
$T \begin{gathered}\mathrm{HE} \text { cost of living is } \\ \text { an important thing }\end{gathered}$ in most homes. You may have to figure closely in these matters. A little extra on a barrel of flour may look big to ${ }_{\text {But there is a differ- }}^{\text {your }}$ ence between spending money wisely and spending it foolishly. my to spend instead of to my to spend instead of to
save. It is in the case of Royal Household Flour.
Those few extra cents Those few extra cents
a week, that give you

## Royal Household Flour

in preference to inferior flour, buy health.
Nothing contributes so much to the tood you carefully bought.' Ogilvie's Royal Household Flour is the whitest, cleanest and most nutritious flour that's

the egyptian desert Beautiful, not only on account of its Egyptian desert, so vast that its enorm ity is beyond the range of human eyesight, but also on account of the wonder-
ful change of light visible on it. Seldon ful change of light visible on it. Seldom
a living soul to disturb the tranquillity of the surrounding waste, only the song of an occasional bird becomes audible
as one approaches a small plot of arable as one
Out on the desert, in the far distance, a solitary camel, silhouetted clearly against the skv, becomes visibe, bear-
ing its rider or laden with merchandise closer and closes it comes; the sound of
its discontented grunt is heard as it its discontented grunt is heard as it
approaches, only to die down again as its ungainly tread and uncouth form become more indistinct aiter it has passed, and then, the same calm,
rusting of trees, no human voice disturb the working of man's imagina tion, nothing but a vast area of sand
with an occasional pool of water and a score or more of palm trees. Above a k ky of a blue so vivid that an artists'
brush can hardly dare to depict the brush can hardly dare to depict the
color; at times. during the latter months of winter, clouds may obiterate sand, at one moment the color of gold sand, at one moment the color of gold
at another almost red. So varied are the colors one has barely time to realize the particular tint of gold or red before a cloud may come or a baze form a veil a cold, dismal feeling creeps over one a feeling of absolute loneliness, an indescribable solitude; one shivers in-
wardly-not with fear-but with the overpowering sense moments only may elapse, moments that seem during the brief interval of passing darkness like an eternity, and
the sun will cast his golden rays on the scene again, lighting up the sand, which appears even more brilliant in its col
now, after the interval of darkness. Each hour, each moment even, of th day, the effects produced are varie

$\qquad$

a change produced by the sinking or
rising of the sunc. It is almost impossible to imagine that these changes of effects where there are no houses to cast deep
hadows on the groud no shadows on the ground, no avenues o
trees to vary the noonotony of an eve brilliant sun. Still the changes are
tere, and so frequent that one neve
experinces a feeling of Pessinences a feeling of unvaried same
ness. One walks on, be it north, south $\begin{aligned} & \text { east or west, the same expanse of sand } \\ & \text { presents itself, apparently, too, the }\end{aligned}$
sen same palm trees and silent pool of
water, and one is forced to ask one's self whether, in this whole world of de.
solation, no soul exists, no huma solation, no soul exists, no human body
breathes-when, in the distance, an Arab is seen, his feet shoeless, his head devoid of turban or fez, beuding to a
pool of water, washing.' Walk on, and sooner or later, a village will be approached, a viliage of which the house
are built of Nile mud, each house accommodating a family of no matter what
size, the inhabitants of each village almost all related to each other, compeople. Their streets are littered with filth, animals of every kind obstruct one's path, dogs growl and snarl at the appearance and intrusion of a stranger, in their yashmaks lest a white man should behold their faces. Flies in swarms settle on the children, and lay
their eggs on their eyelids , their eggs on their eyelids, unwashed,
because they believe it to be contrary fies from thigion to wash on a scene like thisy, a scene on which the sun can seldom shine owing to the
closeness of the huts cioneneso of the huts, a acene with which
the poorest hovel can hardly compete Tor filth and squalor, after the beauties and stillness of the desert, is crushing; it disturbs one's peace, the impressions
one has formed-the change is too sudden. And yet even a seene such no brawling or fighting such as the same class; no drunkenness again, perhaps not from choice, but because degradation, and because their religion
forbids it, forbids it.
The further south one goes the more briliant the sun, the more golden the
sand, seldom the scene. The only thing to break the stillness of the air is an occasional
khamseen, a whirlwind of sand, no artist dare paint it and do credit to it.
The wind so fieree that no one ceas stand up to it, clouds of sand so dense that swarm with flies, which have become stunned by the fierceness of the gale,
making life almost unbearable with making life almost unbearable with
their ineessant torment, the wind is so hot and stifing, blowing from across the
Sahara, and lasting, sometimes, two or thre dayd, tasht breathing almost be-
comes difficult, until lot ast the welo calm again appears, a relief, bringing shine. All who have seen a storm a sea, have realized its grandness and the
solemnity of its ever forlowing calm, may may be able to picture to themselvea
the terrors of a khamseen, sweeping over the desert, and its accompanying
stillness when the gale has passed.-


## odd things in siam

In Siam the cutting of the topknot is so important a ceremony for the
future spiritual welfare of the child that
it the pomp and ceremony that the mieans of the parents will allow. That the poor people may not be deprived of the
benefit of the ceremony, the government provides all that is neecssary for it
at one of the temples at Bangkok. The centre of the ceremony is the cutting
of of the topknot which of of he topknot, which is all the hair
children are permitted to wear up to Chat time. But associated with it are
that religious forms which have to be scrupulously carried out. The topknot, which is ordinarily adorned with a chaplet
of flowers or beads, often held in place with a jewelled pin of considerable value, is now much more resplendently
adorned,* while the child is further adorned, while the child is further
loaded with the richest jewels the family can provide. After the ceremony the
hair is allowed to grow all over the the and is usually worn about an inch long, standing upu like a brush. The child
is now reckoned to have in now reckoned to have reached man's
estate, although, to their credit be it said, the Siamese are in no hurry to
marry their children. In fact, undue haste to make a match for a daughter
is apt to raise a question as to whether things are so flourishing with the
family as they might be.
What
fiten the ressult of mutual affection is often the resul or atual affection and
takee the form of an elopement with subsequent forgiveness by the old folk. The more formal way calls for a lot of negotiation and the payment to the
parents of "ks now," which is often however returned to the daughter on the birth of her first child. The monks,
who are the astrologers of who are the astrologers of the country
among other accomplishments, are among other accomplishments, are
called upon to fix the lucky day, on the his friends go to the bride's house, carry Mis iriends go to the brides house, carry
ing presents of cakes and betel. All
Siamese chew betel, and not to offer it Si presents of cakes and betel. Al
Siamese chew betel, and not to offer it
to a guest is a serious breach of hos oo a guest is a seriouk breach of hos
pitality. The quids when ready for
chewing consist of leaves of the bete chewing consist of leaves of the betel
pepper, chips of area nut there is no
such thing as betel nut that careless such thing as betel nut that careless
travellers write about a little slacked
lime and sometimes tobaceoo also. The
Sie hme and sometimes tobacco also. The
Siamese word for this mixture is appropriately "muk." This will always
be in evidence at weddings, and the preparation and presentation of the
betel tray to the bridegroom constitute one of the forms of acceptance by the ride of his authority over her. The
nonks will be already in attendance feasted with the best that can be proided, and the ceremony of marriage ing of consecrated water over the But the greatest ceremony of all takes
place after death. If the person be of high rank, the body is placed in a sitting posture in a large metal urn or among
the commoners in à ordinary coffin After being kept a period. that lengthens with the exaltation of rank, a day i
fixed for the cremation. All the friend


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inally obtained from a tree fired by
ghtning. After the cremation the

tw are placed in the temple in
wooden urn. - Home Journal and Ne
Left-handedness is said to occur fre quently in animals. Parrots usually
seize objects with the left claw. The seize objects with the left claw. The
ion strikes with the left paw, and Livingstone stated as his opinion that all nimals are left handed. The parro law for climbing more readily than Not To Be Treated Lightly "This is our latest novelty," said the
anufacturer proudly. "Good work n't it?"
"Not bad," replied the visitor; "but "ou can't hold a candle to the goods "Oh, are you in this line, too"

## No; Stories.



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