

"The Burman." *

A PORTION of 'The Burman' appeared in the *St. James's Gazette*, and it might therefore be expected to bear the impress of the mildly sardonic humor which is the chief characteristic of Messrs. Greenwood and Trail's publication. It is, however, a perfectly serious, even a solemn, account of the inhabitants of the country of Burmah. Its value is that of lifting the curtain which hides an almost unknown people. Of the natives of India and China we know something, although it is impossible for Europeans and Americans to live very closely in sympathy with them. Of the Burman we know as little as of the Thibetan, the Corean, or any other dweller in a Forbidden Land; and it is the merit of Shway Yeo to have shown that King Theebaw's subjects are fully as intelligent and quite as well worth study as their neighbors on the Asiatic continent. The Burman is idle but thrifty; his only luxury at table is a curry of vegetables; he smokes mild cheroots with his wife and family; he is careful in religious observances, and sometimes builds a pagoda; he is fond of the drama, and likes the performance to last for ten hours; he has a play represented in his house whenever his son goes to school at the monastery or is tattooed—whenever his daughter has her ears pierced—whenever he gives his children in marriage or engages in building operation—whenever there is a boxing-match in the neighborhood, or whenever he is divorced. Thus, in mimic representations, he spends his life—betel-chewing, chatting, lounging, careless of wealth and content with the blessings of the day.

* The Burman: His Life and Nations. Shway Yeo. 2 vols. \$3. New York: Macmillan.