

# An American Priestess of Buddha In Ceylon.

IN THE early time of the Buddhist religion women ministered in the temples as priestesses. An old writing records that Buddha himself encouraged devout and holy women to take on themselves the vows and offices of the priesthood. In those days, too, not a few Buddhist nuns went about ministering to the poor, teaching and praying. They wore for uniform a

session, true to Buddhist precept and tradition, Sister Saughamitta went among the poorest, the lowliest, forlornest women and children of Colombo and began her mission. One who has not been on the ground and seen them can hardly picture the kind of human beings with whom she cast her lot henceforth.

The lowest class of Cingalese are as

to be suffering in health, complaining and groaning always. She inquired into their manner of living. They wore corsets—oh, yes, every mother's daughter of them laced so tight their eyes fairly bulged forward. It is not the fashion among ordinary oriental natives to take off their day clothing and put on other garments when they go to bed. If they removed the daylight wear,

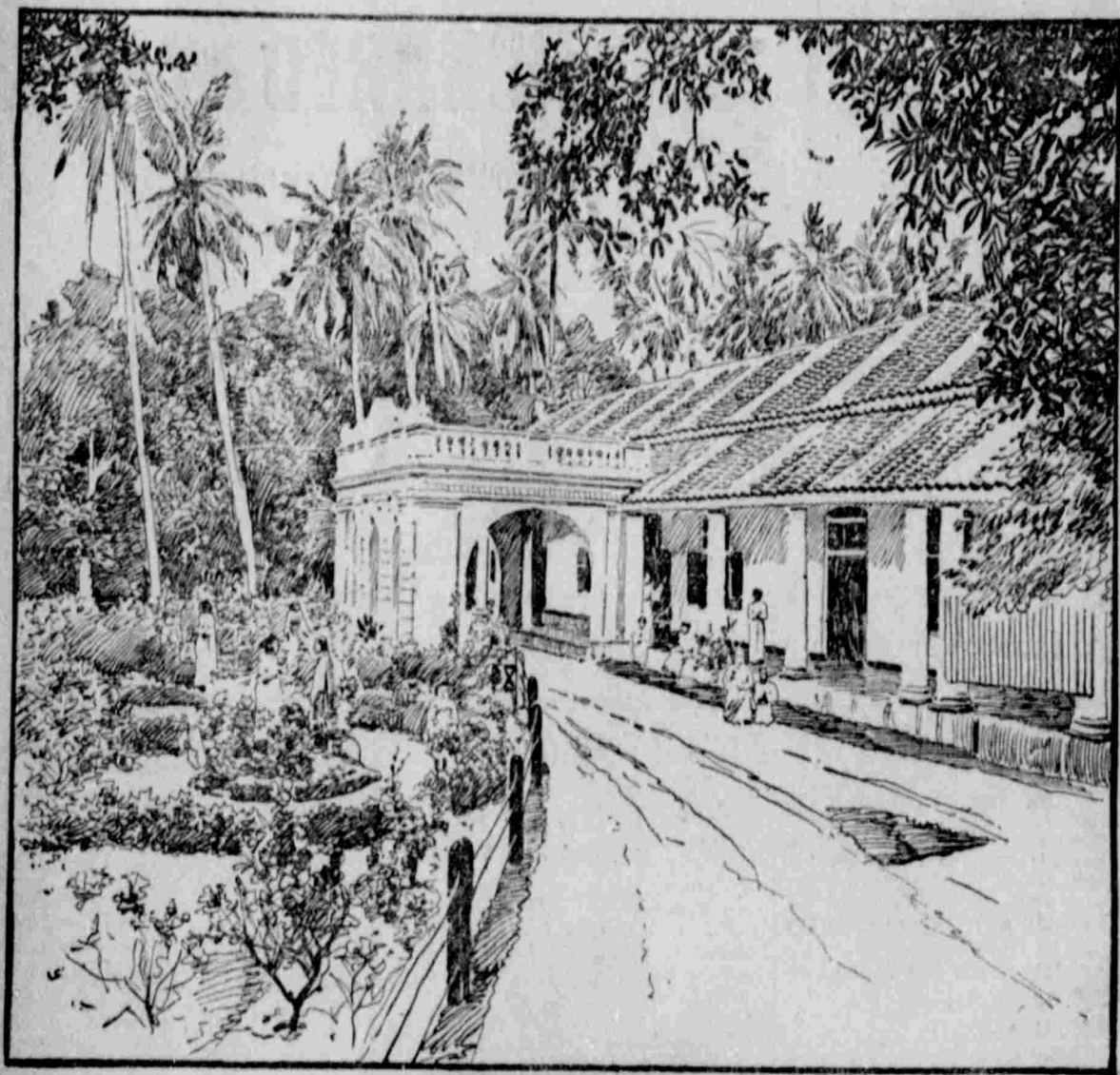
eating among the brown skinned women and children of Ceylon.

In the convent of Sister Saughamitta is a chapel, with an altar bearing flowers, candles and the picture of Buddha, and thither the gentle brown sisters in their white robes repair at stated intervals to pray. They take the vow of celibacy, but may be released from it if they wish to marry or if they appear to have mistaken their vocation. Including all its departments, the establishment built up by Sister Saughamitta has at length become a very large one. The convent owns the extensive buildings and the grounds, several acres, attached to them. The lawn is beautiful with tropical trees and flowers. A kitchen, living and sleeping rooms, baths, school and work rooms are under the convent roof. This white woman has undertaken to do for the Buddhists of Ceylon a work they would not do for themselves—elevating and civilizing the poorest and lowest classes among them. Rich and enlightened Buddhists of Colombo appreciate this and give the enterprise financial support. For the rest—I observed in one corner of a storeroom in the convent a heap of earthen vessels, globe shaped, with a slit in them like a child's savings bank.

"What are those things?" I asked. "Begging bowls," was the reply.

In brief, when funds get low this delicately nurtured woman, earthen bowl in hand, goes forth with her maidens into the highways and byways of the city, as church sisters do in the white man's countries, and begs money to carry on her threefold work among the poor—charitable, educational and religious. Such begging bowls Buddhist disciples have carried from ancient time.

Four years the American Buddhist woman has wrought in Ceylon. This is the visible, tangible result at the convent itself: A day school of 200, a house where 53 persons are sheltered and fed and a children's hospital. The story of the starving waifs the sisters have rescued is a touching one. Children are cheap in the orient. The school is for boys and girls both. Besides reading and writing, the girls are taught to sew, draw, embroider, make



white robe, with yellow cloak draped over it. That garb the subject of this sketch, in private life in other years known as Countess Miranda de Souza Canavarro, has revived and adopted for herself and the young native women gathered about her in the convent she has established at Colombo, Ceylon. The work she conducts there is of a kind not to be found elsewhere in all the earth.

The countess is an American lady, to this day loving her native land with pure patriotism. Married very young to a foreigner, she left the United States with him and has since lived mostly away from her own country. Children were born to her, and she mothered them well, rearing them to manhood and womanhood and seeing them established in life. Then she began her own work as an individual.

Countess Canavarro is now Sister Saughamitta, mother superior of the Buddhist convent of Saughamitta, No. 2 Darley lane, Colombo, Ceylon.

In her religious faith she adheres to Buddhism pure and simple, as she interprets it, the Buddhism of 2,500 years ago, stripped of the imaginations and superstitions thrown over it in the course of the centuries by ignorance and priestcraft. Her Buddhism inculcates universal truths, the moral teachings of Christ, of Plato of Confucius and of the Ten Commandments. In early life she was drawn powerfully toward the orient, as so many English speaking people in their secret hearts are. Under the stars at night, beneath the sunshine of day, sleeping and waking, she brooded over the ancient east, the cradle of the races, and dreamed of a work for her there. This longing for the mystical, silent orient is the swinging back of the pendulum from the hustle and action of the western world.

At Colombo the dreaming woman saw revealed her work, and knew that, though she should live to the age of the Hebrew patriarchs, there was a task for her to do with her might during all the years of it. Like a true woman, her heart went out in compassion toward her own sex, with strong desire to help them and make life better for them.

Sister Saughamitta settled down in Ceylon to teach Buddhism to Buddhist women and children. Honestly believing they have already a religion good enough for them or for anybody else, she devotes herself to making them understand practically that religion and live it. With enthusiastic effort, with prayer and patience and faith, she spreads her gospel. She is the crusader and herald to her own sex in the orient. Her work is an undertaking so remarkable and so successful in its results that, outside of her theology, it must claim the admiration of civilized people.

Divesting herself of her worldly pos-



SISTER SAUGHAMITTA'S SCHOOL AND PUPILS.

degraded and wicked as any creatures on this earth. The white man who visits the oriental tropics is inclined hastily and wrathfully to declare that the brown tribes there are born thieves and liars. Of these the natives of Ceylon are among the worst. They have associated with the white race long enough to achieve its destroying vices without its redeeming virtues. They have contracted the white man's diseases in addition to their own which they had already, ailments superinduced by uncleanness and negligence. Ceylon was colonized so long ago by white people that most of the original natives' descendants have more or less European blood in their veins, and it crops out everywhere, among the swarms of crippled, deformed, blind, scrofulous and imbecile among the sound and whole. As to the moral ideas of those to whom the American woman went as an evangel, it is safe to say not one in five has the faintest notion that it is morally wrong to lie or steal. They are like cats and dogs in that respect—mere animals. On the other hand, they carry the Hindu religious precepts against taking life so absurdly far that they refuse often to destroy the vermin upon their own bodies. And over all and through all is a fog of uncleanness that one would rather not speak of.

The American lady found many Eurasian girls, half or more than half white, who had adopted the civilized woman's dress without her morality or her habits of living. The girls seemed

usually they would not have anything else with which to replace it at night, so they split the difference and tumble down dressed as they are upon a mat in some corner, like a civilized dog.

Sister Saughamitta's Eurasian proteges gorged themselves with rice, which they somehow managed to squeeze between the ribs of their stays in quantity almost unbelievable. The amount of rice an oriental can stow away inside of himself is something fearful and wonderful. Squeezed and gorged as they were, without at all unlacing the confining sideboards, these girls were wont to stretch themselves upon the floor to sleep.

The leading toward the higher life among them therefore naturally began with the religion of the body. Next the untaught American woman undertook to enlighten their mental and spiritual darkness. She commenced with her pupils by instilling into them through precept and example those plain, moral and religious truths acknowledged as axioms the universe over. Morning, noon and evening, early and late, she dined into them honesty, truthfulness, cleanliness and chastity. "Thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not bear false witness; thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul, mind and strength, and thy neighbor as thyself; thou shalt keep thy mind, thy body, thy garments, thy house and every article thou ownest belonging clean and pure as heaven's white lilies"—this is the theology Sister Saughamitta has undertaken the up hill task of incul-

lating and keep house like white women. If this last were the only instruction imparted, the school would be a boon to all Asia. Some of the pupils make exquisite embroidery and beautiful Cingalese lace, which are sold to add to the convent revenues.

ELIZA ARCHARD CONNER.

# OUR FIRST NAVAL HERO, JOHN PAUL JONES.

[Owing to the report that his grave has been discovered in Paris and that his remains are to be removed to America, there has been a remarkable revival of popular interest in John Paul Jones.]



"King of the sea! ascend the throne!

A grateful people raise;  
The time has come to claim thine own,  
Amid a nation's praise.  
Too long did we forget thee, when  
Our need of thee was o'er,  
Too long an exile hast thou been  
Upon an alien shore."

'Twas thus Columbia discoursed,  
And voiced our people's call;  
Our hearts were deeply touched, and forced  
That utterance for us all.  
From olden time we all have heard  
In proud, exultant tones  
A tale that every soul has stirred—  
The tale of John Paul Jones.

He ranged the ocean in his pride  
A monarch in his sway,  
The world's great sea-power he defied,  
And ever won the day.  
Britannia raged impotent when  
His menace was made real;  
She saw her shattered merchantmen  
The victims of his zeal.

No force deterred him from the fray,  
No odds e'er stirred a fear,  
His eye but flashed a grander ray,  
His voice rang louder cheer.  
With ship in flames and mutinous crew,  
He dealt out blow for blow,  
His own ship sank, but with a few  
He took and held the foe.  
He sought out danger, loved to rove  
Where'er to lurk 'twas prone;  
The fabled thunderbolts of Jove  
Were trifles to his own.  
His thunder, echoing o'er the sea,  
Spread wide, and far our fame,  
Presaging future victory,  
And a transcendent name.  
Here should his form have found its rest  
For was he not our own?  
This glorious land, for which his best  
And grandest work was done;  
In Fame's eternal lane to lie  
With other storied dust,  
Among those dead who never die,  
Whose fame we hold in trust.

D. H. BOLLES.

## THE MAN WHO PAYS THE BRITISH SOLDIER.

Howsoever the fortunes of war may be going in South Africa, the man behind the gun has to be paid for his services. As a rule, Tommy Atkins is just as keen after his few shillings as he is after military glory, and though his pay is not very great, he usually manages to have a great deal of fun out of it, for Tommy is never miserly. The man who is the chief paymaster of all the British forces in South Africa is Colonel William Mortimer, whose picture is here shown. Chief paymaster of an army is not considered a position of great glory, but it is one quite as important as many of those held by men whose names figure every day in the dispatches from the front.



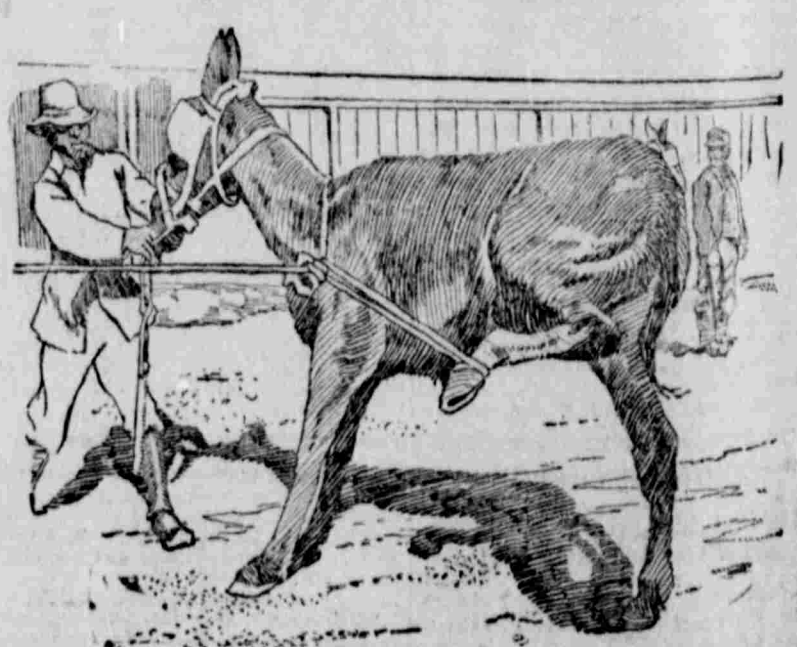
The Boer horses are remarkably well trained animals, and when the Transvaal desires to form an ambush or firing line, their horses are taught to remain stationary as soon as they feel the reins dropped over their necks.

## THE FRENCH MONUMENT TO HEINE.

It is not often nowadays that France erects a monument to a German, but this she has done in the case of Heine, the poet. The accompanying illustration shows the beautiful new memorial structure which has just been put up in the Montmartre cemetery in Paris. The monument is placed over the spot where the ashes of the sweetly cynical poet of Dusseldorf now lie. This strange poet was one of the most gifted of the race of Mendelssohn and Rothschild, Rachel and Rubinstein, Chopin and Disraeli. He was born at the little old town of Dusseldorf on the Rhine on Dec. 13, 1797, and it was to celebrate the centenary of his birth that the Montmartre monument was erected. Owing to the fact that Heine dwelt for a quarter of a century in Paris and did most of his best work in that city, it is not altogether inappropriate or surprising that the gay capital should remember him thus affectionately. The monument to him is the creation of Louis Hasselrijs, who is one of the most talented sculptors in Rome at the present time.

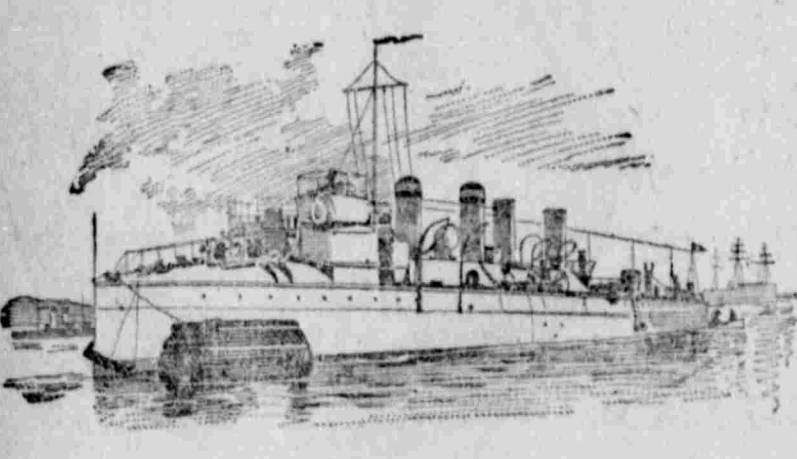


## BRANDING ARMY MULES.



The part which the mule has played in the mixed drama of the South African war has been an important one. Great Britain has already bought up several thousand of these mules and shipped them to Africa, where they have been used in hauling field guns and transport wagons to the front. Every one will remember how a band of these unreliable animals brought disaster to British arms by stampeding at the battle of Elandslaagte. It is not generally known that each one of these animals is duly branded by the British authorities before being pressed into active service. The brand consists of the usual governmental insignia, the broad arrow. The accompanying illustration shows one of these mules being marked with the imperial sign, the branding being done, of course, with a red-hot iron, and always, naturally, much against the wishes of the animal, who has to be well tied down during the operation.

## JAPAN'S NEW TORPEDO BOAT DESTROYER.



A nation that is gradually forging to the front as a fighting power on the sea is Japan. The accompanying illustration shows the new English built Japanese torpedo boat destroyer Sazanami, one of the handsomest and most powerful ships of its class afloat. It has a speed of over 21 knots, and its machinery consists of two sets of four cylinder triple expansion engines, designed to develop 6,000 indicated horsepower, but capable, under stress of circumstances, of developing about 7,000 horsepower. The Japanese government at the present time has also a number of torpedo craft of a corresponding type building in the different yards of France and Germany, so before many years the land of the chrysanthemum will be one of the foremost naval powers of the world.

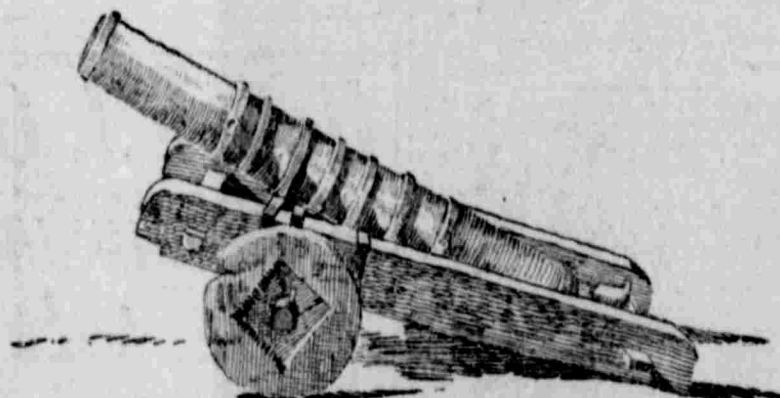
## A TAKER OF LAAGERS.

An English minor officer who has attracted much attention because of his brilliant work in the Boer war is Lieutenant Colonel Pilcher, whose successful engagement at Sunnyside did much to cheer up the drooping spirits of the British at a time when the Boers seemed to be having everything their own way. Pilcher, it will be remembered, with his little band of 200 Canadian and Australian troops, captured a Boer laager and 60 prisoners. This was done through making tactical use of cover and by skillful shooting and a final rush that was one of the most courageous things in the history of the war.



At a recent auction sale at Zurich more than 1,000 gold and silver Swiss coins of the fifteenth to the nineteenth century were disposed of.

## AN OLD FILIPINO CANNON.



Here is a curiosity in the way of ancient cannon. This is one of the curious old Spanish made guns used by the Filipinos at Cavite when they fought against the Spanish during the rebellion which began four years ago. The bore of this old arm is an iron pipe about three inches in diameter. This is incased in a rough sort of wood held together by rude iron hoops, and the carriage is of the crudest sort. Just how effective or, rather, ineffective, such ordnance would be against modern "lead sifters" may be easily imagined.

## HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE.

He started life with an income of \$55,000 a year.  
At the present time reports of the queen's increasing weakness and of the worrying effect upon her of the South African war invite fresh consideration

of the prospects of England's heir apparent.  
Had his mother been a woman of ordinary longevity and force he would have been king of England long since. Despite the paucity of his actual ac-

complishments in life, largely due to his unique position, the Prince of Wales is one of the most interesting figures in the world today.  
These interesting facts about the prince are condensed from his biography, as written by his private secretary:

He says he has no debts.  
He loves to travel incognito in Paris.  
He buys hundreds of theater tickets without using them.  
He never allows a typewriter in his house.  
He spends \$5,000 a year for telegrams.  
His favorite vehicle in London is a

hansom cab, yet his stables cost \$75,000 a year.  
He allows only two knives and forks to each guest at his table.  
He is colonel eight times over.  
His uniforms are worth \$75,000.  
He is a field marshal and an admiral.  
When he was young, he was very ten-

der hearted, and cried for days when a tutor left him.  
He is the chief horse owner, dog owner and yachtsman in England.  
He goes to church every Sunday morning.  
He never goes to the races on Sunday.  
He has one private secretary, two as-

stant secretaries and a staff of clerks to assist them.  
He receives 200 letters a day and answers most of them.  
Every minute of his time in London is spent according to schedule.  
He is 57 years old and has four grandchildren.