are rows of cells, and the central cave is a temple, with a shrine, and carved pillars. The carving has been partially torn from the pillars, and the rough carvings of the trees, which perhaps has been too long expected in vain. Hacking off a figure and figure, from the pillar, and toiling down the slope again, he returns to his hut. Covering the figure with red earth he stands in a corner. After some days the hair is born. And the figure becomes the household god, the "dev." Some of the carving is already stripped from these pillars. And it all will be under the action of the trees, of "Sonavie" appear in the world when desired.

HERMITS LIVED IN CELLS The cells on each side of the main cave once held hermits. They drank the water that gathered in these cisterns and ate the grain that was brought to them by the men. They were the hermits who fasted of smoked themselves into insensibility. All the livelong day they sat and looked out as we are looking, on the stretches of rice fields far below, blotted from view here and there this February by the smoke of the hermits' fires, and listened, as we are listening, to the dolorous churning of the wind in the wood below. Thus they sat on, without bodily comforts, and without passions, meditating themselves into oneness with the all.

THE MINISTER WENT, and the merchants went, and still they meditated on. But with the departure of the worldly ones the visitors to the cliff temple became less frequent. There was no grain to eat, and no one to carry water to another place. They are gone, and the carving on the pillars is going. Only the all pervading Brahma remains and the dolorous churning of the wind in the wood, and the dripping veil of monsoon water from the cliff.

WILLS THAT MEALS SHALL BE LAID IN HIS TOMB Odd Custom Which Prevails in County Wexford One of the most curious tombs in the United Kingdom is in County Wexford. In it is laid the body of one of that curious sect—the Resurrectionists. One position is a table and a few chairs. On the table will be found at any time a dainty meal of considerable dimensions, with a fowl, a ham, a leg of mutton, and the necessary drinkables. The departed, who rises again, is invited by the crowd which surrounds him. Instantly a number of people rise and offered her a place to sit down, but she refused and told the man next to whom she was seated, "Some man never better until the last minute when they are assumed to do otherwise. I'd rather stand than thank one of them."—New York Tribune.

UNGALLANT MEN A delicate woman, with a baby on her arm and a little boy holding on to her skirts, was in the night on the Brooklyn bridge one evening recently when the uptown rush was at its height. There were no seats vacant, and the woman balanced herself as best she could, until, at a curve she fell forward and was in the night surrounded by the crowd which surrounded her. Instantly a number of people rose and offered her a place to sit down, but she refused and told the man next to whom she was seated, "Some man never better until the last minute when they are assumed to do otherwise. I'd rather stand than thank one of them."—New York Tribune.

SEAMSHIP'S TIME SLOWER THAN USUAL Passengers, However, Express Pleasure at Trip Upward Down the Coast

THE Pacific Coast steamship Governor, which arrived yesterday, brought a large number of passengers, the majority of whom had been up to Seattle to visit the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition. There were 196 first class passengers, and 70 second class. They expressed themselves as having enjoyed the exposition, and they also enjoyed the trip up and down the coast.

Alameda Sends Wireless The Oceanic steamship company's steamer Alameda sent in a wireless message Saturday at 3:30 p. m., reporting that the weather was fine and that all on board were well. The vessel is en route to Seattle, and is expected to arrive there on Sunday.

Sunday Sailings The sailings yesterday from this port were light, but several departing went in many different directions. They were the steamer Buckman for Seattle, the barkentine Irangard for Honolulu, the schooner W. H. Marston for Hilo; the steamer Winnebago, for Moran, Japan, for orders; the schooner Santa Rosa, for Seattle; the steamer Fulton, for Mendocino; the steamer Whiteboro, for Greenwood, and the steamer Santa Rosa, for Fort Bragg.

Reports Sighting Pasadena The steamer National City arrived in yesterday morning, 23 hours from Port San Luis. Captain Higgins reports that the vessel left at 7 o'clock p. m., and was sighted by the steamer Pasadena, bound for San Pedro to Albin.

Brings Bark Extract The steamer Phoenix, Captain Hanson, arrived yesterday from Westport, bringing 510 barrels of bark extract. It also brought 2,000 railroad ties.

Will Sail Thursday The Pacific Mail steamship company's steamer Manchuria, Captain Dixon, will sail Thursday for the Orient with a large number of passengers and a big amount of freight.

Admiral Sampson Arrives The Alaska-Pacific steamship Admiral Sampson, Captain Bartlett, arrived in port yesterday, 63 1/2 hours from Seattle, with passengers and freight.

Will Load for This Port The ship William P. Frye has been placed in the berth to load for this port with general merchandise.

Lumber Arrivals Lumber arrivals from the north coast by sea yesterday amounted to 2,743,000 feet.

SHIPPING NEWS OF COAST Items of Interest to Mariners of the Pacific

SEATTLE, June 20.—Arrived: German steamer from Nantamo; steamer Portland from Cordova.

Sailed: Steamer Lepelanua for Cordova; German steamer from San Francisco.

ASTORIA, June 20.—Steamer Breakwater arrived today from Coos bay with freight and passengers and 120 tons of lumber.

STEAMER CLAREMONT left today for Gray's Harbor, bound south; put in for fuel.

STEAMER ALIANCE left today for Coos bay with freight and passengers.

STEAMER YONKON left today for San Francisco with freight and passengers.

STEAMER CORONADO cleared for Gray's Harbor, taking freight and passengers for San Francisco.

STEAMER WALTIER arrived from Eureka with oil and cleared for San Francisco with oil.

ARMY TRANSPORTS The Logan, outward bound, sailed June 14 for Point Arena.

STEAMER BRUNSWICK, Hammer, 14 hours from Port Bragg.

STEAMER DEL OLEN, 40 hours from Coos bay.

STEAMER SIMS, 40 hours from Mendocino.

Visitors to Seattle Fair Return on the Governor

By UNITED WIRELESS COMPANY Star Hanalei, from San Pedro for San Francisco, June 20, 8:30 p. m. of instant trip will arrive at San Francisco Monday, June 21, 12 noon.

Star Nani Sahl, hence June 16 for Coos bay, June 18, 8:30 p. m. of Cape Mendocino. Star Alameda, from Honolulu for San Francisco, June 19, 8:30 p. m. of 830 miles of San Francisco, fine weather; all well.

Star National City, June 19, 7:40 p. m. of instant trip will arrive at San Francisco Monday, June 21, 12 noon.

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