

NATIVE WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES

The dark eyed women of the island which Dewey and Merritt have conquered are of many races. Those of the coast cities are of either Spanish or Portuguese, native or half caste blood. Those of European and native parentage are what is known as mestizos and are the most beautiful and intelligent of all the island women.

These have a most picturesque garb, consisting of a long silk skirt with a bodice woven of the fibers of the pineapple plant and beautifully embroidered with white silk. Many of the mestizos are quite well off and have a distinctive aristocracy of their own, for the half caste women are disdained by the Spanish and Portuguese ladies, who decline to have anything at all to do with them, while the mestizos, scorning the natives, are cast upon their own resources for companionship.

Some of the mestizos are quite poor, and hosts of the women work in the cigar and cigarette factories of Manila, where many a sprightly Carmen has caused the hearts of the impressionable imported chivalry of Spain to flutter violently.

BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.

The beauty of the native half caste women is in their great, lustrous, long lashed eyes, their pearly teeth, graceful figures and masses of silky blue black hair. They are, with the exception of the Negritos, who occupy the fastnesses of the mountains, of Malaysian blood, but of different tribes.

The native women array themselves in the most gorgeous colors. The upper part of the body is clad in a white loose sleeved garment. A gayly striped cloth called the saya falls in folds from the waist. Over this is swathed a dark shawl called the tapis, which falls about as far as the knees. The poorer the family, of course, the simpler the garments, that of many being merely a short skirt and a very abbreviated bodice. It is only the very well to do that can afford the soft homemade material woven from the fibres of the pineapple and the banana, and which is much prettier and more serviceable than one might imagine.

It may be said of the Philippine women that if their gems are not rich and rare they are at least numerous. Any woman in fair circumstances is loaded down with jewelry on every occasion. The reason of this is found in the lack of confidence in each other's honesty. A safe deposit vault might afford security for her property, but any one who has lived in the Philippine islands and is aware of the pilfering character of the inhabitants would be inclined to doubt even that.

THIEVES NUMEROUS.

Pirates, bandits and sneak thieves flourish and grow rich. It is just as respectable to be a pirate or a brigand in that happy land as it is to be a churchman in line of promotion to a bishopric. No housekeeper is at all astonished on returning from a walk or a visit to find her home looted of everything worth carrying off. She is used to it and after sighing regretfully merely goes around to the nearest merchant and orders a new stock.

It cannot be said that the women of the Philippine islands are intelligent. Charming and agreeable and subtle they may be, but with little capacity for serious intellectual attainments.

The foreigners find that the native women make excellent servants. Some years ago sewing machines were introduced into the Philippines, and the Malay women showed great aptitude in learning the management of them. They are now, as a rule, excellent seamstresses. The services of a sewing woman can be procured for 20 cents a day, the sewer working from 8 a. m. until 5:30 or 6 o'clock. There are many feasts and fast days, however, and as the women are intensely religious in their way the real time which they work is only about two-thirds of the year.

ON THE CALZADA.

In the evening, after the business of the day is over, in the city of Manila the people gather upon the Calzada, a promenade that overlooks the water, where the military band of one of the regiments plays for a few hours each night. It is not a particularly handsome promenade, even with its overshadowing almond trees, but there the wealth and beauty and fashion of the island nightly airs its graces and new clothes—the rich in their carriages driving slowly along behind sleek horses, the poor on foot, happy and contented with their share of worldly good fortune or lack of it.

The houses of the Philippines, while spacious and outwardly picturesque, have little to recommend them as abodes. They are dark and poorly ventilated. The windows of most of them have tiny panes set with slices of oyster shell, which make a poor medium for the transmission of light.

WOOFING OF JOHN CHINAMAN. One often wonders at the woman who marries the slant eyed, pig tailed representative of the land of Li Hung Chang. Now, although the thrifty Chinamen are the richest of all the inhabitants of the Philippines, being merchants, bankers, etc., they are not

regarded as entitled to social quality with even the poorest Malaysian. The fathers of the church disapprove of John Chinaman as an irreclaimable pagan. Many of the Chinamen in time decide to marry in the land of their adoption, and after selecting an attractive maiden the method of securing her over her own indignant protest and that of her parents is worthy of the great Li himself.

After a brief acquaintance the Chinaman usually asks the girl's parents for the hand of their daughter. As John probably expected, consent is refused, for not only are his paganism and personality objectionable, but no priest will marry one of the faithful to a heathen.

The Chinaman pretends to take the refusal in good part and departs, to return another day with apologies and a present. The present is accepted, and a mild friendship springs up between the family of the object of John's admiration and John himself. He is so obliging, yet humble, so anxious and interested in their welfare, so ready with a loan or a gift, that he soon ingratiates himself into their good graces.

SPRINGS A LAWSUIT.

When the family has accepted about \$100 or \$200 worth of presents the Chinaman again sues for the hand of his innamorata and is again refused. Then he goes placidly home and draws up a bill for all the presents he has bestowed upon the family, and, it may be added, he appraises them at the very highest market value.

As very few of the native families could raise \$20 at the most consternation reigns, especially as most of the gifts, the wily Chinaman has taken care, were such things as were to be eaten or worn and are gone, never to return. At any rate, John says that he does not want the present back, as his courtship has so damaged his faith and trust in woman's sweetness and affection that he means to have nothing more to do with them, but a broken-hearted Chinaman will ever after lead a sad and solitary life. Unless he receives the value of the presents, which he now needs to satisfy certain unexpected and importunate creditors, he will begin a lawsuit to recover their value.

After having made this announcement the discreet Celestial goes home and chuckles. The next visit is made with the alleged intention of collecting his bill, but he pretends to melt and be somewhat overcome by recollections of their past beautiful friendship as the frenzied family protests its inability to pay and describes its general condition of anguish. Finally, as if making a great concession, the Chinaman offers to cancel the debt if the lady of his heart will consent to change her mind. The girl at first declines, but the thought of her parents in a debtor's prison does its deadly work, and John, if that is all that stands between him amiably agrees to become a Christian on the case being stated to him, quite and happiness.

He is baptized by the village cure, and after being fully received into the church the wedding is properly solemnized, and ever afterward, as a rule, he makes a very easy, good natured and generous husband.

CAROLINE WETHERELL.

A pretty story is told by Lieutenant Wise of the Ninth United States Infantry.

A corporal of his company lay sick at a boating club house on the water-side near some quays which had been converted into a hospital. While the officer was talking to the sick man a woman nurse came by and bathed the patient's face and hands and fed him with milk.

"Do you know who that is, corporal?" asked the lieutenant when the nurse had gone.

"No I don't," was the answer, "but she's a perfect lady, she is! She's been awful good to us, and if ever I get a chance I'll show her how we appreciate it."

"That's Miss Wheeler, General Wheeler's daughter."

"What? Our General Wheeler!" exclaimed the corporal, fairly startled into a sitting posture.

"Yes, our general—'Fighting Joe' Wheeler."

"Well, well!" the soldier exclaimed, dropping back upon his couch. "She's a brave and noble lady! And she's good blood, sir. That's a fine family, them Wheelers. God bless the brave little nurse!"

Frau Kruegerman, the oldest of living artists' models, died last week in Berlin at the age of 92. She furnished the fairest figures on the canvases of Michael, Thumann, Gussaw, Artdebrand, Knaus and other eminent painters. And, incidentally, she had a foot that "Tribby" might have been proud of.

The Twelfth Minnesota has reached New Ulm, Minn., where it will be furloughed.

CURIOSITIES IN COINS.

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch.)

In the bulletin of the Museum of Science and Art, University of Pennsylvania, appears an essay by A. E. Outerbridge, Jr., entitled "Curiosities of American Coinage," which recalls the different phases of this subject from the time when the Hudson Bay Trading company took beaver skins as currency. Money was scarce before revolutionary times, but now it is comparatively abundant. In Massachusetts, prior to the revolution, specie was at times so scarce that laws were passed legalizing the payment of taxes in skins, cattle and farm products, and in 1634 a musket bullet passed current for a farthing, though no one was compelled to take more than forty-eight bullets at a time.

All good things, money among them, emanated from the delectable region around Plymouth Rock. Massachusetts established a mint in 1652, 140 years before the establishment of the national mint in Philadelphia, and the "pine tree shillings" began to roll forth. A mistake in calculation made these shillings, now extremely rare, 5½ grains too light. After the Massachusetts mint had been in active operation thirty years Maryland established a mint. These two colonies issued silver coins before the revolutionary war, and several other American colonies issued copper coins. After the revolution silver was coined by the different states and by private individuals.

The mint was established April 2, 1792, providing for \$10, \$5 and \$2.50 gold pieces, \$1, 50-cent, 25-cent, 10-cent pieces in silver; 1-cent and half-cents in copper. Copper coins were struck at the Philadelphia mint in 1792, some of which bore the head of Washington on one side, but he disapproved of the device and suggested the substitution of the head of Liberty. Since that time no American coin has ever displayed the head of any individual.

Up to the middle of this century many coins were issued with impunity by private companies, and in 1851 the assayers reported that twenty-seven different kinds of gold coins, issued from fifteen private mints, had been received and assayed at the United States mint at Philadelphia.

The earliest private coinage intended for use in the American colonies (except the Bermuda "hog" coin) is known to numismatics under the general name of "Rosa Americana," and the story of these coins is interesting. In the year 1722 Mr. Wood, an iron founder at Wolverhampton England, claimed to have discovered an alloy suitable for coins, consisting of copper, zinc and a small proportion of silver. Through the influence of a favorite of George I., known as the Duchess of Kendall, a patent was issued for coining 300 tons of "tokens" for Ireland and the colonies of North America. The amount of Irish coin was limited to \$25,000, a great sum at that day. Sir Isaac Newton was appointed comptroller for the crown at a salary of \$1,000 a year to see that the rules were complied with.

Thousands of Wood's metal coins were struck for uses in Ireland, and the issue would probably have been accepted by the people without question had it not been that Dean Swift mercilessly lampooned the scheme in "Drapier's Letters," and brought it into disrepute to such an extent that the royal license to Wood was bought back at a price of \$15,000 a year for fourteen years. This did not kill the project for coining money for the American colonies, and many pieces were actually struck. On the obverse appears the head of the king and on the reverse a full blown rose, with the legend "Rosa Americana" and the date "1722." On the later issues the head of George II. appears and the date 1733.

In 1830 Templeton Reid of Georgia established a private mint and coined \$10, \$5 and \$2.50 gold pieces, which circulated freely through the south. In 1831 Christopher Bechtler of Rutherfordtown, N. C., began coining on a larger scale, and in a few years had issued several million dollars worth of gold coins of denominations of \$10, \$5, \$2.50 and \$1. In 1851 the assayers reported that "several of the private issues of gold coins from California are close imitations of the national coins; some assay nearly up to the nominal value, but many fall below."

A \$10 piece of the Pacific company only yielded \$7.86 in gold. A lot of different denominations aggregating \$562.50 nominal value yielded at the mint \$479.20. One interesting gold coin, a \$50 piece (some were octagonal) issued by August Humbert, United States assayer at San Francisco, yielded the full nominal value. All of these private issues have now been stopped, and strict laws have been passed punishing any attempt to imitate the coins of the nation. Even the toy money formerly made for children of gilded paper has been prohibited by the government authorities.

"Pattern pieces" only were struck at the mint in Philadelphia in 1792; the regular coinage of copper cents and half cents began in 1793; the coining of silver commenced in 1794 and of gold in 1795.

Englishman's Gift to U. S. Army.
(St. Louis Republic.)

Mr. Edward A. Sumner, a lawyer of No. 141 Broadway, New York, has received a cable message from Sir Thomas Lipton, the challenger for the America's cup, donating \$10,000 to the soldiers' relief fund. Mr. Sumner had established intimate relations with Sir Thomas, and was, therefore, made the disburser of the titled Englishman's generosity. Although the lawyer expected a favorable response from his friend to his hint that anything he might do by way of contribution to the Empire State Society of Sons of the American Revolution, which has already appropriated \$1,000 to the cause, would be thankfully received, this large gift was entirely unlooked for.

Sir Thomas Lipton has ever been a liberal man with his money where public charities were concerned. On the occasion of the queen's jubilee he subscribed \$125,000 to the Princess of Wales' dinner to the poor, and the occasions on which he has come forward with liberal aid for all sorts of charities in his own country are numerous.

Sir Thomas was in New York in June, and at that time expressed great solicitude for the American soldiers in Cuba, the conditions of which he knew must sorely try the well-being of the flower of the land. He told Mr. Sumner at that time that he would gladly do anything he could for the relief of the brave men, who fought for Cuban liberty.

When he sailed on the Cunarder Luccania the officers and members of the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution presented him with an American flag as the steamer turned seaward, and a signed memorial intended to convey their appreciation of his Americanism and his sentiments in favor of an Anglo-American alliance.

Sir Thomas will undoubtedly be the most popular Englishman who ever crossed the ocean to contest for the international trophy.

In all his dealings with those who are arranging the preliminaries for the America's cup race, Sir Thomas Lipton has shown himself such a perfect gentleman and sportsman that, should he win the cup, it should go to him without regret.

The fund collected by the Empire State society, including Sir Thomas' generous gift, will be immediately distributed where it will do the most good among the soldiers who are now in the various camps and lying ill at the hospitals about the country.

In Opdyke, Ill., is a young woman, Miss Mollie Atchison, who is said to weigh 500 pounds and measure for feet seven inches around the waist. She is a good cook, a skilled seamstress, is 28 years of age and can pick up a 300-pound barrel of pork and put in on her shoulder.

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Five widows of soldiers of the American
revolution are living, and strong-
enough to draw their pensions. Who
would have thought it! Since the last
soldier of the revolution was mustered
out 115 years have passed. Five old
soldier grooms and five buxom young
brides were the interesting characters
in the first chapter of the story that
we now get from the pension bureau.

John R. McLeap denies that he has
been offered a place on the war investigation
committee.

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