

of the whale and walrus they also boil with roots; and a principal dish at all their feasts, which they call *selaga*, is made by pounding roots and berries, of various kinds, with caviar, and mixing up the whole with whale or seal fat.

As reindeer have become scarce in Kamtschatka, and horses cannot easily be supported, the natives train their dogs to draw their sledges, on which they travel with surprising velocity over the snow. Each dog has a particular name, which is of great use in driving them, as they are managed by the voice, and the jingling of rings or shells fastened to a stick; neither reins nor whip being used by the rider.

## ARABIA.

THE Arabs are an ancient people; and the various tribes derive their descents, some from Heber and his son Jocktan; some from Ishmael, the son of Abraham and Hagar; others from the descendants of Abraham and Keturah; and not a few from Esau, the brother of Jacob. The Ishmaelites, better known under the title of *Bedouins*, are the most pure of these races, for they lead a wandering life, and will not intermarry with the settled tribes, lest they should degrade their pedigree.

The Arab is not robust, but rather tall, well-formed, and active, fearless of danger, and insensible to fatigue: his mind



Arabians.

East Indians of Distinction. P. 146.

is quick, and his character marked by the extremes of credulity and enthusiasm. The women are tall in proportion to the men, and have a dignified deportment; but their elegant forms are degraded by their ragged clothing and squalid looks.

The costume of the settled Arabs is various: but among the wandering tribes, very scanty. The rich inhabitants of Yemen, or Happy Arabia, dress very much after the manner of the Turks or Persians, with large trowsers, and a girdle of embroidered leather about the waist, in which is stuck a knife or dagger. The head-dress consists of a number of caps, sometimes as many as fifteen, of different sorts, linen, cotton and woollen, worn one upon the other: the outer cap is richly ornamented, and has some passages from the Koran embroidered upon it. The lower classes wear only two caps. People of the middle rank wear sandals, of wood or leather, bound on the feet with thongs. The rich, of both sexes, use slippers.

The Arab women, like the females of Egypt, usually conceal the lower part of the face with folds of linen, leaving only the eyes uncovered; but in some parts they wear veils.

The Bedouins differ in many respects from the other Arabs; through hard living and constant exposure, their persons are lank and thin, and their complexion is rendered very dark. Their black and penetrating eyes, added to

their general appearance, indicate the demi-savage and untutored sons of nature. Their dress consists of a scull-cap and slippers, with a white woollen garment, which, covering the whole body, reaches to the calf of the leg; it has a hood for the head, and holes for the arms to pass through. They stain their arms, their lips, and the most conspicuous parts of the body, of a deep blue color, by punctuation with a needle, so that it can never be effaced. Most of the women wear rings of gold and silver, about three inches in diameter, in their noses. They are born fair; but their complexions are spoiled by exposure to the sun.

Such of the Arabs as are settled in towns, and apply themselves to agriculture or trade, are distinguished for justice, temperance, and humanity; among these a stranger may travel without danger. They are, however, greatly inferior in numbers to the Bedouins, who, though temperate in diet, and polite in speech, possess strong passions, and are equally capable of cruelty and friendship in the extremes. At one moment, they rob the traveller, whom they meet in the desert; and, the next, embrace, without hesitation or inquiry, the stranger who throws himself upon their protection.

Some of the principal people, in the more fertile parts, eat nothing but boiled rice, served up in a large wooden plate; but, in other parts, the produce of the flocks and herds constitutes almost their only subsistence. The milk

and flesh of camels, as well as of sheep, are in common use. The Arabs are more fond of smoking than the inhabitants of the north of Asia; and a peculiar custom prevails among persons of wealth and fashion, of carrying about them a box filled with odoriferous wood, of which they put a small piece into any person's pipe whom they wish to treat with respect.

The Bedouins have neither bread nor wine; neither do they cultivate the ground. They have flocks of camels, sheep, and goats, which they conduct from place to place, till they find sufficient herbage: here they erect their goats'-hair tents, and live till the grass is consumed, when they go in quest of another fertile spot.

## PERSIA.

THIS country, of ancient renown for magnificence and war, lies on the east of Asiatic Turkey. Its government has been always despotic, though under different administrations; and its punishments for crimes are barbarously severe. Mohammedism is the established religion. The Persian language, which is scarcely to be surpassed for strength, beauty, and harmony, is one of the most esteemed of the oriental tongues. Education is widely diffused through the country; and the Persians are deemed the most learned nation of the east.

The Persians surpass in pomp the other oriental nations. This magnificence with them, as with the others, does not display itself in houses and furniture. The mansions even of the richest present to the street only dead walls of clay, and a mean door leading to a large interior court, into which all the apartments open. These apartments are spacious and commodious, but they contain scarcely any furniture except carpets, on which the owners sleep, sit, eat, and pass the greater portion of their lives. Their dishes are usually trays of painted wood, or copper tinned. Their baths, paved with marble, open to the sky, and furnished with every provision for magnificence and coolness, are also their favorite resorts for pastime.

The Persians are splendid in their attire. Gold, silver, and precious stones, proscribed by the Turks, are lavished by them on their head-dress, their robes, and particularly their sabres. The beard, highly respected over all the East, is viewed by the Persians with peculiar veneration; they spare no pains in embellishing it, in making it thick and tufted; they even adorn it with jewels. Their horses are the objects of still greater attention. Even a man who has not clothes worth half a guinea, will have a good horse.

The women of rank wrap multiplied folds of silk round their heads, and wear long, floating robes, nor do they ever appear in public without long veils.

The modern Persians are descendants of those tribes,

who, at various times, have overrun the country. They are described as a remarkably handsome race of men; tall, ruddy, and vigorous: brave, hospitable, patient in adversity, affable to strangers, and highly polished in their manners; but they possess strong passions, and are capable of acts of great cruelty, when under the influence of anger. They are excellent equestrians, being taught to ride from their infancy: and hunting and hawking are their favorite amusements.

The Persian dress consists, for the men, of a shirt of silk, or calico, striped with blue, which is seldom changed till worn out; a vest fitting tight to the body as far as the hips, whence it descends like a petticoat as low as the ankles; under this they have drawers, woollen stockings, and boots, or a pair of very wide trowsers of red silk, or blue cotton; and, over all, a large robe reaching nearly to the feet. The court dress is distinguished from the ordinary costume by green slippers with high heels, and red cloth stockings. The dress of the commonalty consists generally of two or three light garments, reaching only to the knee. In many parts of the country, they wear a sheep's skin, with the wool inwards. Persians of all degrees keep their heads remarkably warm; wearing, even in summer, black fur caps faced with lamb's skin, so fashioned as to rise into four corners at the top, which is frequently ten or twelve inches high. The king and his sons are distinguished by having a shawl wrapped round this black cap: a mark of

honor which is also extended to some of the nobility and ministers of state.

The costume of the females, in the summer season, consists of a silk or muslin under-garment, a pair of loose velvet trowsers, and a vest. The head is covered with a large black turban, over which a Cashmere shawl is gracefully thrown, to answer the purpose of a veil. In cold weather, a close-bodied velvet robe, reaching to the knees, fastened in front with large gold buttons, and sometimes ornamented with jewels, is worn over the vest. Necklaces are in general use, with small gold scent-boxes appended to them low in the bosom. Among other ornaments used by the ladies, is a gold plate, with an Arabic prayer engraved upon it, suspended on the right cheek, just below the ear.

The Persian houses, which are low and flat-roofed, are built of unburned bricks, and stand each in a court encompassed by a high wall. They have no windows towards the street; and the rooms which front the court, are entirely open on that side, but have a large curtain, to be let down when not in use. The palaces of the nobility are generally divided into several courts, the centre of which is laid out in parterres, most commonly ornamented with fountains.

These people admit but little variety in their food: they rise with the sun, and, having taken a cup of coffee, some fruit, or other light refreshment, they enter on the business



A Persian.

Persian Ladies. P. 152.

of the day, smoke, or converse, till ten or eleven o'clock, when they take a slight repast of sweetmeats, fruits, and dishes composed mostly of milk. They then retire to the harem till about three, when they renew their business or smoking. In the evening, they take their principal meal, which consists of animal food mixed with rice, and boiled down to rags, so as to render knives and forks unnecessary.

The Persians are extremely ceremonious; each person takes his seat according to his rank, which is defined with great precision. Age is treated with respect; and, on occasions of joy and grief, visits of congratulation or condolence are paid with scrupulous attention.

INDIA.

This extensive country lies between Persia and the Birman empire. Its southern part forms a large peninsula, stretching far into the Indian Ocean, between the Arabian and Bengalese seas. The Persians call it *Hindoostan* or *Country of the Blacks*, the natives being of a dark colour, though less swarthy than the negroes of Africa, from whom they are also distinguished by other physical characteristics.

A considerable portion of this country belongs to Great Britain; other European powers also have some settlements in it: these are governed by the laws of the respective

owners; but among the native powers, which are numerous, a harsh despotism prevails; and a gloomy polytheism, accompanied with cruel rites and acts of the grossest idolatry, degrades the name of religion. The priests are called *Brahmins* from *Brahm*, their chief deity; and the cow is considered as the mother of their gods!

The Hindoos are generally below the European stature; and their muscular strength is less than their bodily frame seems to indicate. They are very nimble, and, unincumbered, will travel quicker than the most robust European; but if obliged to carry arms or baggage, their feebleness immediately appears. Their persons are straight and elegant, and their tawny-coloured countenances are open and pleasant.

The manners of the Hindoos still more than their persons, bespeak peculiar refinement. They are described as in a remarkable degree polished, graceful and engaging, and in the whole intercourse of society, a politeness and urbanity reigns, much beyond what is observed in European circles. The impression made by them upon a stranger is that of a benevolent and amiable people. Those gentlemen, however, who have communicated of late the results of more intimate inspection, present a much less favorable picture. That outward politeness, it is said, soon resolved itself into the smooth, and interested servility which men acquire in courts, and under despotic governments, by

habitual intercourse with those on whom they are dependent. It is the business of all, to conceal and deceive. This extends even to a form of guilt, from which the religious or rather the superstitious habits of the nation might be expected to secure them. Perjury, the most deliberate and complete, marks every deposition made before an Indian court of justice. On a close inspection, too, much disappears of the mildness and quietude which are so conspicuous on the surface of the Hindoo character. Deadly feuds reign in the interior of villages; and, between those who have no motive to be on terms of ceremony with each other, violent wordy altercations often take place, seldom, however, proceeding to blows.

Cruelty, avarice, indolence, apathy, filth, and indelicacy, are among the distinguishing traits of the Hindoo character. An affront is never forgiven; and though years may interpose before the moment of vengeance arrives, it is always watched for. The Hindoo, from a belief that the soul of his relative has passed into the body of some animal or reptile, dreads to kill the smallest insect. But the same man who would importune a hunter or a fisher to desist from his pursuit, scruples not to sacrifice his fellow-man to his vengeance, and to incite self-murder in the devotees of his religion. Infants are relentlessly thrown into the stream of the Ganges, to be drowned or devoured by crocodiles; widows are burned alive upon the funeral piles of their hus-

bands ; and the votaries of the idol Juggernaut are encouraged to throw themselves under the wheels of his ponderous car, to be crushed to death.

In ordinary life, the Hindoos are cheerful and lively, fond of conversation and amusements, particularly dancing. They do not, however, dance themselves, but hire women, brought up for the purpose.

The men generally shave their heads and beards, leaving only a lock on the back part of the former ; and a small pair of mustachios on the upper lip. In some places, however, the beard is allowed to grow to the length of two inches. A turban is usually worn on the head ; but the Brahmins, when officiating in the temples, go with the head uncovered, the upper part of the body naked, and upon their shoulders the sacred string, called *zennar*. The other part of the Brahmin's dress consists of a piece of white cotton cloth wrapped about the loins, descending below the knee, but lower on the left side than on the right. In cold weather they sometimes put a red cap on their heads, and wrap a shawl about the upper part of their bodies. Most other inhabitants of India wear pieces of cotton wrapped round them, but covering the upper as well as the lower part of the body ; with a shawl, or scarf, upon the shoulders. Ear-rings and bracelets are worn by both men and women.

The Hindoo women, though of an olive complexion, are

delicate and beautiful ; but the bloom of their beauty soon decays, and before they have seen thirty years, they are making a rapid progress towards old age. They are absolute slaves to the other sex ; and among the higher classes are now almost as much recluses as those of the Mohamedans.

The houses of the Hindoos make but a sorry appearance. In the southern parts of the country, they are of one story only ; in the north, houses of two or three stories are met with. On each side of the door of the former kind, towards the street, is a narrow gallery, covered by the projecting slope of the roof, and raised about thirty inches from the level of the street ; here the porters, or bearers of palanquins, with the foot soldiers, called *peons*, repose themselves. The entrance leads to a court surrounded by a gallery like that on the outside ; and on one side of the court is a large room, open in front, and spread with mats and carpets, covered with white cotton cloth. Here the master of the house receives visits, and transacts business. In other parts of the court, are entrances, by very small doors, to the private apartments.

All the Hindoos are very scrupulous with regard to their diet ; the Brahmins much more so than the rest. They eat no flesh ; their ordinary food being rice and other vegetables dressed with clarified butter and seasoned with ginger and other spices. Their favorite beverage is milk from the



cow, an animal which they hold in the most extravagant veneration.

The expiation of a Brahmin, when on his death-bed, is attended with many ceremonies; some of which, to Europeans, cannot but appear absurd. As soon as the sick man has expired, ablutions and offerings are practised by his friends, by way of purification. At the place set apart for burning the dead, offerings are again made, and several disgusting ceremonies are performed, before the torch is applied to the funeral pile. The horrid practice of widows burning themselves with the bodies of their deceased husbands, is still practised, though with less frequency than formerly. It is most common in the country of the Rajahs.

#### CEYLON.

THIS island, situate at the south-east extremity of the Hindoo peninsula, is now subject to Great Britain; but the native population mostly retains the idolatrous religion of its ancestors, which is of Hindoo extraction, though differing in several material points from the Brahminical tenets. Some of the Ceylonese have embraced the Christian religion, and others the Mohammedan, since the settlement of Europeans and Arabians among them.

The population of this country includes four distinct classes; the Ceylonese, or Cingalese; the Candians, the

Malabars, and the Bedhas, or Vaddahs, the last of whom are apparently descendants of the aborigines.

The CINGALESE, who chiefly occupy the southern coasts, are of a middle stature, slender make, and of fairer complexions than the southern inhabitants of the neighboring peninsula. They are mild, timid, indolent, unwarlike, and fond of show and parade. Their houses are small and low, with thatched roofs, and walls made of hurdles, smoothly covered with clay. The most affluent have no other clothing than coarse linen wrapped about them. Their food is usually rice, eaten with salt; and their common drink is water, which they pour into their mouths through the spout of a vessel like a teapot, lest they should pollute the fluid by touching it with their lips.

The MALABESE are the same people as those of the same name on the neighboring coast of Malabar; they occupy the northern coast of Ceylon, and are of a darker colour than the Cingalese.

The CANDIANS, who occupy the mountainous regions in the centre of the island, are stouter, and less effeminate than the Cingalese. As they inhabit a more elevated and temperate region, they are fairer and more athletic than the people of the lower districts near the coast. The upper classes of Candians are reproached by the Indian nations, as perfidious and cruel; and the lower orders are inclined to follow their example.

The *BEDHAS*, or *VADDAHS*, are the most singular part of the population, inhabiting the recesses of the forests, spread over the various parts of the island. They live in a state of nature, destitute of houses or tents; sleeping in the branches of trees, or on the ground, and climbing, like monkeys, on the least alarm. They never cultivate the earth, but subsist on animals taken in the chase, and the spontaneous products of the forests.

## CHINA.

THIS country, situate at the south-eastern extremity of Asia, is the seat of the most ancient empire in the world; Noah himself being its reputed founder, whom the Chinese distinguish by the titles of *Foo-hee* and *Tyent-tze*, or "son of heaven." The government has been aptly described as a *patriarchal despotism*; for the same laws which give the sovereign an unbounded authority, require him to use his power with the moderation and discretion of a tender and wise parent; and his subjects are taught to look up to him as their father, rather than as their governor.

Three kinds of religion are followed by the Chinese, but neither of them is a national establishment. The first and most ancient, is pure Deism, free from idolatry, destitute of a priesthood, and without temples, except one within the precincts of the palace, where the emperor in person, at the

time of the equinoxes, performs solemn ceremonies and sacrifices. The second religious sect is that of *Tao-tse*, whose votaries are idolaters, and make high pretensions to a knowledge of alchemy and magic. The Mandarins are mostly of this sect. The religion of the third sect was imported from Hindoostan, in the first century of the Christian era, and is followed by the common people. *Fo* is their chief deity; they have bronzes or priests, and solemn processions; and their temples are filled with gigantic images, to which peculiar virtues and influences are attributed.

The Chinese language, one of the most primitive in existence, has no resemblance to any other, ancient or modern. It consists of about 330 monosyllables, which by means of four intonations to each, are extended to upwards of 1300 distinct sounds. The alphabet, in which this language is written, is no less singular than itself, and contains at least 40,000 characters.

In their persons, the Chinese are of the middle stature, with white or pale yellow complexions, broad faces, small elongated eyes, placed obliquely, noses turned upwards, and broad at the base, high cheek bones, thick lips, and pointed chins. They shave the whole of the head, except a lock at the crown, which, tied or platted in a long queue, is suffered to hang down the back, like the lash of a whip, not unfrequently as low as the calf of the leg. They pluck out the hair on their faces by the roots with tweezers, leav-

ing only a few stragling bristles by way of beard. Many of the higher classes, and the literary men, suffer their nails to grow to an enormous length, to show that they are not engaged in manual labour. The women have small eyes, plump rosy lips, black hair, regular features, and a delicate yet florid complexion. Corpulency is admired in men; but in females it is accounted a defect. Small feet are reckoned an indispensable part of female beauty; and in order to procure them, tight bandages are put on the feet at the very moment of birth, and continued till they cease to grow, hence the women are nearly all cripples.

The quality and colour of the Chinese dress is fixed by law, according to the rank and situation in life of the wearer. The royal family alone are allowed to wear yellow: on days of ceremony, certain mandarins are permitted to appear in red satin; but at other times black, blue, or violet, are the colours prescribed for them. The common people are allowed to wear only blue or black cotton. White is the distinguishing colour for mourning; but a son has no right to wear this whilst his father and mother are living; and he can wear no other for three years after their death: ever after, his clothes must be of one colour. The men's caps are shaped like bells; and the higher classes ornament them with jewels. The attire consists of a shirt, under which a silk net is worn, to prevent its adhesion to the skin; over the shirt is a vest with sleeves very wide

towards the shoulder, but narrowing as they approach the wrist, and covering the hands, leaving only the ends of the fingers visible. From a large silken sash, which is worn about the waist, is suspended a sheath, with a kind of knife and two small sticks, which serve as forks at meal-time. Clumsy boots, of satin, silk, or cotton, are universally worn abroad; but at home they are exchanged for slippers.

The female costume, for the higher orders, consists of a silk waistcoat and drawers, which in winter time are lined with fur; over these is a long robe of satin, very close at top, and gracefully gathered around the waist by a sash.

Females of the higher and middling orders are rarely seen, as they seldom quit their own apartments; but those in the lower ranks of life partake with the men in all kinds of labor; and if they have young children, they tie them on their backs, while pursuing their work.

Marriages are entirely conducted by the parents, or some female relation; and the parties rarely see each other till the wedding-day, when the bride, locked up in a richly decorated palanquin, is carried in grand procession to the bridegroom's house.

Rice is considered as the staff of life by the Chinese; but they also make use of various kinds of animal food, in the choice of which they are not very nice; for, besides pork, of which large quantities are consumed, the common people eat fish, fowls, cats, dogs, rats, and almost every other

animal, whether it has been killed, or died naturally; and among the numerous itinerant traders which fill the streets of the towns and cities, it is not uncommon to see a pedlar offering rats and puppies for sale, to be made into pies. Weak tea, taken lukewarm, without sugar or milk, is the ordinary drink of the Chinese; and in the use of ardent spirits they are very moderate.

The amusements of the Chinese are mostly of the sedentary kind. The sports of the chase, with other athletic exercises, as well as dancing, are almost unknown. Playing at shuttlecock is the most athletic diversion these people indulge in. Instead of striking it with a battledore, they spring forward as the shuttlecock descends, and with great dexterity kick it up again with the sole of the foot. All their amusements are regulated by law; and games of chance are prohibited.

## BIRMAN EMPIRE.

This empire, which lies to the south and south-west of China, extends over what is usually called India beyond the Ganges, and consists of various states, which have been subjugated by the Burmhans, or Birmans, a warlike people, whose manners and customs bear a great similitude to those of the Chinese. The government is an unqualified despotism; the *boa*, or emperor, acknowledges no equal; from

him alone all honors and appointments emanate: and to him they revert on the death of their possessors; hereditary dignities and employments being unknown in this country.

The religion of the Birmans is of Hindoo extraction, and was originally derived from Ceylon. It includes idolatry, and the doctrine of transmigration. The *rhahans*, or monks, have numerous colleges, and wear yellow garments; they neither cook their victuals, nor perform any of the common offices of life; but subsist on charity, and spend their time in contemplation. The white elephant is so much venerated by the Birmans that they reckon him the second dignitary in the empire; and he has large estates assigned him, a regular court and cabinet, with a prime minister, officers, and guards, to the number, altogether, of about a thousand persons. His palace is richly gilt within and without; and the furniture is of the most costly materials.

The customs of these countries allow to the female sex a much greater measure of liberty than almost any other country of the East. They are neither immured, nor veiled, nor withdrawn from the company and conversation of the other sex. This freedom, however, is not accompanied with any disposition to allow them that place in the scale of society which justly belongs to them. They are treated as the mere slaves of the stronger sex; all the laborious duties devolve upon them, and they manage most of the transactions of buying and selling.

Funerals in all these countries are celebrated with much pomp, and the bodies of the great lie in state for some time: in Ava they are embalmed, while those of ordinary subjects are committed to the funeral pile. Mr. Crawford mentions an odious custom prevalent in Siam, of cutting off pieces of the flesh and feeding birds with them. In Cochin-China a great festival is held on these occasions, which continues for ten or twelve days, and is celebrated with indecent mirth and hilarity.

The habitations in this country are of slight materials, but commodious. Bamboos fixed in the ground, and tied horizontally with sticks of rattan, compose the outline, and serve as the supports of the building. Covered with mats, they form the walls, and with grass, the roof. A spacious mansion can be built in a day, and a comfortable one in a few hours. Yet these slight structures are found sufficiently comfortable; and even if they should be unable to withstand the fury of the elements, their fall is attended with no danger, since the ruin of the whole fabric would not crush a lap-dog. In the cities of Siam, the houses, built almost entirely along the river, are generally floating upon it, being fastened to the bank by bamboo rafts. Even the comparatively small number built on shore, are raised by posts above the swampy surface of the ground.

The dress in these countries exhibits the same contrast, as in the rest of the East; that of the poor, slight and scanty,

that of the rich, peculiarly splendid. The attire of the ordinary Birman females is usually a loose robe or shirt, tucked under the arm, which scarcely serves the purposes of decency; and the working classes are usually naked to the middle. The Birman nobles wear a long robe of silk, or velvet, with a cap and a mantle of the same material, which are often richly flowered and embroidered with gold.

For purposes of food, the most western nations, whose institutions are Hindoo, proscribe the use of animals, though various modes are employed for eluding this prohibition. The Birmans esteem it enough that they do not eat any tame animals, and consider that whatever comes under the denomination of game is lawful provision for the table.

In feature the Birmans bear a greater resemblance to the Chinese than to the Hindoos; but their complexions are rather browner. They are not tall, but athletic, and long retain a youthful appearance, from the custom of plucking out the beard, instead of shaving. The females, particularly in the northern parts, are fairer than the Hindoo women, but not so delicately formed. In their general disposition, the Birmans are a lively inquisitive race; active, impatient, and irascible; extremely attached to show and ceremony, and entertaining high notions of themselves and their country.

The natives of ARACAN are fond of large flat foreheads;

and to render them so, they apply a leaden plate to the foreheads of their children as soon as born.

The inhabitants of PEGU are of an olive, or rather tawny complexion, and may be ranked among the most superstitious of the human race. They worship crocodiles; and will drink no water but such as is procured from the ditches where those animals harbor, and by whom they are frequently devoured. They are a spirited and warlike people; open, generous, and hospitable: but are said to be slovenly in their houses, and filthy in their diet.

## SIAM.

THIS kingdom, once the most flourishing of those of Ultra India, is situated to the south of the Birman empire. The government is despotic, and the laws are sanguinary and cruel. The religion is similar to that of the Birmans; and the monks, called *talapoins*, differ little from the rhahans of that nation. The Siamese manifest much ingenuity in several arts to which they apply; and gold trinkets and miniature painting are often neatly executed by them. Most of the lower orders are engaged in fishing; the rest are occupied in petty traffic.

The Siamese are small, but well made: their faces have more of the lozenge shape than of the oval, being broad and raised at the top of the cheeks, with the forehead contracted

and almost as pointed as the chin: their eyes, rising somewhat towards the temples, are small and dull, and what should be white is yellow. Their cheeks appear hollow: their mouths are large, their lips thick and pale; the teeth are blackened by art; and their complexions are brown and coarse. The warmth of the climate renders clothing almost unnecessary; and a muslin shirt, with loose drawers, a mantle in winter, and a high conical cap, constitute the dress of the higher classes of males. Instead of the shirt, females wear a scarf, and their drapery is generally of colored or painted calico. Both sexes of the lower orders go bare-headed; their hair is cut within two inches of the skin, and appears like hogs' bristles. The talapoins are distinguished by cinnamon-colored cloaks, and by having their heads, beards, and eyebrows, close shaved.

The two principal articles of food among the Siamese are rice and fish; but they also eat lizards, rats, and various sorts of insects. The milk of buffaloes, which is very rich, added to a vegetable diet, constitutes the principal subsistence of the lower orders.

These people are ingenious, but indolent: insolent towards inferiors, and obsequious to those above them. The common form of salutation is the lifting of one or both hands to the head, with an inclination of the body; but servants must appear before their masters on their knees;